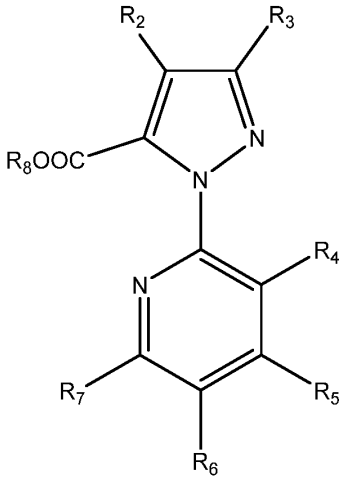
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of preparing a compound of Formula II, wherein



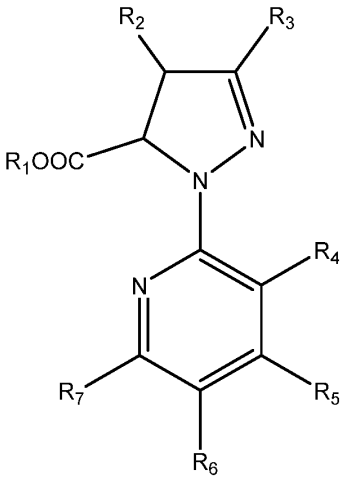
(Formula II)

R_8 is selected from hydrogen and C_1-C_4 alkyl; and

each of R_2 – R_7 is independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, and halogenated C_1-C_4 alkyl, the method comprising

I) forming a mixture comprising

A) a first amount of a compound of Formula I, wherein



(Formula I)

R_1 is selected from hydrogen and C_1-C_4 alkyl; and

each of R_2 – R_7 is independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, and halogenated C_1-C_4 alkyl;

B) an oxidizing agent; and

C) an organic solvent;

II) heating the mixture;

III) adding an acid to the mixture;

IV) adding a second amount of the compound of Formula I to the mixture; and

V) completing the reaction of the mixture.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the oxidizing agent is selected from hydrogen peroxide, organic peroxides, potassium persulfate, sodium persulfate, ammonium persulfate, potassium monopersulfate, sodium monopersulfate, potassium permanganate, and combinations thereof.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the oxidizing agent is present in the mixture in an amount in the range of about 1.0 eq to about 2.0 eq.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the oxidizing agent has a D50 particle size in the range of about 10 μm to about 200 μm.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the solvent is selected from ethers, esters, aprotic organic solvents, and combinations thereof.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the first amount of the compound of Formula I about 5 wt% to about 40 wt% of the total amount of the compound of Formula I.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the acid is selected from inorganic acids, organic acids, and combinations thereof.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the acid is present in the mixture in an amount in the range of about 0.05 eq to about 1.5 eq.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the acid is present in the mixture in an amount less than about 0.2 eq.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the method step of forming the mixture occurs at a temperature in the range of about 0 °C to about 60 °C.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the method step of heating the mixture increases the temperature of the mixture to a temperature in the range of about 50 °C to about 82 °C.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the method step of adding a second amount of the compound of Formula I comprises discretely adding the second amount of the compound of Formula I.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the method step of adding a second amount of the compound of Formula I comprises continuously adding the second amount of the compound of Formula I.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the method step of adding a second amount of the compound of Formula I comprises dropwise addition of the second amount of the compound of Formula I.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the method step of adding a second amount of the compound of Formula I occurs over a period of time in the range of about 3 hours to about 7 hours.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the second amount of the compound of Formula I is greater than the first amount of the compound of Formula I.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the second amount of the compound of Formula I is at least twice the first amount of the compound of Formula I.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the second amount of the compound of Formula I is at least 70 wt% of the total amount of the compound of Formula I.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the first amount of the compound of Formula I is less than 30 wt% of the total amount of the compound of Formula I.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one method step further comprises stirring the mixture.