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(54) Title: PROCESSES AND INTERMEDIATES FOR PREPARING 1-BENZYL-4-((5,6-DIMETHOXY-1-INDANON)-2-YL)METHYLPIPERIDINE		
(57) Abstract The present invention relates to a process for preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein R ¹ is R ² O(C=O)- or R ³ (C=O)-, R ² is (C ₁ -C ₄)alkyl, and R ³ is (C ₁ -C ₄)alkyl or phenyl optionally substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from (C ₁ -C ₄)alkyl, (C ₁ -C ₄)alkoxy, halo or trifluoromethyl, comprising: a) reacting a compound of formula (III), wherein R ¹ is R ² O(C=O)- or R ³ (C=O)-, R ² is (C ₁ -C ₄)alkyl, and R ³ is (C ₁ -C ₄)alkyl or phenyl optionally substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from (C ₁ -C ₄)alkyl, (C ₁ -C ₄)alkoxy, halo or trifluoromethyl, with a methenylation agent to form a compound of formula (II), wherein R ¹ is R ² O(C=O)- or R ³ (C=O)-, R ² is (C ₁ -C ₄)alkyl, and R ³ is (C ₁ -C ₄)alkyl or phenyl optionally substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from (C ₁ -C ₄)alkyl, (C ₁ -C ₄)alkoxy, halo or trifluoromethyl and; b) reacting said compound of formula (II), so formed, with a strong acid. The present invention further comprises the additional step of reacting the compound of formula (I) with hydroxide to form a compound of formula (VI), and reacting said compound of formula (VI) so formed with a benzyl halide and a base to form a compound of formula (VII). The present invention relates also to the novel intermediates of formulae (I), (II) and (III).		

