

A B S T R A C T

Process for preparing an (S)-2-amino- ω -
5 oxoalkanoic acid derivative in which the corresponding
aldehyde is converted into the corresponding acetal-
protected aldehyde, the acetal-protected aldehyde is
converted into the corresponding aminonitrile, the
aminonitrile is converted into the corresponding amino
10 acid amide, the amino acid amide is subjected to an
enzymatic, enantioselective hydrolysis in which the R
enantiomer of the amino acid amide remains and the S
enantiomer is converted into the S amino acid, and the
S amino acid is isolated. Preferably, the reaction
15 mixture obtained after the conversion of the
aminonitrile into the amino acid amide is treated with
a benzaldehyde, upon which the Schiff base of the amino
acid amide is formed, the Schiff base is separated and
is converted into the free amino acid amide.

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