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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

(57) Abstract: A method for preparing an alkali metal salt comprising: (a) condensing a disilyloxydiene with an aldehyde in the presence of a titanium (IV) catalyst in an inert solvent to form a 5(*S*)hydroxy-3-ketoester; (b) reducing the 5(*S*)-hydroxy-3-ketoester to a 3(*R*),5(*S*)-dihydroxyester in the presence of a *di*(lower alkyl)methoxyborane; and (c) hydrolyzing the 3(*R*),5(*S*)dihydroxyester in the presence of an aqueous base to form an alkali metal salt.