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(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK00/00032 (22) International Filing Date: 26 January 2000 (26.01.00) (30) Priority Data: PA 1999 00128 29 January 1999 (29.01.99) DK (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): H. LUNDBECK A/S [DK/DK]; Ottiliavej 9, DK-2500 Valby-Copenhagen (DK). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): WEBER, Beat [CH/CH]; Wiesenstrasse 4, CH-4800 Zofingen (CH). (74) Common Representative: H. LUNDBECK A/S; Att: John Meidahl Petersen, Ottiliavej 9, DK-2500 Valby-Copenhagen (DK).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF 5-CYANOPHTHALIDE		
(57) Abstract A method for the preparation of 5-cyanophthalide in which 5-carboxyphthalide is reacted with a dehydrating agent, such as thionylchloride, and a sulphonamide, in particular sulfamide. Cyanophthalide is prepared in high yields by a convenient procedure. 5-Cyanophthalide is an intermediate used in the preparation of the antidepressant drug citalopram.		