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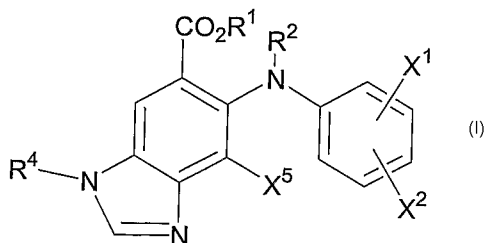
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(54) Title: S_NAr PROCESS FOR PREPARING BENZIMIDAZOLE COMPOUNDS



(57) Abstract: Provided are methods for the synthesis of hetero-
cyclic compounds such as benzimidazole carboxylic acid core struc-
tures having Formula Ia-2 and their synthetic intermediates: wherein
 X^1 , X^2 , X^5 , R^1 , R^2 and R^4 are as defined herein. Compounds of For-
mula Ia-2 and their synthetic intermediates can be used to prepare
heterocyclic derivatives such as benzimidazole derivatives.