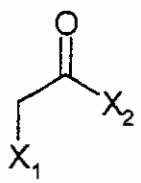
Abstract:

The present invention relates to a process for the preparation of a N-(N'-substituted glycyl)-2-cyanopyrrolidine comprising at least

(a) reacting, in the presence of dimethylformamide, a compound of formula (V)



(V)

wherein, independently of each other, X_1 and X_3 are halogen; X_2 is halogen, OH, O-C(=O)-CH_2X_3, -O-SO_2-(C_{1-8})alkyl or -O-SO_2-(aryl),

with L-prolinamide, followed by

(b) reacting the resultant compound without isolation with a dehydration agent, optionally followed by

(c) reacting, in the presence of a base, the resultant compound without isolation with an appropriate amine and

(d) recovering the resultant compound in free form or in acid addition salt form.