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(54) Title: PREPARATION OF KETONE AMIDES

(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses a novel process to prepare ketone amides, which are useful intermediates for the preparation of antagonists of CCR5 receptor and therefore useful for the treatment of HIV virus infected mammals. It specifically discloses a novel process to synthesize 1 -(2,4-dimethylpyrimidine-5-carbonyl)-4-piperidone, 1 -[(2,4-dimethyl-3- pyridinyl)carbonyl]-4-piperidone and related compounds. A salient feature of the invention is the use of a three-phase reaction medium with an organic phase and a buffer salt slurry. (formule I)

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