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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: H. LUNDBECK A/S [DK/DK]; Ottiliavej 9, DK–2500 Valby–Copenhagen (DK).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: PETERSEN, Hans [DK/DK]; Guldagervej 11, DK–2720 Vanløse (DK). BØGESØ, Klaus, Peter [DK/DK]; Hørsholm Park 16, 2TV, DK–2970 Hørsholm (DK). BECH SOMMER, Michael [DK/DK]; Aldershvilevej 23 A, DK–2880 Bagsvaerd (DK).

(74) Common Representative: H. LUNDBECK A/S; MEI-DAHL PETERSEN, John, Ottiliavej 9, DK–2500 Valby–Copenhagen (DK).

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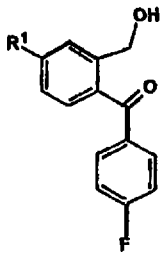
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF CITALOPRAM



(IV)

(57) Abstract

A method for the preparation of citalopram is described comprising reduction of the oxo group of a compound of formula (IV), wherein R^1 is CN, C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl or C_{1-6} alkylaminocarbonyl, ring closure of the resulting hydroxy compound thereby obtaining the corresponding 1–(4–fluorophenyl)–1,3–dihydroisobenzofuran, then if R^1 is cyano using it directly in the next step and if R^1 is C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl or C_{1-6} alkylaminocarbonyl, conversion of the compound to the corresponding compound wherein R^1 is cyano; and alkylation of the resulting 5–cyano compound with 3–dimethyl–aminopropylhalogenid in basic conditions thereby obtaining citalopram.

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