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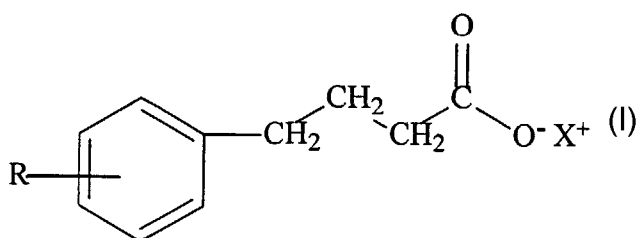
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(54) Title: SYNTHESIS OF 4-PHENYLBUTYRIC ACID



(57) Abstract: A method of synthesizing compounds of Formula (I): formula (I) by reacting aromatic compounds with butyrolactone, followed by neutralization with base. The reaction can be conducted in the presence of a catalyst. Preferred catalysts are Lewis acids. A preferred product of Formula I is 4-phenylbutyric acid, which is obtained by the reaction of benzene with butyrolactone in the presence of aluminum chloride, followed by neutralization with base.