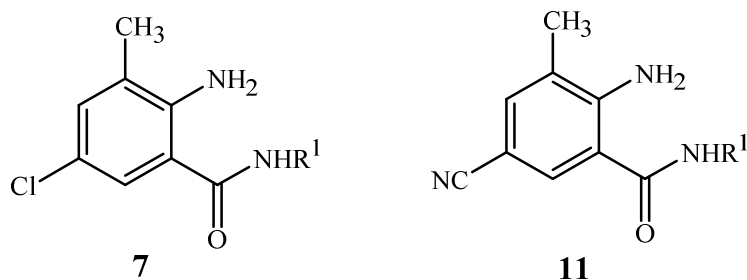


ABSTRACT

A method for preparing 3-methyl-2-nitrobenzoic acid is disclosed wherein 1,3-dimethyl-2-nitrobenzene is combined with an oxidation catalyst in the presence of an oxygen source and an initiator, provided that less than 99% of the 1,3-dimethyl-2-nitrobenzene is oxidized.

5 A method for preparing compounds of Formula **7** and Formula **11** is also disclosed wherein the method is characterized by using 3-methyl-2-nitrobenzoic acid as prepared by the method disclosed above,



wherein R¹ is C₁–C₇ alkyl, C₃–C₆ cycloalkyl or C₄–C₇ alkylcycloalkyl.

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NO FIGURE