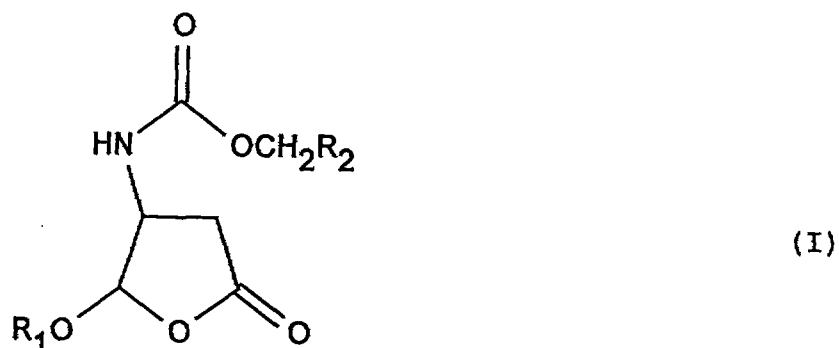


Process for the preparation of alkoxyfuranoneamine derivatives, compounds obtained by this process, and the use of these compounds.

The present invention relates to a novel process for preparing alkoxyfuranoneamine derivatives, to the compounds obtained by this process, and to the use of these compounds in the synthesis of inhibitors of interleukin-1beta converting enzyme.

Patent Applications WO 95/35308, WO 97/22619, WO97/22618, EP 519 748, WO 96/33209 describe compounds which inhibit interleukin-1beta converting enzyme.

The process for preparing some of the compounds described in the patent applications mentioned above uses the compounds of formula (I) below:



in which R_1 represents an ethyl radical and R_2 represents a $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$ radical.

The compounds of the formula (I) are prepared from protected L-aspartic acid and require 4 synthetic steps: 1) acylation, 2) reduction, 3) oxidation, 4) cyclization, (Chapman K.T. et al., Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 2 (6), 613-8 (1992)).

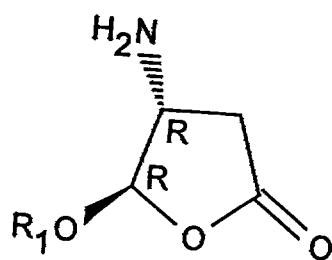
This process has major drawbacks, in particular when it is desired to obtain chiral compounds of the formula (I). More specifically, an expensive chiral starting reagent β -tert-butyl L-aspartate has to be used:, and above all chromatographic methods have to be used to isolate and/or purify the various diastereoisomers.

One object of the present invention is thus to find another route for the synthesis of the compounds of the formula (I), which avoids the use of this starting material and which does not require chromatographic separations

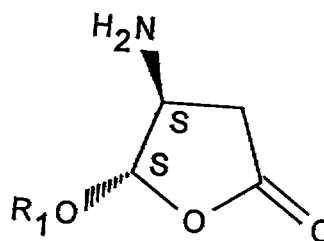
The Applicant thus proposes a novel synthetic route starting with the alkoxyfuranone of formula (II), in racemic form, giving access to the novel compounds of the formulae (IVa), (IVb), (IVc) or (IVd) as defined below, in salified or non salified form, which are then protected, where necessary, in order in particular to obtain the compounds of the formula (I).

This process has the advantage of being able to be carried out on large scale, starting with a readily accessible and inexpensive compound of the formula (II), with the separation and/or purification stages being carried out by crystallization rather than by chromatography. Each diastereoisomer of the formula (III), (IV) or (I) can thus be isolated.

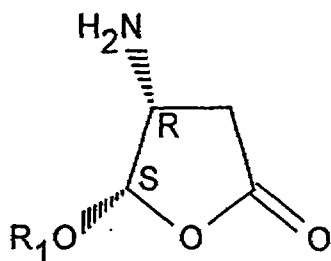
The present invention thus relates, on the one hand, to the compounds of the formula (IVa), (IVb), (IVc) or (IVd) below:



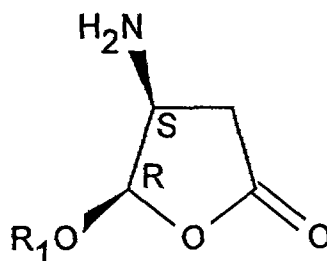
(IVa)



(IVb)



(IVc)



(IVd)

in which R_1 is an alkyl group containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a phenylalkyl group containing from 7 to 11 carbon atoms, as well as the addition salts thereof with acids.

The invention naturally extends to the salts of the compounds of formula (IVa), (IVb), (IVc) or (IVd), such as, for example, the salts formed with inorganic or organic acids on the amine. The acids may thus be hydrochloric, hydrobromic, nitric, sulphuric, phosphoric, acetic, formic, propionic, benzoic, maleic, fumaric, succinic, tartaric, citric, oxalic, glyoxylic or aspartic acid, alkanesulphonic acids such as methanesulphonic or ethanesulphonic acid, arylsulphonic acid, such as benzenesulphonic or paratoluenesulphonic acid, and arylcarboxylic acids.

They may also be chloroacetic or trichloroacetic acid. Most particularly, they are salts formed with hydrochloric acid.

When R_1 is an alkyl group containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms, it can be, in particular, methyl, ethyl, butyl or propyl, and most particularly ethyl.

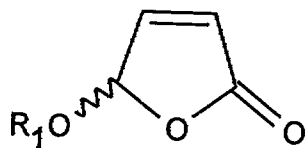
The term "phenylalkyl", preferably refers to the benzyl group.

The invention more particularly relates to the compound of the formula (IVd) as defined above, as well as the addition salts thereof with acids.

The invention most particularly relates to the compounds of the formula (IVd) in which R_1 is an ethyl group, as well as the addition salts thereof with acids.

Moreover, the present invention relates to a process for preparing compounds of (IVa), (IVb), (IVc) or (IVd) as described above, characterized in that it comprises at least one of the following steps:

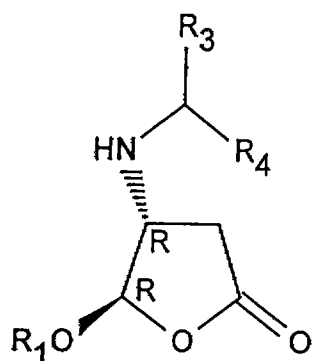
- a) action of an arylamine of formula $R_3R_4CHNH_2$ in which R_3 is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms and R_4 is an optionally substituted aryl, on the racemic alkoxyfuranone of the formula (II):



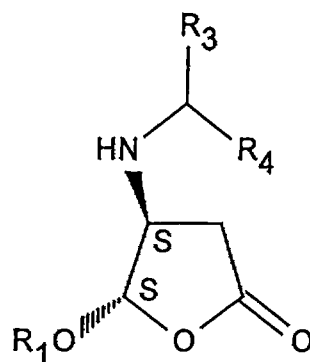
(II)

in which R_1 is an alkyl group containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a phenylalkyl group containing from 7 to 11 carbon atoms,

and production of the trans isomer compounds (4R,5R) and (4S,5S) of the formulae (IIIa) and (IIIb) respectively:



(IIIa)

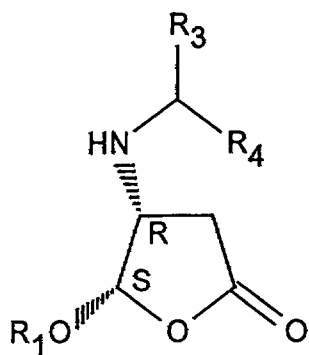


(IIIb)

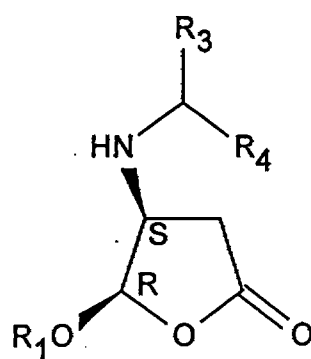
which subsequently

- are separated by crystallization, carrying out, if necessary, one or more salification reactions,
- or, when R₃ is a hydrogen atom, are resolved by the action of an optically active acid,

- b) where appropriate, epimerization reaction on the compound of the formula (IIIa) or (IIIb), in salified or non salified form, in the presence of an acid, in order to obtain the cis isomer compounds (4R,5S) or (4S,5R) of the formula (IIIc) or (IIId), which are salified if necessary,



(IIIc)



(IIId)

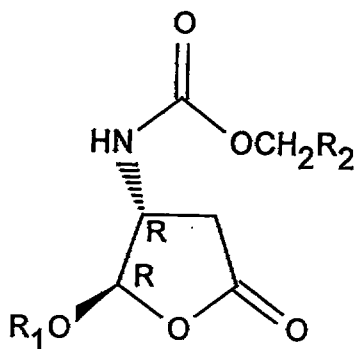
- c) hydrogenolysis reaction,

- either on the trans isomer (4R,5R) or (4S,5S) of the formula (IIIa) or (IIIb), in salified or non salified form,

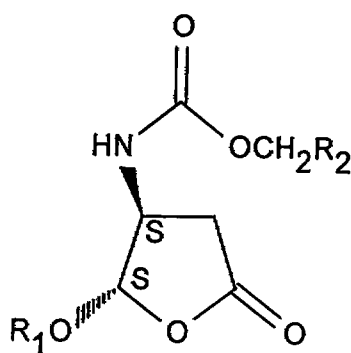
in order to obtain the compound of the formula (IVa) or (IVb) in the form of the trans isomer (4R,5R) or (4S,5S) as defined above, which is then, if necessary, salified and/or protected,

- or on the cis isomer (4R,5S) or (4S,5R) of the formula (IIIc) or (IIId), in salified or non salified form, in order to obtain the compound of the formula (IVc) or (IVd) in the form of the cis isomer (4R,5S) or (4S,5R), as defined above, which is, if necessary, salified, and/or protected.

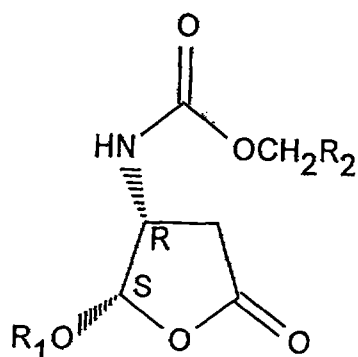
In particular the reaction for protecting the amines of the formula (IVa), (IVb), (IVc) or (IVd), in salified or non salified form, is carried out by the action of the chloroformate of the formula $\text{Cl-CO-O-CH}_2\text{-R}_2$, R_2 representing a tert-butyl, (C₂-C₄)-alkenyl, (C₂-C₄)-alkynyl or phenyl radical, which may be substituted or unsubstituted, in order to obtain the compounds of the formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic) or (Id) respectively, in the form of the trans diastereoisomers (4R,5R), (4S,5S) or the cis diastereoisomers (4R,5S) and (4S,5R), which, if necessary are salified,



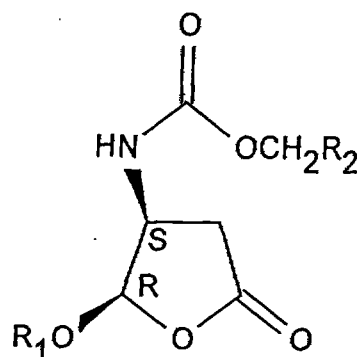
(Ia)



(Ib)



(Ic)



(Id)

The action of the arylamine $R_3R_4CHNH_2$ on the racemic alkoxyfuranone of the formula (II) is carried out according to the standard methods required for the Michael reaction, that is to say, in particular, in a dipolar aprotic solvent, such as dimethylformamide, at room temperature. The process can also be performed with the R or S phenylethylamine or in aqueous isopropanol.

The separation of the two trans isomers (4R,5R) and (4S,5S), i.e. the compounds of the formulae (IIIa) and (IIIb) respectively, by crystallization is carried out according to the methods known to those skilled in the art concerning the separation of isomers. As a preferred example, the separation is carried out by the action of trichloroacetic acid in a solvent such as tert-butyl methyl ether or aqueous isopropanol. The trans isomer (4R,5R) (IIIa) is crystallized in the form of the trichloroacetic acid salt, while the trans isomer (4S,5S) (IIIb) is recovered in the form of the monochloroacetic acid salt by treatment of the mother liquors in the presence of monochloroacetic acid.

When R_3 is a hydrogen atom (non-chiral amine), the separation (resolution) is then carried out by means of a chiral acid such as tartaric acid, camphorsulphonic acid,

salicylic acid, dibenzoyltartaric acid or R⁺ 2,4-hydroxyphenoxypropionic acid.

The epimerization reaction on one of the isomers (4R,5R) or (4S,5S) of the formula (IIIa) or (IIIb) is carried out in the presence of a Lewis acid such as ferric chloride or titanium tetrachloride optionally complexed with tetrahydrofuran, boron trichloride, boron trifluoride etherate and tin tetrachloride or of an organic acid, such as methanesulphonic acid, trifluoroacetic acid or para-toluenesulphonic acid. It is preferably tin tetrachloride, in the presence of a relatively non-polar solvent, such as dichloromethane, or methanesulphonic acid in a solvent, such as toluene.

The hydrogenolysis reaction on the cis or trans diastereoisomer of the formula (IIIa), (IIIb), (IIIc) or (IIId), is carried out according to the standard methods known to those skilled in the art, for example by the action of hydrogen in the presence of 10% palladium-on-charcoal in tetrahydrofuran.

The acylation reaction with the chloroformate is preferably carried out in the presence of a base, such as pyridine, in a relatively non-polar solvent, such as dichloromethane.

The formation of the base from the corresponding salt, i.e. the return to the free amine, and the methods of salification with the acids as defined above are carried out according to the methods known to those skilled in the art.

As regards the compounds of the formula (III) when R₃ is an alkyl group containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, it is preferably methyl or ethyl and when R₄ is an aryl group, it is preferably phenyl or naphthyl.

As regards the compounds of the formula (I), when R₂ is a (C₂-C₄) alkenyl or (C₂-C₄) alkynyl group, it is preferably -CH=CH₂, -C≡CH, -CH=CH₂-CH₃, or -C≡C-CH₃.

The protection reactions of the compounds of the formula (I) are carried out according to the methods known to those skilled in the art, and in particular with reference to the

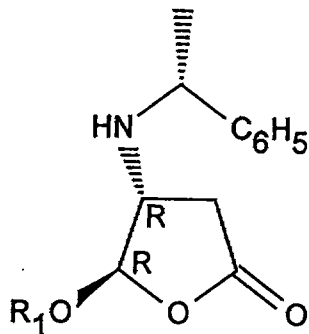
book by Philip J. Kociensky Protecting Groups, Ed. Georg. Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart New-York, 1994.

The present invention more particularly relates to the process as defined above, characterized in that the separation by crystallization, of the compounds of formulae (IIIa) and (IIIb) is carried out:

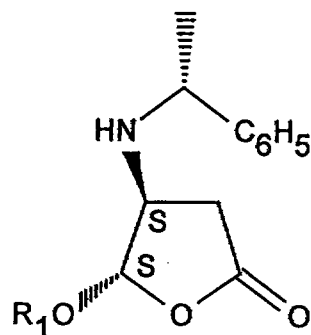
- a) by the action of trichloroacetic acid, in order to obtain the corresponding salt of the formula (IIIa) or (IIIb),
- b) followed by the action of monochloroacetic acid on the mother liquors in order to obtain the salt corresponding to the other diastereoisomer of the formula (IIIa) or (IIIb).

The present invention most particularly relates to a process for preparing, as described above, the compounds of the formula (IVd) or (Id) as defined above, characterized in that it comprises at least one of the following steps:

- a) action of R phenylethylamine on the compound of the formula (II), in order to obtain the compounds of the formulae (III'a) and (III'b) below:

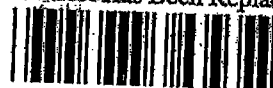


(III'a)



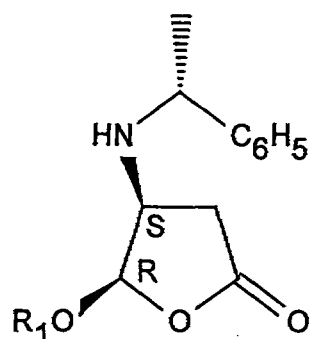
(III'b)

- b) separation of trans stereoisomers of the formulae (III'a) and (III'b) by the action of trichloroacetic acid, in order to obtain the stereoisomer (III'b) (4S,5S) in the form of the trichloroacetic acid salt, followed by the action of monochloroacetic acid in order to obtain the stereoisomer



(III'a) (4R,5R) in the form of the monochloroacetic acid salt,

- c) where appropriate, return to the free amine by the action of a base,
- d) epimerization reaction on the stereoisomer (4S,5S) of the formula (III'b) in the presence of an acid, in order to obtain a cis stereoisomer (4S, 5R) of the formula (III'd):

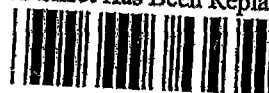


(III'd)

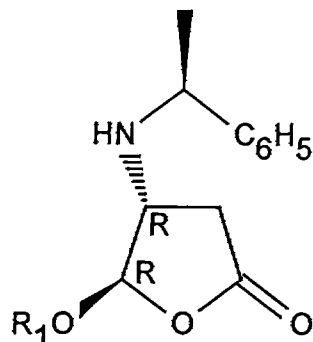
- e) if necessary, crystallization after salification by the action of an acid such as monochloroacetic or dichloroacetic acid,
- f) where appropriate return to the free amine by the action of a base,
- g) if necessary, recrystallization after salification, in particular in the form of the hydrochloride,
- h) hydrogenolysis of the cis stereoisomer (4S,5R) of the formula (III'd), in order to obtain the compound of the formula (IVd) in the form of the cis diastereoisomer, (4S,5R)
- i) where appropriate, the action of an allyl chloroformate on the compound of the formula (IVd) in order to obtain the compound of the formula (Id) in the form of the cis diastereoisomer (4S,5R), with R_1 representing $-CH=CH_2$.

The invention also relates most particularly to a process for preparing, as described above, compounds of the formula (IVd) or (Id) as defined above, characterized in that it comprises at least one of the following steps:

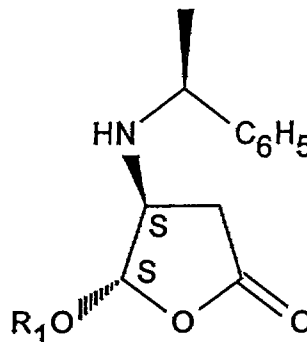
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a) action of the β phenylethylamine on the compound of the formula (II), in order to obtain the compounds of the formulae (III"a) and (III"b) below:



(III"a)

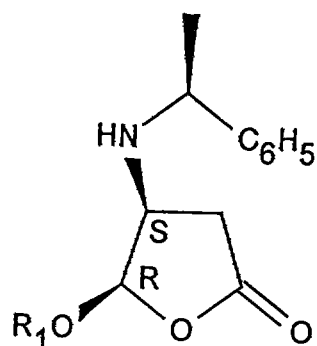


(III"b)

- b) resolution of the trans stereoisomers of the formulae (III"a) and (III"b) by the action of trichloroacetic acid, in order to obtain the stereoisomer (III"b) (4S,5S) in the form of the trichloroacetic acid salt, followed by the action of monochloroacetic acid, in order to obtain the stereoisomer (III"a) (4R,5R) in the form of the monochloroacetic acid salt,
- c) if necessary, return to the free amine by the action of a base,
- d) epimerization reaction on the stereoisomer (4S,5S) of the formula (III"b) in the presence of an acid, in order to obtain a cis diastereoisomer (4S,5R) of the formula (III"d):

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(III'd)

- e) if necessary, crystallization after salification by the action of an acid, such as monochloroacetic acid or dichloroacetic acid,
- f) where appropriate, return to the free amine by the action of a base,
- g) if necessary recrystallization after salification, in particular in the form of the hydrochloride,
- h) hydrogenolysis of the cis stereoisomer (4S,5R) of the formula (III'd), in order to obtain the compound of the formula (IVd) in the form of cis diastereoisomer (4S,5R),
- i) where appropriate, the action of allyl chloroformate on the compound of the formula (IVd), in order to obtain the compound of the formula (Id) in the form of the cis diastereoisomer (4S,5R).

The invention most particularly relates to the process as defined above, characterized in that the addition of the amine to the compound of the formula (II) is carried out in dimethylformamide or in aqueous isopropanol.

The invention most particularly relates to the process as defined above, characterized in that the epimerization reaction is carried out with tin tetrachloride or methanesulphonic acid.

The invention most particularly relates to the process as defined above, characterised in that R₁ is an ethyl radical.

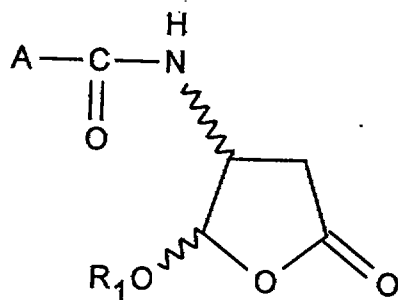
The invention most particularly relates to the process as defined above, characterized in that the separation of the

trans stereoisomers with trichloroacetic acid (step b) is carried out in aqueous isopropanol.

The invention most particularly relates to the process using the (R) phenylethylamine characterized in that the epimerization reaction on the stereoisomer (4S,5S) of the formula (III''b) (step d) is carried out in the presence of methanesulphonic acid in toluene.

The invention most particularly relates to the process using the (R) phenylethylamine, characterized in that the crystallization (step e) is carried out by the action of dichloroacetic acid in toluene.

The invention also relates to the use:
either of the compounds of the formula (IVa), (IVb), (IVc) or (IVd) as defined above or obtained from the process as described above,
or of the compounds of the formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic) or (Id) obtained from the process as described above, in amidation reactions, starting with the acid of the formula A-COOH, to give a compound of the formula (V) below:



(V)

A representing any organic radical.

The invention also relates to the use:
either of the compounds of the formula (IVb) or (IVd) as defined above or obtained from the process as described above,
or of the compounds of the formula (Ib) or (Id) obtained from the process as defined above, in the synthesis of the

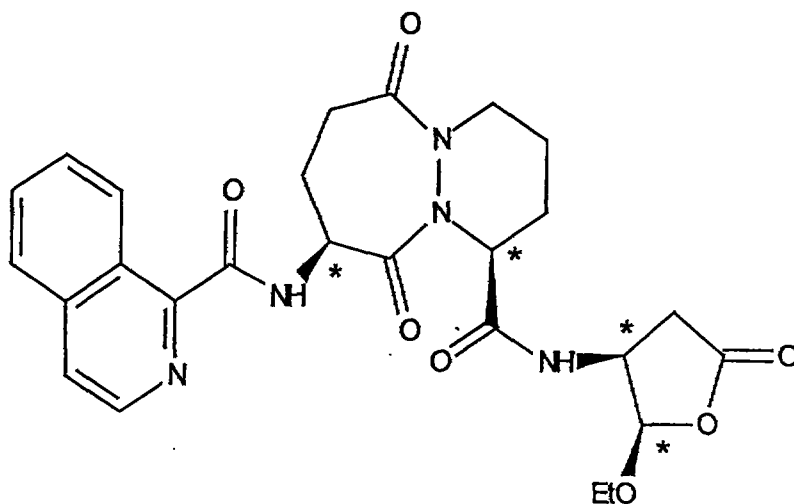
compounds of the formula (V), which have inhibitory activity on interleukin converting enzyme.

These compounds of the formula (V) are in described in particular in the patent applications WO 95/35308, WO 97/22619, EP 0 519 748 and WO 96/33209.

The invention most particularly relates to the use: either of the compound of the formula (IVd) in which R₁ = ethyl, as defined above or obtained from the process as described above, or of the compound of the formula (Id) in which R₁ = ethyl obtained from the process as described above, in the preparation of a compound of the formula (V) which has inhibitory activity on interleukin converting enzyme.

A subject of the invention is, most particularly, the use:

either of the compound of the formula (IVd) in which R₁ = ethyl as defined above or obtained from the process as described above, or of the compound of the formula (Id) in which R₁ = ethyl obtained from the process as described above, in the preparation of the compound of the formula (V) with the following structure:



This compound is described in patent application WO 97/22619 (Pdt 412e).

The invention also relates to the compounds of the formulae (IIIa), (IIIb), (IIIc) and (IIId), as well as the addition salts with acids as described above, as novel intermediate compounds, with the exception of the compounds of the formulae (III"a) and (III"b) with R_1 = methyl.

The compounds of the formula (II) are known or are readily accessible from the methoxyfuranone by the action of PTSA (para-toluenesulphonic acid), in the presence of water, and then of a reagent of the formula $(R_1O)_3CH$ in the presence of an acidic catalyst.

The examples which follow illustrate the invention without, however, limiting it.

EXAMPLE 1: (2R-cis) 2-propenyl (2-ethoxytetrahydro-5-oxo-3-furanyl)carbamate

Stage 1: Michael Addition

4(R*) dihydro-5-ethoxy-4 [(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2(3H)-furanone

15 ml of 98% R- (+)-phenylethylamine are added over the course of 30 minutes at between 23 and 25°C, under an inert atmosphere, to 15 g of racemic ethoxyfuranone in 75 ml of dimethylformamide, and the solution obtained is stirred for 24 hours and then poured into a water/ice mixture. Isopropyl ether is added, and this mixture is extracted, washed, dried and evaporated under reduced pressure to give 27 g of an oil corresponding to the expected 50/50 mixture of the trans isomers.

NMR (CDCl₃; 250 MHz)

1.12; 1.22 (t)	CH_2CH_3
1.37 (dd)	CH_3 (-NH-CH(CH_3) (Ph))
2.13 (dd, J=3.5 and 17.5)	
2.35 (dd, J=3 and 17.5)	CH_2 at 3 of the furanone.
2.70 (dd, J= 7.5 and 17.5)	
2.80 (dd, J= 7 and 17.5)	

3.26	(m)	CH at 4 of the furanone
3.30 to 3.90	(m)	CH ₂ CH ₃
3.82	(m)	CH (-NH-CH(CH ₃) (Ph))
5.00 (d, J=1.5) and 5.32 (d, J=1.5)		CH at 5 of the furanone
7.2 to 7.4	(m)	5H aromatic

Stage 2 : Resolution of the two trans diastereoisomers

A) production of the trans diastereoisomer (4S,5S)

4(S) [4α(S*), 5β]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl) amino]-2(3H)-furanone trichloroacetate

A solution of 10.6 g of trichloroacetic acid (99,5%) in 50 ml of tert-butyl methyl ether is added over 20 min. to 27 g of the mixture of diastereoisomers obtained in the above stage in 164 ml of tert-butyl-methyl-ether. The solution obtained is stirred for 2 hours at 20-25°C then for 2 hours at 0-5°C. 12 g of the (4S,5S) isomer are obtained in the form of the trichloroacetic acid salt.

[α_D] = + 71° (c = 1% CH₃OH)

NMR (CDCl₃ ; 250 MHz)

1.15	(t)	CH ₂ CH ₃
1.75	(d, J=7)	CH ₃ (-NH-CH(CH ₃) (Ph))
2.78	(dd, J=8.5 and 18.5)	
3.05	(dd, J=4 and 18.5)	CH ₂ at 3 of the furanone.
3.43	(ddd, J=2-4 and 8.5)	CH at 4 of the furanone
3.59	(dq, 1H) 3.79 (dq 1H)	CH ₂ CH ₃
4.29	(q, J=7))	(-NH-CH(CH ₃) (Ph))
5.77	(d, J=1,5)	CH at 5 of the furanone
7.42 to 7.57		5H aromatic
9.80	(broad)	H mobile

B) production of the trans diastereoisomer (4R,5R) of 4(R)

[4α(R*), 5β]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl) amino]-2(3H)-furanone chloroacetate

The mother liquors from the above stage are washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution and then with water, after which they are re-extracted once with isopropyl ether.

After drying, the solution is evaporated under reduced pressure to give 15.45 g of the expected product in the form

of an oil. 5 g of monochloroacetic acid is added to the 15.45 g of product in 130 ml of isopropanol, and this mixture is heated to 40°C. Dissolution and then crystallization are observed, after which the mixture is stirred for 1 hour at room temperature and then for 2 hours at 0-5°C. 11.98 g of the expected (4R,5R) isomer are obtained in the form of the monochloroacetic acid salt.

Stage 3: production of the desalified (4S,5S) compound

4(S) [4 α (S*), 5 β]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2(3H)-furanone

11.8 g of the salt obtained in Stage 2A and 120 ml of dichloromethane are mixed together at room temperature, followed by addition of 100 ml of saturated sodium bicarbonate solution. After stirring for 10 min., the mixture is extracted, washed, dried and evaporated under reduced pressure to give 7.1 g of the desalified product.

$[\alpha_D] = +114^\circ$ (c = 1% CH₃OH)

Stage 4: epimerization: production of the (4S,5R) diastereoisomer

4(S) [4 α (S*), 5 α]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2(3H)-furanone

28.6 ml of 1M tin tetrachloride in dichloromethane are added, under an inert atmosphere over 1 hour at $4 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$, to 6.8 g of the desalified (4S,5S) compound obtained in Stage 3 in 135 ml of dichloromethane, and the mixture is stirred for 40 minutes at this temperature. 11 ml of acetic acid are then added, the mixture is stirred for 30 minutes at 5°C, poured into a water/ice mixture and washed, cyclohexane is added, this mixture is brought to pH 7-8 by addition of sodium bicarbonate, and it is then extracted with cyclohexane, dried and evaporated under reduced pressure to give 4.39 g of the expected product in the form of an oil corresponding to a cis/trans ratio of 90/10.

$[\alpha_D] = -1^\circ 5$ (c = 1% CH₃OH)

NMR (CDCl₃ ; 250 MHz)

1.23

(t)

CH₂CH₃

1.40	(d, $J=6.5$)	$\underline{\text{CH}}_3$ (-NH- $\underline{\text{CH}}$ ($\underline{\text{CH}}_3$) (Ph))
2.39	(dd, $J=11$ and 17)	
2.61	(dd, $J=8$ and 17)	$\underline{\text{CH}}_2$ at 3 of the furanone.
3.32	(m)	$\underline{\text{CH}}$ at 4 of the furanone
3.77	(m)	$\underline{\text{CH}}$ (-NH- $\underline{\text{CH}}$ ($\underline{\text{CH}}_3$) (Ph))
4.96	(d, $J=5$)	$\underline{\text{CH}}$ at 5 of the furanone
7.20 to 7.40	(m)	5H aromatic

Stage 5: formation of the monochloroacetic acid salt of the cis diastereoisomer (4S,5R)

4(S) [4 α (S*),5 α]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2(3H)-furanone chloroacetate

1.82 g of monochloroacetic acid (96%) are added, under an inert atmosphere, at 20-25°C to 5 g of the cis diastereoisomer obtained in the above stage in 50 ml of tert-butyl methyl ether. A solution is obtained which crystallizes rapidly, and is left for 1 hour 30 min. at +5°C. 5.75 g of the expected product are obtained.

m.p. = 106-108°C

$[\alpha]_D = -11^\circ 5$ (c = 1% CH_3OH)

Stage 6: hydrogenolysis

a) desalification (return to the free amine)

4(S) [4 α (S*),5 α]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2(3H)-furanone

5.55 g of the monochloroacetic salt obtained in the above stage, 60 ml of dichloromethane and 55 ml of sodium bicarbonate are mixed together at 0-5°C, under an inert atmosphere, and the mixture is stirred for 10 min., washed, extracted, dried and evaporated under reduced pressure to give 3.95 g of desalified product in the form of an oil.

b) Formation of the hydrochloride

4(S) [4 α (S*),5 α]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2(3H)-furanone hydrochloride

6.6 ml of 2N hydrochloric acid in isopropyl ether are added dropwise, at 0-5°C to 3.36 g of the product obtained above in 66 ml of isopropyl ether, and the resulting solution is maintained for 1 hour at this temperature. Crystallization

is observed. 3.77 g of the expected hydrochloride are obtained.

c) Hydrogenolysis

(4(S)-cis)-4-amino-5-ethoxydihydro-2(3H)-furanone hydrochloride

1.8 ml of water are added to a suspension of 4 g of the hydrochloride obtained above in 60 ml of tetrahydrofuran, in order to obtain a solution, followed by addition of 400 mg of 10% palladium-on-charcoal. The mixture is stirred under 1.5 bar of hydrogen for 18 hours at 27-28°C. After filtration and rinsing with a tetrahydrofuran/water mixture, the mixture is evaporated under reduced pressure. 2.54 g of the expected product are obtained.

$[\alpha]_D = -96^\circ$ (c = 1% CH₃OH)

1.22	(t)	CH ₂ CH ₃
2.58	(dd, J=8 and 17.5)	
2.70	(dd, J=8 and 17.5)	CH ₂ at 3 of the furanone.
4.14	(dt, J=5.5 and 8)	CH at 4 of the furanone
3.61; 3.90 (m)		CH ₂ CH ₃
5.71 (d, J=5.5)		CH at 5 of the furanone
8.69 (bs)		3H mobile

Stage 7: Formation of allyl carbamate

(2R-cis) 2-propenyl (2-ethoxytetrahydro-5-oxo-3-furanyl)-carbamate

3 ml of pyridine are added, at +5°C under inert atmosphere, to a mixture consisting of 2.4 g of the product obtained in the above stage, 50 ml of dichloromethane and 1.55 ml of allyl chloroformate, the resulting mixture is stirred for one hour at this temperature and 0.56 ml of allyl chloroformate and 1 ml of pyridine are then added. This mixture is stirred for 6 hours at room temperature, poured into water, extracted with dichloromethane, washed, dried and evaporated under reduced pressure to give 2.66 g of crude product, which product is recrystallized from isopropyl ether. 1.95 g of pure expected product are obtained.

$[\alpha]_D = -56^\circ$ (c = 1% CH₂Cl₂)

1.26	(t)	CH_2CH_3
2.47	(dd, J=10 and 17.5)	
2.84	(dd, J=8.5 and 17.5)	CH_2 at 3 of the furanone
3.67	(dq) and 3.92 (dq)	CH_2CH_3
4.55	(m)	CH at 4 of the furanone
4.59	(bd)	$\text{CH}_2\text{-CH=CH}_2$
5.45	(d, J=5.5)	CH at 5 of the furanone
5.25	(dq) and 5.33 (dq)	$\text{CH}_2\text{-CH=CH}_2$
5.30	masked	N-H
5.93	(m)	$\text{CH}_2\text{-CH=CH}_2$

EXAMPLE 2: (2R-cis) 2-propenyl (2-ethoxytetrahydro-5-oxo-3-furanyl) carbamate

Stage 1: Michael Addition

4(S*) dihydro-5-ethoxy-4 [(1-phenylethyl) amino]-2 (3H) -furanone

15 ml of 98% S- (-) phenylethylamine is added over 30 min between 23 and 25°C, under an inert atmosphere, to 15 g of racemic ethoxyfuranone in 75 ml of dimethylformamide, and the solution obtained is stirred for 24 hours then poured into a water/ice mixture. After extraction with cyclohexane, washing and drying, the solution is evaporated under reduced pressure to give 26.6 g of an oil corresponding to an expected 45/55 mixture of the trans isomers.

NMR (CDCl_3 ; 250 MHz)

1.12	(t) ; 1.22	(t)	CH_2CH_3
1.37	(dd)		CH_3 (-NH-CH(CH_3) (Ph))
2.13	(dd, J=3.5 and 17.5)		
2.35	(dd, J=3 and 127.5)		CH_2 at 3 of the furanone
2.70	(dd, J = 7.5 and 17.5)		
2.80	(dd, J = 7 and 17.5)		
3.26	(m)		CH at 4 of the furanone
3.30 to 3.90	(m)		CH_2CH_3
3.82	(m)		CH (-NH-CH(CH_3) (Ph))
5.00	(d, J=1.5)		
and 5.32	(d, J=1.5)		CH at 5 of the furanone
7.2 to 7.4	(m)		5H aromatic

Stage 2: Resolution of the two trans diastereoisomers

a) production of the trans diastereoisomer (4R,5R)**4(R) [4 α (S*), 5 β]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2(3H)-furanone trichloroacetate**

A solution of 10.24 g of trichloroacetic acid (99.5%) in 50 ml of tert-butyl ether is added over 30 min. to 26 g of the mixture from the above stage in 155 ml of tert-butyl ether. The solution obtained is stirred for 2 hours at 20-25°C and then for 2 hours at 5°C. 12.63 g of the (4R,5R) isomer are obtained in the form of the trichloroacetic acid salt.

$[\alpha_D] = -72^\circ 5$ (c = 1% CH₃CH)

NMR (CDCl₃ ; 250 MHz)

1.15	(t)	CH ₂ CH ₃
1.75	(d, J=7)	CH ₃ (-NH-CH(CH ₃) (Ph))
2.78	(dd, J=8.5 and 18.5)	
3.05	(dd, J=4 and 18.5)	CH ₂ at 3 of the furanone
3.43	(ddd, J=2-4 and 8.5)	CH at 4 of the furanone
3.59	(dq 1H) 3.79 (dq 1H)	CH ₂ CH ₃
4.29	(q, J=7)	(-NH-CH(CH ₃) (Ph))
5.77	(d, J=1.5)	CH at 5 of the furanone
7.42 to 7.57		5H aromatic
9.80 (broad m)		H mobile

b) production of the trans diastereoisomer (4S,5S)**4(S) [4 α (R*), 5 β]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2(3H)-furanone chloroacetate**

the mother liquors from the above stage are washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution and then re-extracted with tert-butyl ether. After drying, the solution is evaporated under reduced pressure to give 17.43 g of the expected product in the form of an oil. 130 ml of isopropanol are added, followed by 5 g monochloroacetic acid, and the mixture is heated to 40°C. Dissolution and then crystallization are observed, after which the mixture is stirred for one hour at room temperature then for two hours at 0-5°C. 12.48 g of the expected (4S,5S) isomer are obtained in the form of the monochloroacetic acid salt.

$[\alpha_D] = +1^\circ$ (c = 1% CH₃OH)

NMR (CDCl₃ ; 250 MHz)

1.12	(t, J=7.5)	CH ₂ CH ₃
1.26	(d, J=6.5)	CH ₃ (-NH-CH(CH ₃) (Ph))
2.18	(dd, J=2.5 and 17.5)	
2.66	(dd, J=7.5 and 17.5)	CH ₂ at 3 of the furanone
2.95	(ddd, J=1-2.5 and 7.5)	CH at 4 of the furanone
3.66	(m)	CH ₂ CH ₃
3.87	(q, J=6.5)	CH (-NH-CH(CH ₃) (Ph))
5.42	(d, J=1)	CH of the furanone
7.24	(m) 1H, 7.33 (m) 4H	H aromatic
4.26	(s)	X-CH ₂

Stage 3: production of the desalified (4S,5S) compound

**4(S) [4α(R*), 5β]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl) amino]-
2(3H)-furanone**

12.35 g of the salt obtained in Stage 2B and 130 ml of dichloromethane are mixed together at 0-5°C, followed by addition of 100 ml of saturated sodium bicarbonate solution. After stirring for 10 min., the mixture is extracted, washed, dried and evaporated under reduced pressure to give 8.9 g of the desalified product.

$[\alpha_D] = -6.6^\circ$ (c = 1% CH₃OH)

Stage 4: epimerization: production of the (4S,5R) diastereoisomer

**4(S) [4α(R*), 5α]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl) amino]-
2(3H)-furanone**

37 ml of 1M tin tetrachloride in dichloromethane are added, under an inert atmosphere over 45 minutes at 0-5°C, to 8.8 g of the desalified (4S,5S) compound obtained in Stage 3 in 175 ml of dichloromethane, and the resulting mixture is stirred for 1 hour at this temperature. 14.1 ml of acetic acid are then added, this mixture is stirred for 1 hour at 0-5°C, poured into a water/ice mixture and washed, cyclohexane is added, this mixture is brought to pH 7-8 by addition of sodium bicarbonate, and it is extracted with cyclohexane, dried and evaporated under reduced pressure to give 3.96 g of

the expected product in the form of an oil corresponding to a 90/10 cis/trans ratio.

NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz)

1.29	(t)	CH ₂ CH ₃
1.35	(d)	CH ₃ (-NH-CH(CH ₃) (Ph))
2.28	(dd, J=11.5 and 17)	
2.43	(dd, J=8 and 17)	CH ₂ at 3 of the furanone.
3.36	(ddd, J=4.5/8/1.5)	CH at 4 of the furanone
3.67	(dq) ; 3.92 (dq)	CH ₂ CH ₃
3.81	(q)	CH (-NH-CH(CH ₃) (Ph))
5.79	(d, J=4.5)	CH at 5 of the furanone
7.20 to 7.40	(m)	5H aromatic

Stage 5: formation of the trichloroacetic acid salt of the cis diastereoisomer (4S,5R)

4(S) [4α(R*),5α]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2(3H)-furanone trichloroacetate

2.34 g of trichloroacetic acid (99%) are added, under an inert atmosphere, at 20-25°C, to 3.8 g of the cis diastereoisomer obtained in the above stage in 40 ml of tert-butyl methyl ether. The mixture is left for 1 hour at 0-5°C to give 5.58 g of the expected product.

[α]_D = -49° (c = 0.9% CH₃OH)

Stage 6: hydrogenolysis

a) desalification (return to the free amine)

4(S) [4α(R*),5α]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2(3H)-furanone

5.41 g of the trichloroacetic acid salt obtained in the above stage, 50 ml of cyclohexane and 50 ml of saturated sodium bicarbonate solution are mixed together at 0-5°C under an inert atmosphere, the mixture is stirred until dissolved, and it is washed, extracted, dried and evaporated under reduced pressure to give 3.18 g of desalified product in the form of an oil.

[α]_D = -93° (c = 0.62% CH₃OH)

This product is re-purified by mixing 2.85 g of this product with 30 ml of cyclohexane and 2.8 g of silica for 10

min. After treatment 2.3 g of a colourless oil are collected.

b) formation of the hydrochloride

4(S) [4 α (R*), 5 α]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2(3H)-furanone hydrochloride

4 ml of 2N hydrochloric acid in isopropyl ether are added dropwise, at 0-5°C, to 2 g of the product obtained above in 40 ml of isopropyl ether, and the mixture is maintained for 15 minutes at this temperature. The mixture is evaporated under reduced pressure to give 2.29 g of the expected hydrochloride.

c) hydrogenolysis

(4(S)-cis)-4-amino-5-ethoxy-dihydro-2(3H)-furanone hydrochloride

1 ml of water then 300 mg of 10% palladium-on-charcoal are added to a suspension of 2.29 g of the hydrochloride obtained above in 40 ml of tetrahydrofuran. The mixture is stirred under 1.5 bar of hydrogen for 5 hours. After filtration and rinsing with a tetrahydrofuran/water mixture, the resulting mixture is evaporated under reduced pressure at 45°C. 1.40 g of the expected product are obtained.

$[\alpha_D] = -87^\circ 4$ (c=1% CH₃OH)

1.22	(t)	CH ₂ CH ₃
2.58	(dd, J=8 and 1.5)	
2.70	(dd, J=8 and 17.5)	CH ₂ at 3 of the furanone
4.14	(dt, J=5.5 and 8)	CH at 4 of the furanone
3.61 to 3.9	(m)	CH ₂ CH ₃
5.71	(d, J=5.5)	CH at 5 of the furanone
8.69	(bs)	mobile 3H's

Stage 7: Formation of the allyl carbamate

(2R-cis) 2-propenyl (2-ethoxytetrahydro-5-oxo-3-furanyl)-carbamate

1 ml of 99% allyl chloroformate then 2 ml of pyridine are added at +5°C, under an inert atmosphere, to 1.3 g of the product obtained in the above stage in 50 ml of

dichloromethane, the mixture is stirred for 1 hour 40 min. at this temperature and 0.3 ml of allyl chloroformate and 0.6 ml of pyridine are then added. This mixture is stirred for 16 hours at room temperature, poured into water, extracted with dichloromethane, washed, dried and evaporated under reduced pressure to give 1.62 g of crude product, which product is recrystallised from isopropyl ether. 1.34 g of the expected product are obtained.

$[\alpha]_D = -52.4^\circ$ (c=1% CH_2Cl_2)

1.26	(t)	CH_2CH_3
2.47	(dd, J=10 and 17.5)	
2.84	(dd, J=8.5 and 17.5)	CH_2 at 3 of the furanone
3.67	(dq) and 3.92 (dq)	CH_2CH_3
4.55	(m)	CH at 4 of the furanone
4.59	(bd)	$\text{CH}_2\text{-CH=CH}_2$
5.45	(d, J=5.5)	CH at 5 of the furanone
5.25	(dq) and (5.33 (dq)	$\text{CH}_2\text{-CH=CH}_2$
5.30	masked	N-H
5.93	(m)	$\text{CH}_2\text{-CH=CH}_2$

EXAMPLE 3: 4(S) [4 α (S*), 5 α]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl) amino]-2(3H)-furanone dichloroacetate

Stage 1: Michael Addition

4(R*) dihydro-5-ethoxy-4 [(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2(3H)-furanone

20 ml of R-(+)-1-phenylethylamine (19.06 g) are added over about 1 h 30 min., with stirring and under a nitrogen atmosphere, to a solution of 20 g of racemic ethoxyfuranone in 156.8 ml of isopropanol and 3.2 ml of water, while maintaining the temperature of $0 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$, and the resulting mixture is stirred for 24 hours at this temperature.

Stage 2: resolution of the two trans diastereoisomers:

production of the trans diastereoisomer (4S,5S)

4(S) [4 α (S*), 5 β]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl) amino]-2(3H)-furanone trichloroacetate

A solution composed of 25.55 g of trichloroacetic acid in 39.2 ml of isopropanol and 0.8 ml of demineralized water

is added to the above solution (the product is not isolated), the temperature is allowed to rise to 20-22°C, and crystallization of the salt is observed after the end of the introduction. This suspension is maintained for 24 hours at 20±2°C, and the product is then spin-dried and washed with isopropanol containing 2% water. 18 g of the expected product are obtained.

1.15	(t)	O-CH ₂ -CH ₃
1.75	(d, J=7)	Ph-CH(CH ₃)-N
2.78	(dd, J=8.5 and 18.5)	CH ₂ at 3
3.05	(dd, J=4 and 18.5)	
3.43	(ddd, J=2.4 and 8.5)	H ₄
3.59	(dq) 1H, 3.79 (dq) 1H	O-CH ₂ -CH ₃
4.29	(q, J=7)	Ph-CH(CH ₃)-N
5.77	(d, J=1.5)	H ₅
7.42 to 7.57	(5H)	H aromatic
9.80	broad	H mobile.

Stage 3: epimerization: production of the (4S,5R) diastereoisomer

4(S) [4α(S*), 5α]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2(3H)-furanone

45 ml of methanesulphonic acid are added, under nitrogen, while maintaining the temperature at 20 ± 2°C, to a suspension of 50 g of the (4S,5S) trichloroacetate obtained in the above stage in 150 ml of toluene, the mixture is maintained for 2 hours at 20±2°C and, after lowering the temperature to 0±5°C, 111 ml of triethylamine are added over 1 h 30 min. After a series of washing, extraction and drying, 400 ml of a solution containing an 85/15 mixture of cis/trans isomer are obtained.

Stage 4: formation of the dichloroacetic acid salt of the cis (4S,5R) diastereoisomer

4(S) [4α(S*), 5α]-dihydro-5-ethoxy-4-[(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2(3H)-furanone dichloroacetate

10 ml of dichloroacetic acid are added to 400 ml of the above solution, this mixture is concentrated to 6 volumes,

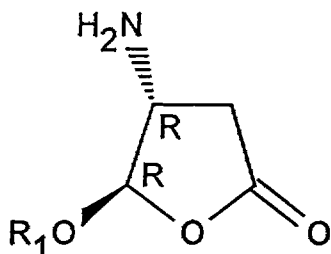
crystallization is observed, and stirring is maintained at $20 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ for 2 hours under nitrogen. After washing with toluene, 32.8 g of the expected product are obtained.

1.21	(t)	$\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_3$
1.72	(d, $J=6.5$)	$\text{Ph}-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{N}$
2.77	(dd, $J=8.5$ and 17)	CH_2 at 3
2.97	(dd, $J=11$ and 17)	
3.76	(m)	H_4
3.34	(dq), 3.66 (dq)	$\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_3$
4.27	(q, $J=6.5$)	$\text{Ph}-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{N}$
4.88	(d, $J=5$)	H_5
5.95	(s)	CHCl_3
7.42	(m) 3H, 7.51 (m) 2H	H aromatic
9.79	(bs)	2H mobile

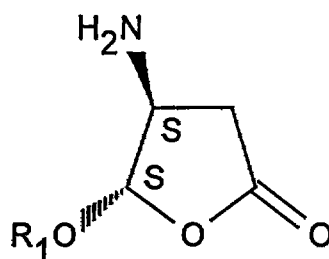
CLAIMS

1) Compounds of formula (IVa), (IVb), (IVc) or (IVd)

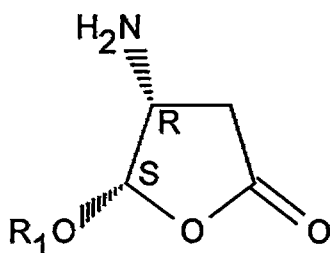
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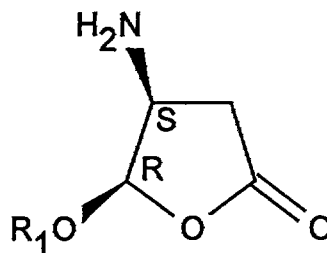
(IVa)



(IVb)



(IVc)



(IVd)

in which R₁ is an alkyl group containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a phenylalkyl group containing from 7 to 11 carbon atoms, as well as the addition salts thereof with acids.

2) Compound of the formula (IVd) as defined in Claim 1, as well as the addition salts thereof with acids.

3) Compound of the formula (IVd) according to Claim 2, in which R₁ is an ethyl group, as well as the addition salts thereof with acids.

4) Process for preparing the compounds of the formula (IVa), (IVb), (IVc) or (IVd) as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that it comprises at least one of the following steps:

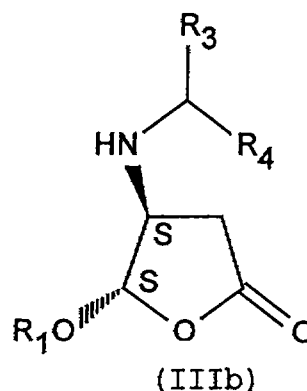
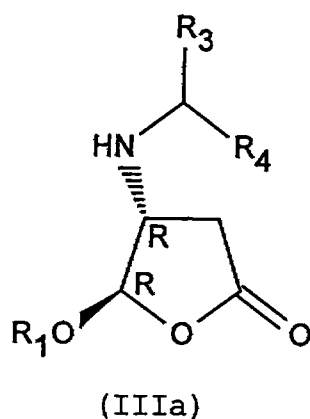


- a) action of an arylamine of formula $R_3R_4CHNH_2$ in which R_3 is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms and R_4 is an optionally substituted aryl, on the racemic alkoxyfuranone of formula (II):



in which R_1 is an alkyl group containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a phenylalkyl group containing from 7 to 11 carbon atoms,

and production of the trans isomer compounds (4R,5R) and (4S,5S) respectively, of the formulae (IIIa) and (IIIb)



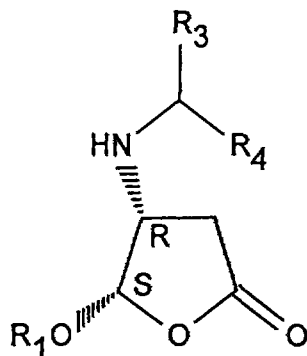
which subsequently

- are separated by crystallization, carrying out, if necessary, one or more salification reactions,
- or, when R_3 is a hydrogen atom, are resolved by the action of an optically active acid,

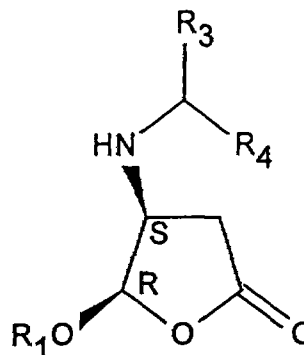
b) where appropriate, epimerization reaction on the compound of the formula (IIIa) or (IIIb), in salified or non salified form, in the presence of an acid, in order to obtain the cis



isomer compounds (4R,5S) or (4S,5R) of the formula (IIIc) or (IIId), which are salified if necessary,



(IIIc)



(IIId)

c) hydrogenolysis reaction,

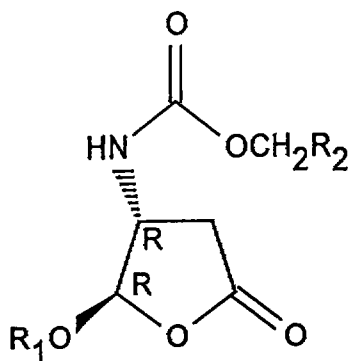
- either on the trans isomer (4R,5R) or (4S,5S) of the formula (IIIa) or (IIIb), in salified or non salified form, in order to obtain the compound of the formula (IVa) or (IVb) in the form of the trans isomer (4R,5R) or (4S,5S) as defined above, which is then, if necessary, salified and/or protected,

- or on the cis isomer (4R,5S) or (4S,5R) of the formula (IIIc) or (IIId), in salified or non salified form, in order to obtain the compound of the formula (IVc) or (IVd) in the form of the cis isomer (4R,5S) or (4S,5R), which is, if necessary salified, and/or protected.

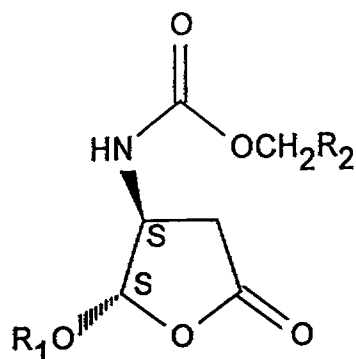
5) Process according to Claim 4, characterized in that the protection reaction on the amines of the formula (IVa), (IVb), (IVc) or (IVd), in salified or non salified form, is carried out by the action of the chloroformate of the formula Cl-CO-O-CH₂-R₂, R₂ representing a tert-butyl, (C₂-C₄)-alkenyl, (C₂-C₄)-alkynyl or phenyl radical, which may be substituted or unsubstituted, in order to obtain the compounds of the formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic) or (Id) respectively, in the form of the trans diastereoisomers (4R,5R), (4S,5S) or cis



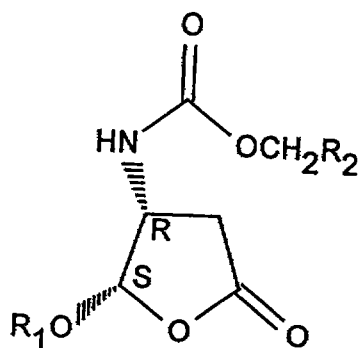
diastereoisomers (4R,5S) and (4S,5R), which if necessary are salified,



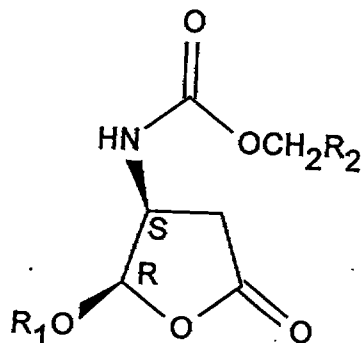
(Ia)



(Ib)



(Ic)



(Id)

6) Process according to claim 4, characterized in that the separation, by crystallization, of the compounds of the formulae (IIIa) and (IIIb), as defined in claim 4, is carried out:

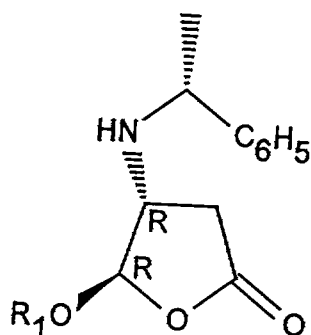
a) by the action of trichloroacetic acid, in order to obtain the corresponding salt of the formula (IIIa) or (IIIb),



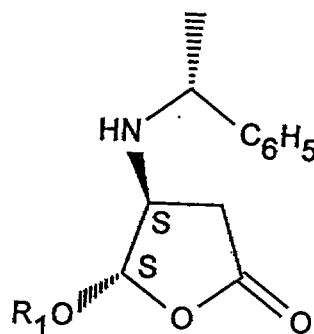
b) and then by the action of monochloroacetic acid on the mother liquors in order to obtain the salt corresponding to the other diastereoisomer of the formula (IIIa) or (IIIb).

7) Process for preparing, according to Claim 4, the compounds of the formula (IVd) as defined in Claim 2 or the compounds of the formula (Id) as defined in Claim 5, characterized in that it comprises at least one of the following steps:

a) action of β phenylethylamine on the compound of the formula (II), in order to obtain the compounds of the formulae (III'a) and (III'b) below:



(III'a)



(III'b)

b) resolution of trans stereoisomers of the formulae (III'a) and (III'b) by the action of trichloroacetic acid, in order to obtain the stereoisomer (III'a) (4R,5R) in the form of the trichloroacetic acid salt, followed by the action of monochloroacetic acid, in order to obtain the stereoisomer (III'b) (4S,5S) in the form of the of monochloroacetic acid salt,

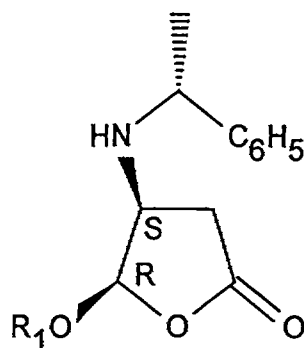
c) Where appropriate, return to the free amine by the action of a base,

d) epimerization reaction on the stereoisomer (4S,5S) of the formula (III'b) in the presence of an acid, in order to obtain a cis stereoisomer(4S,5R) of the formula (III'd):



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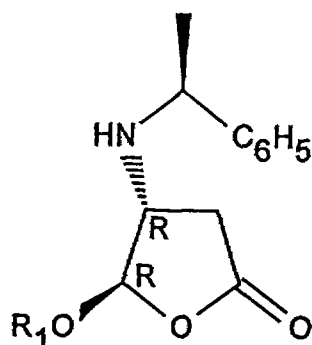


(III'd)

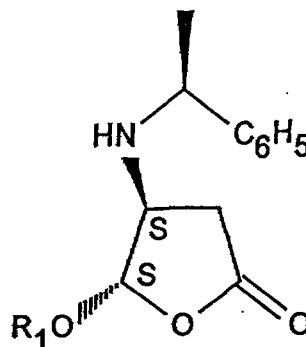
- e) if necessary, crystallization after salification by the action of monochloroacetic acid or dichloroacetic acid,
 - f) where appropriate, return to the free amine by the action of a base,
 - g) if necessary, recrystallization after salification, in particular in the form of the hydrochloride,
 - h) hydrogenolysis of the cis stereoisomer (4S,5R) of the formula (III'd), in order to obtain the compound of the formula (IVd) in the form of the cis diastereoisomer (4S,5R)
 - i) where appropriate, the action of allyl chloroformate on the compound of the formula (IVd), in order to obtain the compound of the formula (Id) in the form of the cis diastereoisomer (4S,5R), with R₂ representing -CH=CH₂.
- 8) Process for preparing, according to Claim 4, the compounds of the formula (IVd) as defined in Claim 2 or the compounds of the formula (Id) as defined in claim 5, characterized in that it comprises at least one of the following steps:



a) action of the R phenylethylamine on the compound of the formula (II), in order to obtain the compounds of the formulae (III"a) and (III"b):



(III"a)



(III"b)

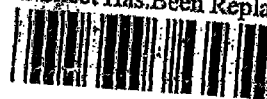
b) resolution of the trans stereoisomers of the formulae (III"a) and (III"b) by the action of trichloroacetic acid, in order to obtain the stereoisomer (III"b) (4S,5S) in the form of the trichloroacetic acid salt, followed by the action of monochloroacetic acid, in order to obtain the stereoisomer (III"a) (4R,5R) in the form of the monochloroacetic acid salt,

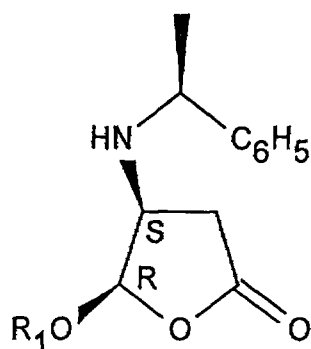
c) if necessary, desalification by the action of a base,

d) epimerization reaction of the stereoisomer (4S,5S) of the formula (III"b) in the presence of an acid, in order to obtain the cis stereoisomer (4S,5R) of the formula (III"d):



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III"d)

- e) if necessary, crystallization after salification by the action of an acid, such as monochloroacetic acid or dichloroacetic acid,
- f) where appropriate, return to the free amine by the action of a base,
- g) if necessary, recrystallization after salification, in particular in the form of the hydrochloride,
- h) hydrogenolysis of the cis stereoisomer (4S,5R) of the formula (III"d), in order to obtain the compound of the formula (IVd) in the form of the cis diastereoisomer (4S,5R),
- i) where appropriate, the action of allyl chloroformate on the compound of the formula (IVd), in order to obtain the compound of the formula (Id) in the form of the cis diastereoisomer (4S,5R), R₂ representing a -CH=CH₂ radical.
- 9) Process as defined in any one of claims 4 to 8, characterized in that the addition of the amine to the compound of the formula (II) as defined in claim 4 is carried out in dimethylformamide or aqueous isopropanol.
- 10) Process as defined in any one of claims 4 to 8, characterized in that the epimerization reaction is carried out with tin tetrachloride or methanesulphonic acid.
- 11) Process as defined in any one of claims 4 to 8, characterized in that R₁ is an ethyl radical.
- 12) Process as defined in any one of claims 8 to 11, characterized in that the resolution of the trans stereoisomers with trichloroacetic acid (step b) is carried out in aqueous isopropanol.



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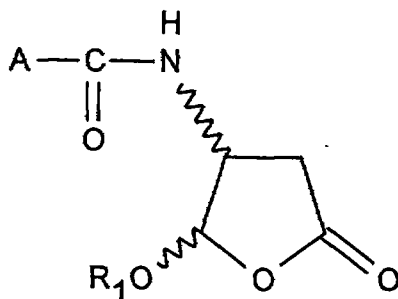
13) Process as defined in any one of claims 8 to 11, characterized in that the epimerization reaction on the (4S,5S) stereoisomer of the formula (III''b, step d) is carried out in the presence of methanesulphonic acid in toluene.

14) Process as defined in any one of claims 8 to 11, characterized in that the crystallization (step e) is carried out by the action of dichloroacetic acid in toluene.

15) Use:

either of the compounds of the formula (IVa), (IVb), (IVc) or (IVd) as defined in Claim 1 or obtained from the process as defined in Claim 4,

or of the compounds of the formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic) or (Id) obtained from the process as defined in Claim 5, in amidation reactions, starting with the acid of the formula A-COOH to give a compound of the formula (V) below:



(V)

A representing any organic radical.

16) Use:

either of the compounds of the formula (IVb) or (IVd) as defined in Claim 1 or obtained from the process as defined in Claim 4,

or of the compounds of the formula (Ib) or (Id) obtained from the process as defined in claim 5, in the synthesis of the compounds of the formula (V), which have inhibitory activity on interleukin converting enzyme.

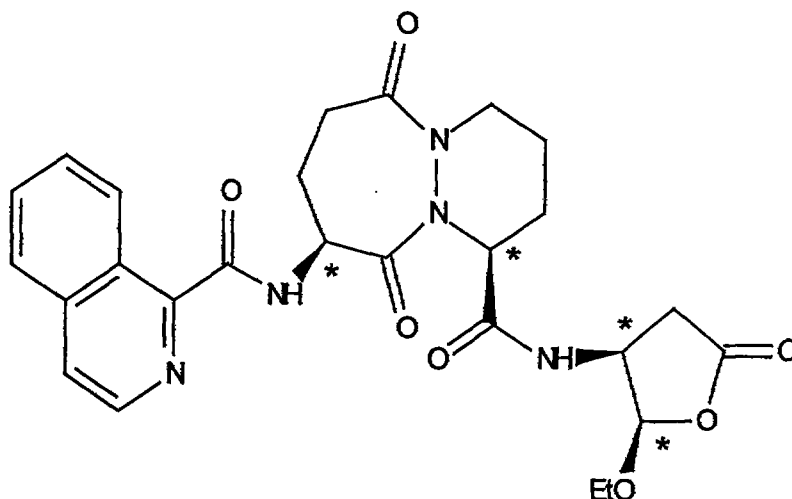
17) Use:



either of the compound of the formula (IVd) in which R₁ = ethyl as defined in claim 3 or obtained from the process as defined in Claim 7 or 8,

or of the compound of the formula (Id) in which R₁ = ethyl, obtained from the process as defined in Claim 5, in the preparation of a compound of the formula (V) which has inhibitory activity on interleukin converting enzyme.

18) Use, according to Claim 17, of the compounds of the formula (IVd) or (Id) as defined in Claim 17, in the preparation of the compound of the formula (V) with the following structure:



19) Compounds of the formulae (IIIa), (IIIb), (IIIc) and (IIId), as novel intermediate compounds, as well as the addition salts thereof with acids, with the exception of the compounds of the formulae (III"a) and (III"b) as defined in Claim 8, with R₁ = methyl.

