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(54) Title: METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF CITALOPRAM

(57) Abstract: A method for the preparation of citalopram comprising reacting 5-carboxyphthalide successively with a Grignard reagent of 4-halo-fluorophenyl and a Grignard reagent of 3-halo-N,N-dimethyl-propylamine and then effecting ring closure of the resulting compound of Formula XI, to a compound of Formula IV, followed by conversion of the compound of Formula IV into citalopram is disclosed. Methods for the manufacture and conversion of the compound of Formula IV are also disclosed.

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