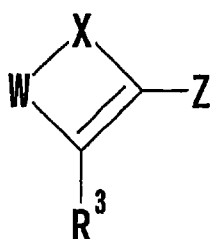




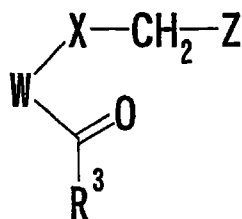
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ABSTRACT

A process suitable for safely mass-producing, through a short step, cyclic compounds useful in medicines, agricultural chemicals, foods, cosmetics, and chemical products or as intermediates therefor. The process, which is for producing a compound represented by the formula:



{wherein Z represents an electron-attracting group; W represents optionally substituted ethylene or optionally substituted vinylene; R^3 represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group; and X represents a divalent group [provided that when W represents optionally substituted vinylene, then $-X-CH_2-Z$ is not $-X^1-X^2-CH_2-Z$ (wherein X^1 represents sulfur or optionally substituted nitrogen and X^2 represents optionally substituted ethylene)]} or a salt thereof, is characterized by subjecting a compound represented by the formula (II) or a salt thereof:



G0000

(wherein the symbols have the same meanings as the above)
to a ring closure reaction in a solvent containing a
carbonic diester.