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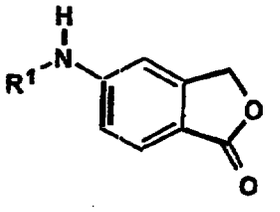
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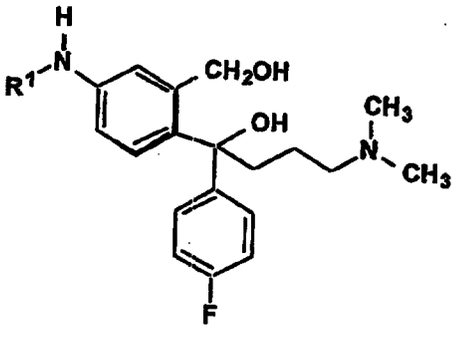
(54) Title: METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF CITALOPRAM

(57) Abstract

A method for the preparation of citalopram is described comprising reaction of a compound of Formula (IV) wherein R^1 is H or C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyl successively with a Grignard reagent of 4–halogen–fluorophenyl and a Grignard reagent of 3–halogen–N,N–dimethylpropylamine, effecting ring closure of the resulting compound of Formula (VI) and converting the resulting 1,3–dihydroisobenzofuran compound to the corresponding 5–cyano derivative, i.e. citalopram.



(IV)



(VI)