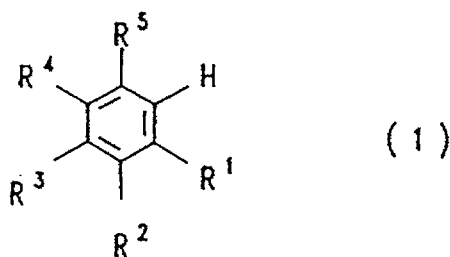


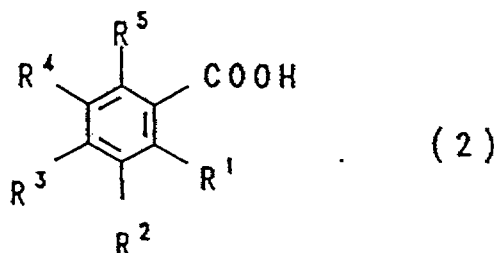
ABSTRACT

Process for the preparation of aromatic compounds by decarboxylation of aromatic carboxylic acids

The present invention relates to a process for the preparation of compounds of the formula



in which the radicals R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are identical or different and are COOH , H , F , Cl , Br , CF_3 , OH , an alkoxy or alkyl radical having in each case 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a radical $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, in which R^6 and R^7 are identical or different and are H , an alkyl radical having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a phenyl radical, by dissolving in water a compound of the formula



in which the radicals R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are identical or different and have the abovementioned meaning or, in departure therefrom, instead of H can be COOH , admixing the aqueous solution with a water-insoluble amine which is inert under the reaction conditions and carrying out the decarboxylation at a pH of 3 to 9 and a temperature of 70 to 210°C in the presence or absence of a water-insoluble solvent which is inert under the reaction conditions and in the presence or absence of a decarboxylation catalyst.