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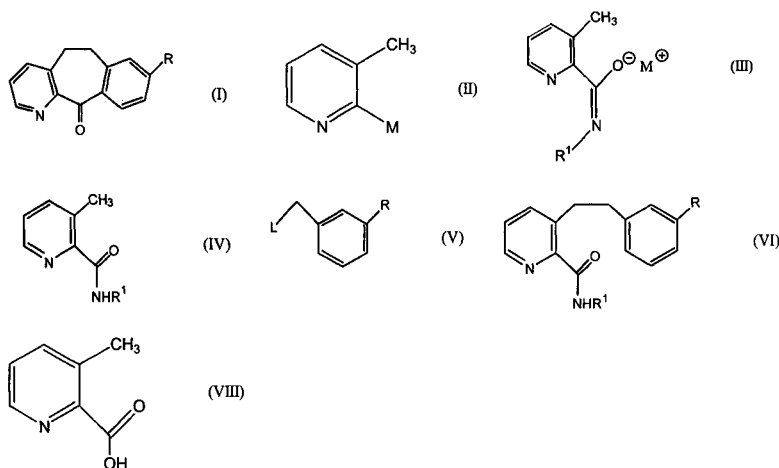
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(54) Title: SYNTHESIS OF INTERMEDIATES USEFUL IN PREPARING TRICYCLIC COMPOUNDS



(57) **Abstract:** A process is provided for preparing a compound having the formula (I) comprising: (a) reacting a compound having the formula (II) with an isocyanate having the formula R^1NCO to produce a compound having the formula (III); (b) optionally hydrolyzing the compound of formula (III) to form an amide having the formula (IV); (c) reacting the compound of formula (III) or the amide of formula (IV) with a compound having the formula (V) in the presence of a strong base to produce a compound having the formula (VI); and (d) cyclizing the compound of formula (VI) to obtain the compound of formula (I), wherein R is H or Cl; M is selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, MgX , ZnR^A , and $Al(R^A)_2$; R^A is alkyl; X is halo; R^1 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, and heterocycloalkylalkyl; and L is a leaving group. Also provided is a process for preparing a compound having the formula (VIII) comprising reacting a compound having the formula (II) with CO_2 and a protonating agent to obtain the compound of formula (VIII), wherein M is selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, MgX , ZnR^A , and $Al(R^A)_2$, wherein R^A is alkyl and X is halo.



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