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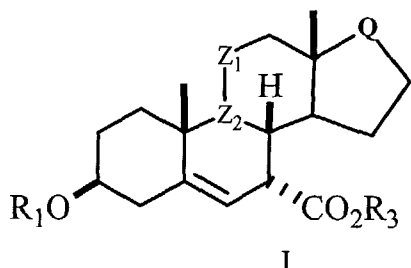
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(54) Title: PROCESSES FOR PREPARING 7-CARBOXY SUBSTITUTED STEROIDS



(57) Abstract: This invention relates to processes for the preparation of 7-carboxy substituted steroid compounds of Formula (I) wherein R¹ is selected from H or COR₄; R₄ is C₁-C₆ alkyl or C₁-C₆ alkoxy; R₃ is C₁-C₆ alkyl; Z₁ is -CH₂- or Formula (II) wherein O-COR₄ is in the α configuration; Z₂ is -CH-; or Z₁ and Z₂ may be taken together to form a carbon-carbon double bond; Q is Formula (III). These intermediates are useful in the preparation of 7-carboxy substituted steroid compounds, and particularly, the invention is directed to novel and advantageous methods for the preparation of 9,11-α-epoxy-17-α-hydroxy-3-oxopregn-4-ene-α-7-21-dicarboxylic acid, γ-lactone, methyl ester (eplerenone; epoxymexrenone).