Abstract

The invention relates to a process for purifying 20(S)-camptothecine by converting the lactone ring of the 20(S)-camptothecine into a carboxylate salt using an aqueous base, hydrogenating the resulting mixture in the presence of a transition metal catalyst, acidifying the aqueous phase to form camptothecine crystals, adding a polar aprotic solvent, optionally heating and cooling the mixture, and separating off the camptothecine crystals.



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