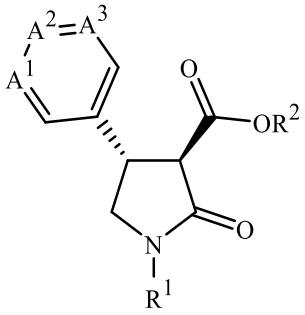
CLAIMS

1. A compound of Formula **II** and salts thereof



II

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$;

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl; and

R^2 is H or C_1–C_4 alkyl.

2. A compound of Claim 1 and salts thereof wherein

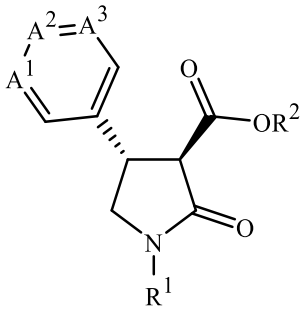
R^1 is methyl, ethyl or propyl; and

R^2 is H or methyl.

3. A compound of Claim 2 and salts thereof selected from the group consisting of methyl (3*R*,4*S*)-1-methyl-2-oxo-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3-pyrrolidinecarboxylate; and

(3*R*,4*S*)-1-methyl-2-oxo-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3-pyrrolidinecarboxylic acid.

4. A process for preparing a compound of Formula **II-A**



II-A

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

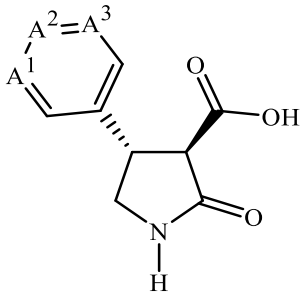
A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$;

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl; and

R^2 is H

comprising alkylating a compound of Formula **III**



III

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$

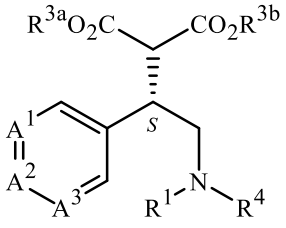
with an alkylating agent.

5. The process of Claim 4 wherein

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl;

comprising alkylating a compound of Formula **III** wherein the alkylating agent is a dialkylsulfate.

6. A compound of Formula **IV** and salts thereof



IV

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$;
R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl;
each R^{3a} and R^{3b} is independently C_1–C_4 alkyl; and
R^4 is substituted or unsubstituted benzyl.

7. A compound of Claim 6 wherein
R^1 is methyl, ethyl or propyl;
each R^{3a} and R^{3b} is independently methyl or ethyl; and
R^4 is unsubstituted benzyl.

8. A compound of Claim 6 that is
1,3-dimethyl 2-[(1*S*)-2-[methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-1-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl]propanedioate.