

DESCRIPTION

METHOD FOR PRODUCING PYRIMIDINE-1-OL COMPOUND, AND
INTERMEDIATE THEREOF

5

[Technical Field]

[0001]

The present invention relates to a method for producing 2,4-disubstituted pyrimidine-5-ol which is a key intermediate for producing a compound that has an orexin receptor antagonistic action and is useful as an insomnia treatment agent and an intermediate for production thereof.

10

[Background Art]

[0002]

Two types of intracerebral neuropeptides, orexin-A (OX-A, a peptide consisting of 33 amino acids) and orexin-B (OX-B, a peptide consisting of 28 amino acids), expressed in neurons localized in the hypothalamus of the brain, were found as endogenous ligands (Patent Literature 5 and Non Patent Literature 1) of G protein-coupled receptors mainly existing in the brain, that is, orexin receptors (Patent Literature 1, Patent Literature 2, Patent Literature 3, and Patent Literature 4). It is known that the orexin receptors include two subtypes, an OX1 receptor (OX1) as a type 1 subtype and an OX2 receptor (OX2) as a type 2 subtype. OX1 more selectively binds to OX-A than to OX-B, and OX2 binds to OX-A similarly to OX-B. It was found that orexins stimulate food consumption in rats and physiological roles as mediators of such peptides in a central feedback mechanism to regulate feeding behaviors have been suggested (Non Patent Literature 1). On the other hand, it was observed that orexins

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also regulate states of sleep and wakefulness, and therefore orexins are considered to lead to a novel treatment method for narcolepsy as well as insomnia and other sleep disorders (Non Patent Literature 2). Further, it has been suggested that orexin signals in the ventral tegmental area associated with narcotic addiction and nicotine addiction play important roles in vivo in neuroplasticity (Non Patent Literature 3 and Non Patent Literature 4). In addition, it has been reported that, when OX2 is selectively inhibited in an experiment using rats, ethanol addiction is alleviated (Non Patent Literature 5). Moreover, it has been reported that the corticotrophin releasing factor (CRF) associated with depression and anxiety disorder in rats induces orexin-induced activity, and there is a possibility of orexins playing important roles in a stress response (Non Patent Literature 6).

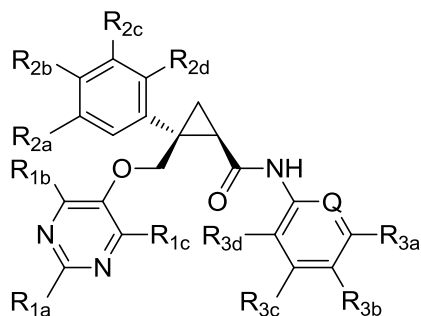
[0003]

5-chloro-2-[(5R)-5-methyl-4-[5-methyl-2-(2H-1,2,3-triazol-2-yl)benzoyl]-1,4-diazepan-1-yl]-1,3-benzoxazole (MK-4305; suvorexant, Patent Literature 6) having a dual orexin antagonistic action for OX1 and OX2 has recently been released as an insomnia therapeutic agent. Further, E2006 (Lemborexant) has been clinically developed.

[0004]

In Patent Literature 7, a compound represented by the following formula or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is considerably described as a compound that has an orexin receptor antagonistic action and is expected to have an effect in insomnia treatment.

[Chem. 1]

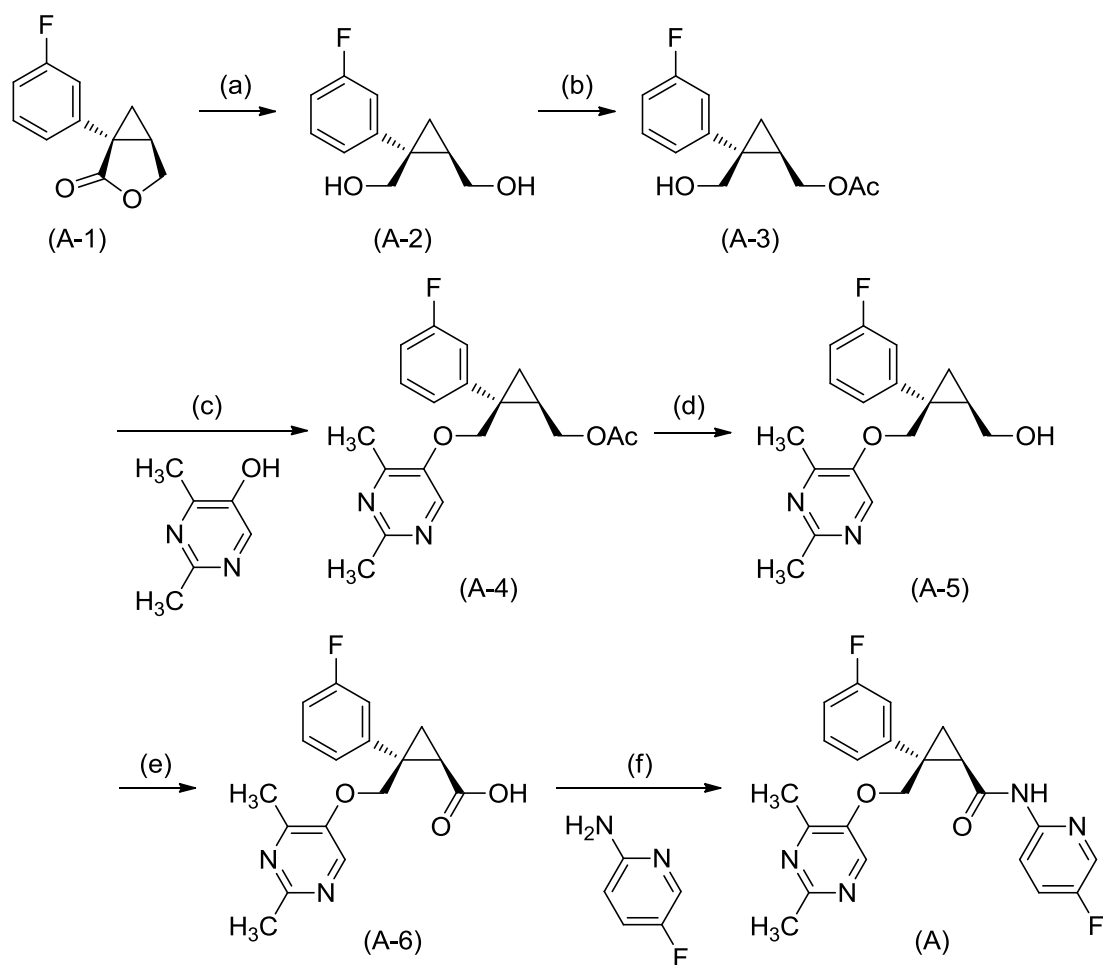


[In the formula, Q is -CH- or a nitrogen atom, R_{1a} and R_{1b} each independently represent, for example, a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, R_{1c} represents a hydrogen atom, R_{2a}, R_{2b}, R_{2c} and R_{2d} each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom, R_{3a}, R_{3b} and R_{3c} each
 5 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom, and R_{3d} represents a hydrogen atom.]

[0005]

Among them, a compound represented by the following formula (A) that can be produced by the following method is reported in Patent Literature 8.

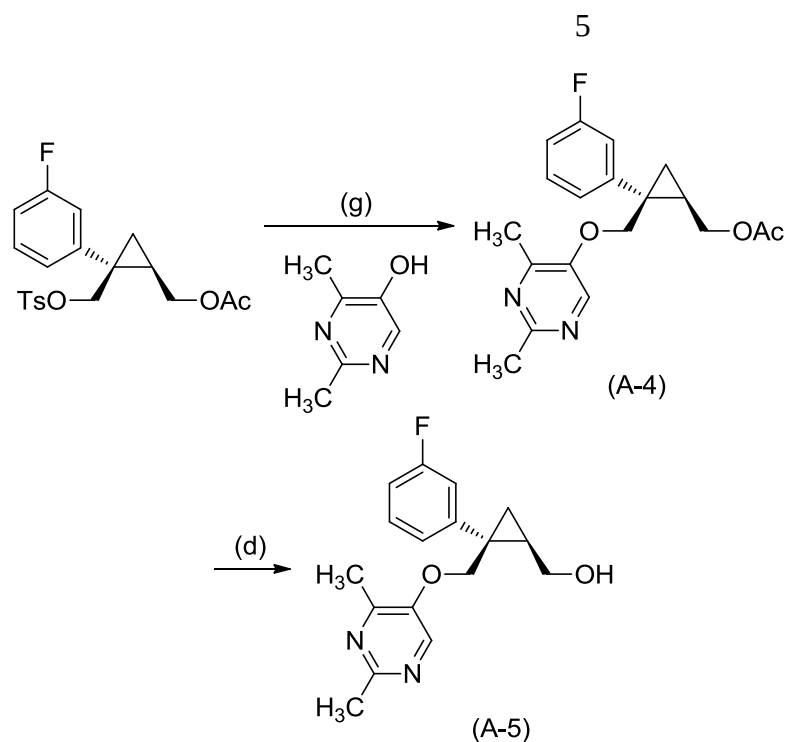
10 [Chem. 2]



[In the formulae, Ac represents an acetyl group.]

(1R,2S)-2-[[2-(2,4-dimethylpyrimidin-5-yl)oxy]methyl]-2-(3-fluorophenyl)cyclopropylmethanol (A-5) produced in the above production method can be produced by reacting {(1R, 2S)-2-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-[(tosyloxy)methyl]cyclopropyl}methyl acetate produced from a compound (A-3) with 2,4-dimethylpyrimidine-5-ol (step (g)) and subsequent hydrolysis (step (d)) as shown in the following steps.

[Chem. 3]



[In the formulae, Ac represents an acetyl group and Ts represents a p-toluenesulfonyl group.]

[Citation List]

5 [Patent Literature]

[0006]

[Patent Literature 1]

PCT International Publication No. WO 1996/34877

[Patent Literature 2]

10 Japanese Unexamined Patent Application, First Publication No. H10-327888

[Patent Literature 3]

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application, First Publication No. H10-327889

[Patent Literature 4]

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application, First Publication No. H11-178588

15 [Patent Literature 5]

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application, First Publication No. H10-229887

[Patent Literature 6]

PCT International Publication No. WO 2008/069997

[Patent Literature 7]

PCT International Publication No. WO 2012/039371

5 [Patent Literature 8]

PCT International Publication No. WO 2013/123240

[Non Patent Literature]

[0007]

[Non Patent Literature 1]

10 Sakurai T. et al., Cell, 1998, 92, 573-585

[Non Patent Literature 2]

Chemelli R. M. et al., Cell, 1999, 98, 437-451

[Non Patent Literature 3]

S.L. Borgland et al., Neuron, 2006, 49, 589-601

15 [Non Patent Literature 4]

C.J. Winrow et al., Neuropharmacology, 2010, 58, 185-194

[Non Patent Literature 5]

J.R. Shoblock et al., Psychopharmacology, 2010, 215:191-203

[Non Patent Literature 6]

20 T. Ida et al., Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, 2000, 270,
318-323

[Summary of Invention]

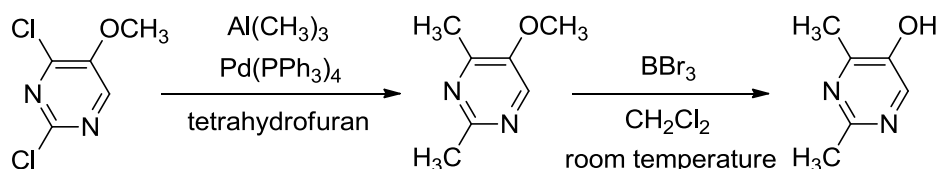
[Technical Problem]

[0008]

25 In Production Example 4 in Patent Literature 7, a method for producing

2,4-dimethylpyrimidine-5-ol using 2,4-dichloro-5-methoxypyrimidine as a starting material is described.

[Chem. 4]

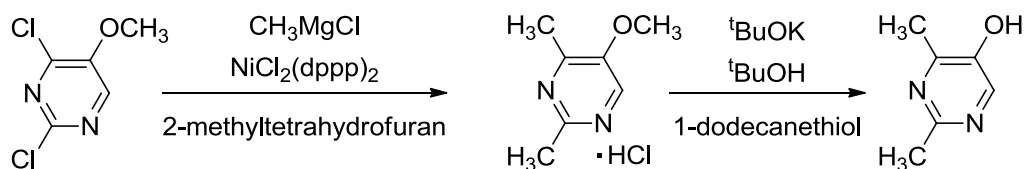


5 In the production method, 2,4-dichloro-5-methoxypyrimidine serving as a starting material is expensive, 2,4-dimethyl-5-methoxypyrimidine obtained as an intermediate is volatile, trimethyl aluminum used as a reagent causes health problems such as skin corrosiveness and irritation and has a risk of spontaneous ignition, and boron tribromide also causes health problems such as skin corrosiveness and irritation and
10 requires careful handling. Therefore, the production method has problems when used in industrial production.

[0009]

On pages 66 to 69 in Patent Literature 8, a method for producing 2,4-dimethylpyrimidine-5-ol using 2,4-dichloro-5-methoxypyrimidine as a starting
15 material is described.

[Chem. 5]



The production method also has problems such as expensive 2,4-dichloro-5-methoxypyrimidine is used as a starting material, and
20 2,4-dimethyl-5-methoxypyrimidine hydrochloride obtained as an intermediate has hygroscopicity. Further, in order for the production method to be used in industrial

production, there are problems such as it is difficult to control impurities hydrogenated at the 2-or 4-position in methylation at the 2-position and 4-position of pyrimidine using methyl magnesium chloride.

[0010]

- 5 Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to provide a method for producing 2,4-disubstituted pyrimidine-5-ol, and particularly, 2,4-dimethylpyrimidine-5-ol, used in industrial production.

[Solution to Problem]

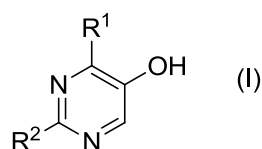
[0011]

- 10 The present invention includes the following aspects.

[0012]

[1] A method for producing a compound of Formula (I) or a salt thereof

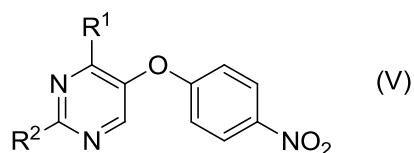
[Chem. 7]



- 15 [In the formula, R¹ and R² represent C₁₋₆ alkyl groups that are same or different from each other.], comprising

a step of hydrolyzing a compound of Formula (V) or a salt thereof.

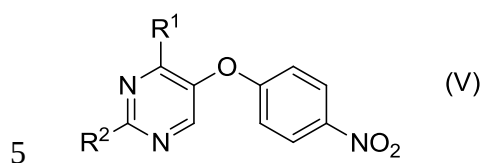
[Chem. 6]



- 20 [In the formula, R¹ and R² represent C₁₋₆ alkyl groups that are the same or different from each other.]

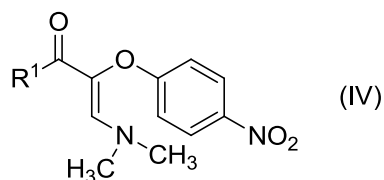
[0013]

[2] The production method according to [1], comprising
 a step of producing a compound of Formula (V) or a salt thereof by reacting a compound
 of Formula (IV) or a salt thereof with a compound of Formula (VI) or a salt thereof
 [Chem. 10]



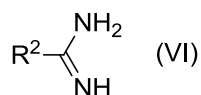
[In the formula, R¹ and R² represent C₁₋₆ alkyl groups that are the same or different from
 each other.]

[Chem. 8]



10 [In the formula, R¹ represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.]

[Chem. 9]

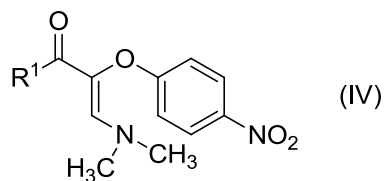


[In the formula, R² represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.]; and

a step of hydrolyzing the compound of Formula (V) or the salt thereof.

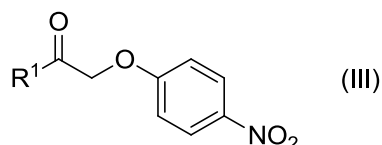
15 [0014]

[3] The production method according to [1], comprising
 a step of producing a compound of Formula (IV) or a salt thereof by reacting a
 compound of Formula (III) with N, N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal
 [Chem. 12]



[In the formula, R¹ represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.]

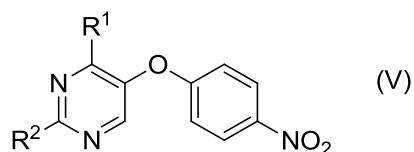
[Chem. 11]



5 [In the formula, R¹ represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.];

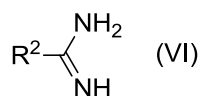
a step of producing a compound of Formula (V) or a salt thereof by reacting a compound of Formula (IV) or a salt thereof with a compound of Formula (VI) or a salt thereof

[Chem. 14]



10 [In the formula, R¹ and R² represent C₁₋₆ alkyl groups that are the same or different from each other.]

[Chem. 13]



[In the formula, R² represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.]; and

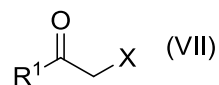
15 a step of hydrolyzing the compound of Formula (V) or the salt thereof.

[0015]

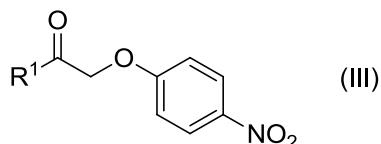
[4] The production method according to [1], comprising

a step of producing a compound of Formula (III) by reacting 4-nitrophenol with a compound of Formula (VII)

[Chem. 15]

[In the formula, X represents chlorine or bromine, and R¹ represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.]

[Chem. 16]



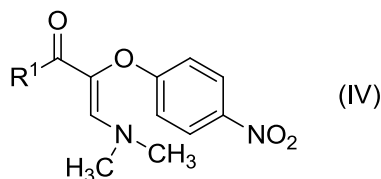
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[In the formula, R¹ represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.];

a step of producing a compound of Formula (IV) or a salt thereof by reacting a

compound of Formula (III) with N,N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal

[Chem. 17]



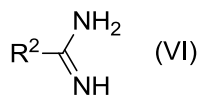
10

[In the formula, R¹ represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.];

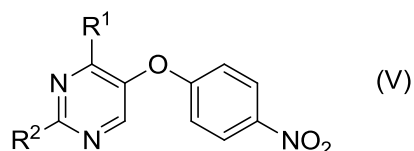
a step of producing a compound of Formula (V) or a salt thereof by reacting the

compound of Formula (IV) or the salt thereof with a compound of Formula (VI) or a salt thereof.

15 [Chem. 18]

[In the formula, R² represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.]

[Chem. 19]



[In the formula, R¹ and R² represent C₁₋₆ alkyl groups that are the same or different from each other.]; and

a step of hydrolyzing the compound of Formula (V) or the salt thereof.

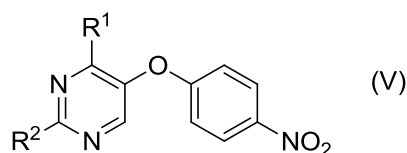
5 [0016]

[5] The production method according to any one of [1] to [4], wherein R¹ and R² are both methyl groups.

[0017]

[6] A compound represented by Formula (V) or a salt thereof.

10 [Chem. 20]



[In the formula, R¹ and R² represent C₁₋₆ alkyl groups that are the same or different from each other.]

[0018]

15 [7] The compound or the salt thereof according to [6], wherein R¹ and R² are both methyl groups.

[Advantageous Effects of Invention]

[0019]

The present invention provides a method for producing 2,4-disubstituted
 20 pyrimidine-5-ol which is an intermediate for producing a compound that has an orexin
 receptor antagonistic action and is useful as an insomnia treatment agent, and an
 intermediate thereof. In the production method of the present invention, an inexpensive

and easily available starting material can be used, regioselectivity of a substituent group is easily controlled and impurities are easily controlled, and 2,4-disubstituted pyrimidine-5-ol can be produced without using reagents and intermediates causing health problems, risks and the like. Therefore, the production method is suitable for industrial
5 production.

[Description of Embodiments]

[0020]

Hereinafter, the meanings of symbols, terms and the like described in this specification will be described and the present invention will be described in detail.

10 [0021]

In this specification, structural formulae of compounds are not limited to formulae described for convenience, and may form salts. Further, crystal polymorphism may be present but it is not limited similarly, and any single crystalline form or a mixture thereof may be provided. A hydrate or a solvate other than an anhydride may be
15 provided and all of them are included in the present invention.

[0022]

In this specification, unless otherwise indicated, specific examples of a salt include hydrohalogenic acid salts (for example, hydrofluoride, hydrochloride, hydrobromide, and hydroiodide), and inorganic acid salts (for example, sulfate, nitrate,
20 perchlorate, phosphate, carbonate, and bicarbonate).

[0023]

The present invention includes an isotopically labeled compound of the compound described in this specification and a production method using the same. The isotopically labeled compound is the same as a compound described in the specification
25 except that one or more atoms are replaced with atoms whose atomic mass and mass

number are different from those normally found in nature. Isotopes that can be incorporated into the compound according to the present invention are isotopes of hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and fluorine of the compound, and include ^2H , ^3H , ^{11}C , ^{13}C , ^{14}C , ^{13}N , ^{15}O , and ^{18}F .

5 [0024]

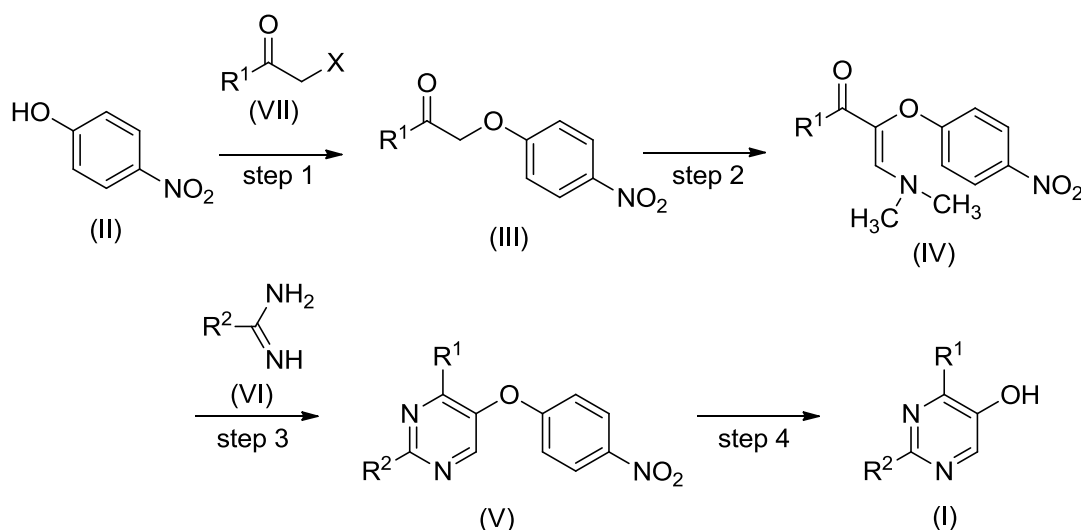
The “C₁₋₆ alkyl group” in R¹ and R² represents a linear or branched alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and includes, for example, linear or branched alkyl groups such as a methyl group, an ethyl group, an n-propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, an isobutyl group, a t-butyl group, an n-pentyl group, an isopentyl group, a
 10 neopentyl group, an n-hexyl group, a 1-methylpropyl group, a 1,2-dimethylpropyl group, a 1-ethylpropyl group, a 1-methyl-2-ethylpropyl group, a 1-ethyl-2-methylpropyl group, a 1,1,2-trimethylpropyl group, a 1-methylbutyl group, a 2-methylbutyl group, a 1,1-dimethylbutyl group, a 2,2-dimethylbutyl group, a 2-ethylbutyl group, a 1,3-dimethylbutyl group, a 2-methylpentyl group, and a 3-methylpentyl group. As
 15 another aspect, a methyl group, an ethyl group, an n-propyl group, and the like are exemplified. As still another aspect, a methyl group is exemplified.

[0025]

A method for producing 2,4-disubstituted pyrimidine-5-ol or a salt thereof according to the present invention includes a step of hydrolyzing a compound (V) or a
 20 salt thereof (fourth step; Step 4). In addition, as another aspect, a method for producing 2,4-disubstituted pyrimidine-5-ol according to the present invention includes a step (third step; Step 3) of producing a compound (V) or a salt thereof by reacting a compound (IV) or a salt thereof with an amidine derivative (VI) or a salt thereof in the presence of a base, and the fourth step. In addition, as still another aspect, a method for producing
 25 2,4-disubstituted pyrimidine-5-ol or a salt thereof according to the present invention

includes a step (second step; Step 2) of producing a compound (IV) or a salt thereof by a condensation reaction of N, N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal and a compound (III), the third step, and the fourth step. In addition, as yet another aspect, a method for producing 2,4-disubstituted pyrimidine-5-ol or a salt thereof according to the present invention includes a step (first step; Step 1) of producing a 4-nitrophenyloxymethyl ketone compound (III) by reacting a halomethylketone compound (VII) with 4-nitrophenol (II), the second step, the third step, and the fourth step.

[Chem. 21]



[In the formulae, R^1 and R^2 represent C_{1-6} alkyl groups that are the same or different from each other.]

[0026]

Hereinafter, these steps will be described in detail.

[0027]

(First step)

This step is a step of producing a 4-nitrophenyloxymethylketone compound (III) according to an alkylation reaction of a halomethyl ketone compound (VII) and a phenolic hydroxyl group of 4-nitrophenol (II).

Techniques that are well-known to those skilled in the art can be used for the alkylation reaction of the phenolic hydroxyl group. For example, the compound (VII) and the compound (II) are used in equivalent amounts or either thereof is used in a greater amount. A mixture thereof is stirred, in general, for 0.1 hour to 5 days, in the presence of a base, in a solvent inert to the reaction, in anywhere from a cooling range to a heating range, but preferably in a heating range. Exemplary solvents used here are not particularly limited, and include ketones such as acetone and methylethyl ketone, nitriles such as acetonitrile and propionitrile, aromatic hydrocarbons such as benzene, toluene, and xylene, halogenated hydrocarbons such as dichloromethane, 1,2-dichloro ethane, and chloroform, ethers such as diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, dioxane, and dimethoxyethane, aprotic polar solvents such as N,N-dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, and N-methylpyrrolidone, and mixtures thereof. In addition, exemplary bases used here can include inorganic bases such as potassium carbonate, sodium carbonate, cesium carbonate, sodium hydrogen carbonate, sodium hydroxide, and potassium hydroxide, and organic bases such as triethylamine, diisopropylethylamine, and pyridine.

[0028]

(Second step)

This step is a step of producing a compound (IV) or a salt thereof according to a condensation reaction of a 4-nitrophenyloxy methyl ketone compound (III) and N, N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal.

Techniques that are well-known to those skilled in the art can be used for the condensation reaction. For example, the compound (III) and N, N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal are used in equivalent amounts or either thereof is used in a greater amount. A mixture thereof is stirred, in general, for 0.1 hours to 5 days, in a solvent

inert to the reaction, in anywhere from a cooling range to a heating range, but preferably in a heating range. Exemplary solvents used here are not particularly limited, and include aromatic hydrocarbons, ethers, and mixtures thereof. Also, in order for the reaction to smoothly proceed, an acid of a catalytic amount may be added.

5 [0029]

(Third step)

This step is a step of producing a 2,4-disubstituted-5-(4-(nitrophenyl)oxy)pyrimidine compound (V) which is a compound of the present invention or a salt thereof according to a pyrimidine ring construction reaction of a compound (IV) or a salt thereof and an amidine derivative (VI) or a salt thereof.

Techniques that are well-known to those skilled in the art can be used for the pyrimidine ring construction reaction. For example, a compound (IV) or a salt thereof and a compound (VI) or a salt thereof are used in equivalent amounts or either thereof is used in a greater amount. A mixture thereof is stirred, in general, for 0.1 hour to 5 days, in the presence of a base, in a solvent inert to the reaction, in anywhere from a cooling range to a heating range, but preferably in a heating range. Exemplary solvents used here are not particularly limited, and include ketones, aromatic hydrocarbons, halogenated hydrocarbons, ethers, aprotic polar solvents, nitriles, and mixtures thereof. Also, an acid addition salt can be used as the amidine derivative. Exemplary bases used here can include inorganic bases such as potassium carbonate, sodium carbonate, cesium carbonate, sodium hydrogen carbonate, sodium hydroxide, and potassium hydroxide, and organic bases such as triethylamine, diisopropylethylamine, and pyridine.

25 [0030]

(Fourth step)

This step is a step of producing 2,4-disubstituted pyrimidine-5-ol or a salt thereof according to a hydrolysis reaction of a 2,4-disubstituted-5-(4-(nitrophenyl)oxy) pyrimidine compound (V) which is a compound of the present invention or a salt thereof.

5 Techniques that are well-known to those skilled in the art can be used for the hydrolysis reaction. For example, the compound (V) or the salt thereof, and equivalent amounts or a greater amount of base are used. A mixture thereof is stirred, in general, for 0.1 hours to 5 days, in a solvent inert to the reaction, in anywhere from a cooling range to a heating range, but preferably in a heating range. Exemplary solvents used
10 here are not particularly limited, and include aromatic hydrocarbons, ethers, aprotic polar solvents, nitriles, alcohols such as methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, and butanol, water, and mixtures thereof. Exemplary bases used here can include inorganic bases such as potassium carbonate, sodium carbonate, cesium carbonate, sodium hydrogen carbonate, sodium hydroxide, potassium
15 hydroxide, trisodium phosphate, and tripotassium phosphate, and organic bases such as triethylamine, diisopropylethylamine, and pyridine.

[0031]

The production method according to the present invention has the following features.

20 (1) In the methods described in Patent Literature 7 and Patent Literature 8, expensive 2,4-dichloro-5-methoxypyrimidine is used as a starting material. However, in the production method according to the present invention, 2,4-disubstituted pyrimidine-5-ol can be produced using inexpensive and easily available 4-nitrophenol as a starting material.

25 (2) In the methods described in Patent Literature 7 and Patent Literature 8, it is

difficult to control regioselectivity because trimethyl aluminum or methyl magnesium chloride is used to introduce a methyl group into dichloropyrimidine. However, in the production method according to the present invention, by appropriately selecting a reagent used as the compound (VI) or the compound (VII), any of R¹ and R² can be introduced, and thus regioselectivity is easily controlled and impurities are also easily controlled.

(3) 2,4-disubstituted pyrimidine-5-ol can be produced without using reagents and intermediates causing health problems such as skin corrosiveness and irritation, and having a risk of spontaneous ignition, volatility, and hygroscopicity and used in the methods disclosed in Patent Literature 7 and Patent Literature 8.

In addition, during condensation of N,N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal and the compound (III), a 4-nitrophenyl group assists regioselective condensation to provide the compound (IV), and additionally serves as a removable protecting group in relatively mild conditions in the fourth step.

[Examples]

[0032]

Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in detail with reference to examples. However, the present invention is not limited to the following examples. In addition, abbreviations used below are conventional abbreviations well known to those skilled in the art and some abbreviations are as follows.

Chemical shifts in proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H-NMR) spectra were recorded in δ units (ppm) relative to tetramethylsilane and coupling constants were recorded in hertz (Hz). In patterns, s indicates singlet, d indicates doublet, br indicates broad, and m indicates multiplet.

¹H-NMR was measured using a JNM-AL400 nuclear magnetic resonance

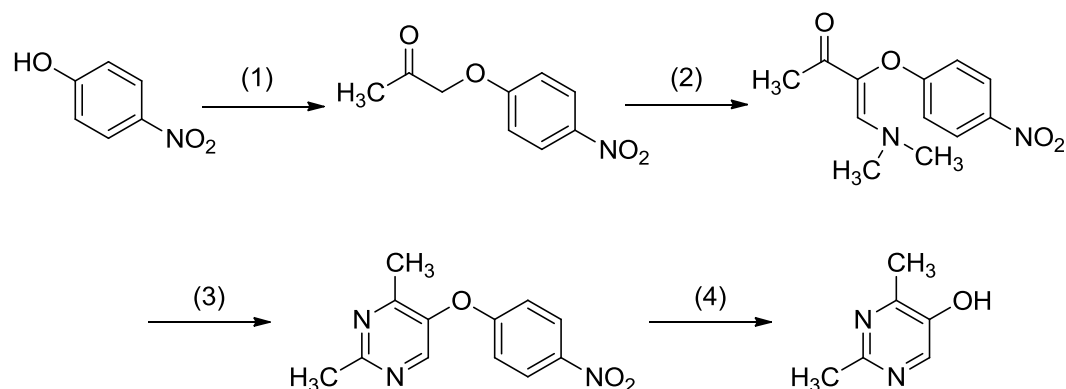
spectrometer (400 MHz) commercially available from JEOL.

In the following examples, the term “room temperature” indicates, in general, about 10 °C to about 35 °C. Unless otherwise specified, % represents a weight percent.

[0033]

5 Example 1 Production of 2,4-dimethylpyrimidine-5-ol

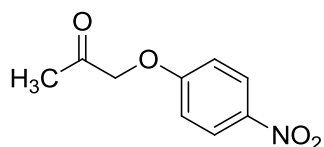
[Chem. 22]



[0034]

(1) Production of 1-(4-nitrophenoxy)propan-2-one

10 [Chem. 23]



[0035]

A mixture of 4-nitrophenol (10.0 g, 71.9 mmol), potassium carbonate (10.4 g, 75.5 mmol) and acetone (70 ml) was stirred for 30 minutes at 65 °C (external temperature). Chloroacetone (purity 96%, 6.3 ml, 75.5 mmol) was added dropwise to the reaction mixture at 65 °C (external temperature), and the obtained mixture was stirred for 9 hours at 65 °C (external temperature). The reaction mixture was cooled in an ice bath and water (120 ml) was then added dropwise to the reaction mixture at the same

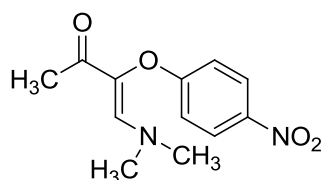
temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour at the same temperature and a precipitated solid was then filtered. The obtained solid was washed with water (100 ml) and dried under reduced pressure, and a target compound (10.9 g, 77%) was obtained.

¹H-NMR (CD₃Cl) δ (ppm): 2.31(3 H, s), 4.67 (2 H, s), 6.95 (2 H, d, J=9.3 Hz), 8.22 (2 H, d, J=9.3 Hz)

[0036]

(2) Production of (Z)-4-(dimethylamino)-3-(4-nitrophenoxy)but-3-en-2-one

[Chem. 24]



10 [0037]

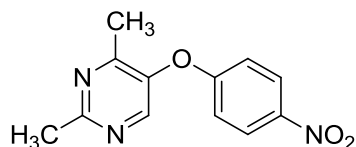
A mixture of 1-(4-nitrophenoxy)propan-2-one (4.20 g, 21.5 mmol), toluene (12.6 ml) and N, N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal (3.17 ml, 23.7 mmol) was stirred for 21 hours at 80 °C (external temperature). Toluene (8.4 ml) was added to the reaction mixture at the same temperature and stirred at room temperature. Additionally, the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour while cooling in an ice bath, and a precipitated solid was then filtered. The obtained solid was washed with toluene (4.2 ml) and then dried under reduced pressure, and a target compound (2.95 g, 55%) was obtained.

¹H-NMR (CD₃Cl) δ (ppm): 2.00 (3 H, brs), 3.01 (6 H, s), 6.90-7.16 (2 H, brm), 7.16-7.46 (1 H, brs), 8.22 (2 H, d, J=8.8 Hz)

20 [0038]

(3) Production of 2,4-dimethyl-5-(4-nitrophenoxy) pyrimidine

[Chem. 25]



[0039]

A mixture of (Z)-4-(dimethylamino)-3-(4-nitrophenoxy)but-3-en-2-one (3.00 g, 12.0 mmol), acetamidine hydrochloride (purity 96%, 1.42 g, 14.4 mmol), potassium carbonate (2.00 g, 14.4 mmol), and acetonitrile (30 ml) was stirred for 18 hours at 80 °C (external temperature), and then acetamidine hydrochloride (purity 96%, 1.42 g, 14.4 mmol) and potassium carbonate (2.00 g, 14.4 mmol) were added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 23 hours at 80 °C (external temperature). The reaction mixture was cooled in an ice bath and water (15 ml) and ethyl acetate (30 ml) were then added thereto.

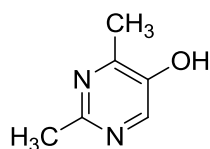
The obtained reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, and organic layers were then separated, and washed with a 10% saline solution (6 ml). The obtained organic layers were dried using anhydrous sodium sulfate and a solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressure. The obtained residues were solidified using ethyl acetate-heptane (4.5 ml:9 ml) and filtered. The obtained solid was washed with ethyl acetate-heptane (1 ml:2 ml), and then dried under reduced pressure, and a target compound (2.51 g, 85%) was obtained.

¹H-NMR (CD₃Cl) δ (ppm): 2.40 (3 H, s), 2.75 (3 H, s), 6.96 (2 H, d, J=9.0 Hz), 8.24 (2 H, d, J=9.0 Hz), 8.32 (1 H, s)

[0040]

(4) Production of 2,4-dimethylpyrimidine-5-ol

[Chem. 26]



[0041]

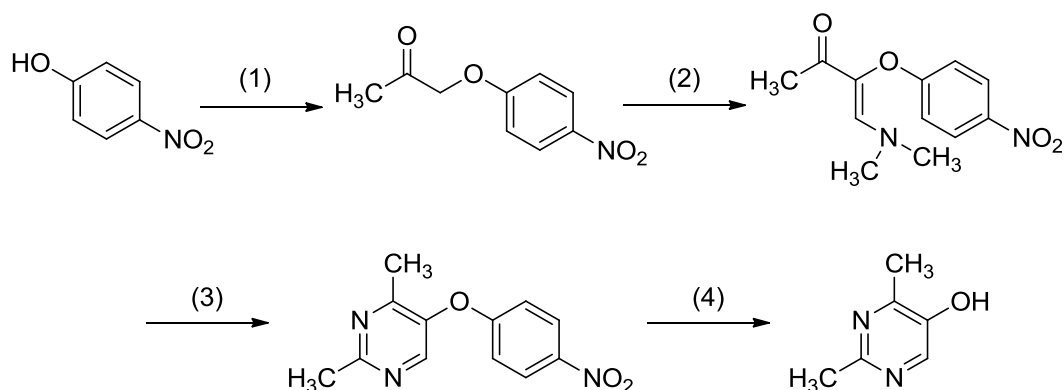
A mixture of 2,4-dimethyl-5-(4-nitrophenoxy) pyrimidine (2.50 g, 10.2 mmol), methanol (12.5 ml) and 48% aqueous sodium hydroxide (2.55 g, 30.6 mmol) was stirred for 20 hours at 60 °C (external temperature). The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and toluene (25 ml) and water (10 ml) were then added thereto. The obtained reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, aqueous layers were then separated, and the aqueous layers were concentrated to an internal capacity of 12.5 ml under reduced pressure. Toluene (6.25 ml), concentrated hydrochloric acid (5.31 g, 51.0 mmol), and ethyl acetate (6.25 ml) were added to the obtained concentrated solution in an ice bath. The obtained reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, and aqueous layers were then separated and washed with toluene-ethyl acetate (6.25 ml:6.25 ml). 2-methyltetrahydrofuran (25 ml) was added to the obtained aqueous layers, and 5 mol/l aqueous sodium hydroxide was then added in an ice bath to adjust a pH of 6-7. The obtained reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, organic layers were then separated, and aqueous layers were reextracted with 2-methyltetrahydrofuran (25 ml). The obtained organic layers were combined and then washed with water (2.5 ml), and a solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. Toluene (6.25 ml) was added to the obtained residues and suspended and stirred at 50 °C (external temperature). The mixture was stirred four 1.5 hours in an ice bath and then filtered. The obtained solid was washed with toluene (1.25 ml) and then dried under reduced pressure, and a target compound (1.16 g, 91%) was obtained.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CD_3Cl) δ (ppm): 2.51 (3 H, s), 2.65 (3 H, s), 8.03 (1 H, s), 9.87 (1 H, brs)

[0042]

Example 2 Production of 2,4-dimethylpyrimidine-5-ol

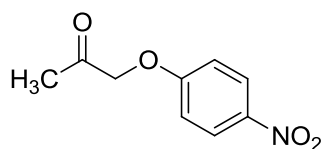
[Chem. 27]



[0043]

(1) Production of 1-(4-nitrophenoxy)propan-2-one

[Chem. 28]



5

[0044]

A mixture of 4-nitrophenol (100 g, 719 mmol), potassium carbonate (104 g, 755 mmol) and acetone (700 ml) was stirred for 45 minutes at 45 °C (external temperature). Chloroacetone (purity 96.3%, 72.5 g, 755 mmol) was added dropwise to the reaction mixture at 45 °C (external temperature), and the obtained mixture was stirred for 15 hours at 60 °C (external temperature). The reaction mixture was cooled in an ice bath and water (800 ml) and ethyl acetate (1000 ml) were then added thereto. The obtained reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, organic layers were then separated, and 0.5 mol/l aqueous sodium hydroxide (500 ml), and sodium chloride (50 g) were added thereto. The obtained reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, and organic layers were then separated, and washed with a 10% saline solution (500 ml). A solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, the obtained residues were dissolved with toluene (500 ml) at 60 °C (external temperature), and then cooled to 5 °C (external

temperature), and a precipitated solid was filtered. The obtained solid was washed with toluene (50 ml) and dried at 40 °C under reduced pressure, and a target compound (109 g, 78%) was then obtained.

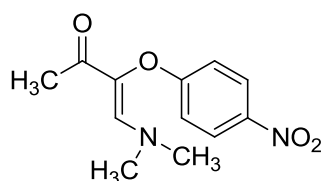
¹H-NMR (CD₃Cl) δ (ppm): 2.31 (3 H, s), 4.67 (2 H, s), 6.95 (2 H, d, J=9.3 Hz), 8.22 (2 H,

5 d, J=9.3 Hz)

[0045]

(2) Production of (Z)-4-(dimethylamino)-3-(4-nitrophenoxy)but-3-en-2-one

[Chem. 29]



10 [0046]

A mixture of 1-(4-nitrophenoxy)propan-2-one (109 g, 557 mmol), toluene (326 ml), and N, N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal (purity 98.3%, 82.9 ml, 613 mmol) was stirred for 21 hours at 80 °C (external temperature). Toluene (217 ml) was added to the reaction mixture at the same temperature and stirred at room temperature.

15 Additionally, the reaction mixture was stirred for 1.5 hours while cooling in an ice bath, and a precipitated solid was then filtered. The obtained solid was washed with toluene (109 ml) and then dried under reduced pressure, and a target compound (57.0 g, 41%) was obtained.

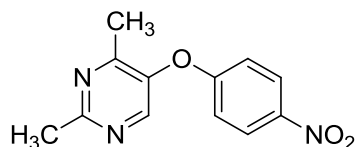
¹H-NMR (CD₃Cl) δ (ppm): 2.00 (3 H, brs), 3.01 (6 H, s), 6.90-7.16 (2 H, brm), 7.16-7.46

20 (1 H, brs), 8.22 (2H, d, J=8.8 Hz)

[0047]

(3) Production of 2,4-dimethyl-5-(4-nitrophenoxy) pyrimidine

[Chem. 30]



[0048]

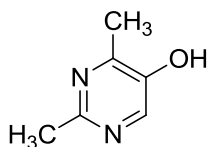
A mixture of (Z)-4-(dimethylamino)-3-(4-nitrophenoxy)but-3-en-2-one (56.8 g, 227 mmol), acetamidine hydrochloride (purity 96.7%, 53.3 g, 545 mmol), potassium carbonate (purity 99.5%, 75.7 g, 545 mmol), and acetonitrile (568 ml) was stirred for 20 hours at 80 °C (external temperature), and acetamidine hydrochloride (purity 96.7%, 2.22 g, 22.7 mmol) and potassium carbonate (purity 99.5%, 3.15 g, 22.7 mmol) were then added to the reaction mixture at 80 °C (external temperature) and stirred for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled in an ice bath and water (568 ml) and ethyl acetate (568 ml) were then added thereto. The obtained reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature and organic layers were then separated and washed with a 10% saline solution (284 ml). A solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, the obtained residues were dissolved with ethyl acetate (85.2 ml) at 60 °C (external temperature), and then cooled to room temperature, and heptane (170 ml) was added dropwise. The mixture was cooled in an ice bath and a precipitated solid was then filtered. The obtained solid was washed with ethyl acetate-heptane (18.9 ml:37.9 ml) and dried at 50 °C under reduced pressure, and a target compound (45.5 g, 82%) was obtained.

¹H-NMR (CD₃Cl) δ (ppm): 2.40 (3 H, s), 2.75 (3 H, s), 6.96 (2H, d, J=9.0 Hz), 8.24 (2 H, d, J=9.0 Hz), 8.32 (1 H, s)

[0049]

(4) Production of 2,4-dimethylpyrimidine-5-ol

[Chem. 31]



[0050]

A mixture of 2,4-dimethyl-5-(4-nitrophenoxy) pyrimidine (39.8 g, 162 mmol), methanol (199 ml), and 48% aqueous sodium hydroxide (40.6 g, 487 mmol) was stirred for 18 hours at 60 °C (external temperature). The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and toluene (398 ml) and water (159 ml) were then added. The obtained reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, aqueous layers were then separated and the aqueous layers were concentrated to an internal capacity of 199 ml under reduced pressure. Toluene (99.5 ml), concentrated hydrochloric acid (84.5 g, 811 mmol) and ethyl acetate (99.5 ml) were added to the obtained concentrated solution in an ice bath. The obtained reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, and aqueous layers were then separated and washed with toluene-ethyl acetate (99.5 ml:99.5 ml).

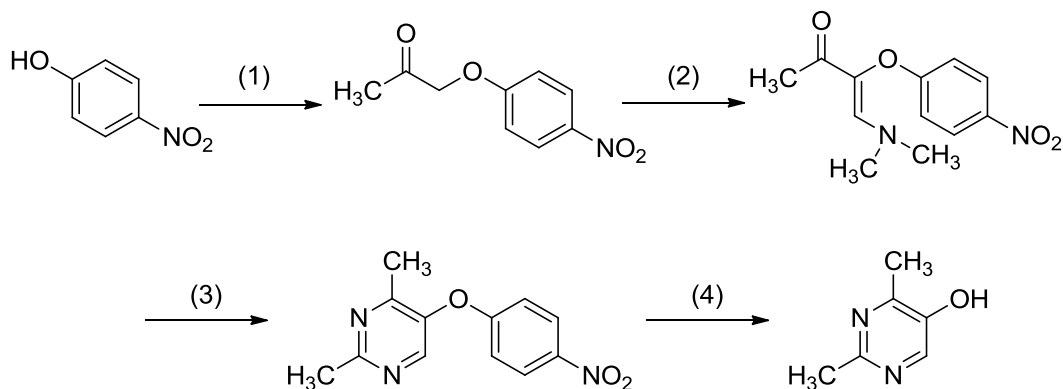
2-methyltetrahydrofuran (398 ml) was added to the obtained aqueous layers and 5 mol/l aqueous sodium hydroxide was then added in an ice bath to adjust a pH of 6-7. The obtained reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, organic layers were then separated, and aqueous layers were reextracted with 2-methyltetrahydrofuran (398 ml). The obtained organic layers were combined and then washed with water (39.8 ml), and a solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. Toluene (99.5 ml) was added to the obtained residues and suspended and stirred at 50 °C (external temperature). The mixture was stirred for 1.5 hours in an ice bath and then filtered. The obtained solid was washed with toluene (19.9 ml) and then dried under reduced pressure, and a target compound (18.8 g, 93%) was obtained.

¹H-NMR (CD₃Cl) δ (ppm): 2.51 (3 H, s), 2.65 (3 H, s), 8.02 (1 H, s), 10.1 (1 H, brs)

[0051]

Example 3 Production of 2,4-dimethylpyrimidine-5-ol

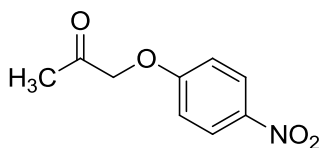
[Chem. 32]



5 [0052]

(1) Production of 1-(4-nitrophenoxy)propan-2-one

[Chem. 33]



[0053]

- 10 A mixture of 4-nitrophenol (10.0 g, 71.9 mmol), potassium carbonate (10.4 g, 75.5 mmol) and acetonitrile (70 ml) was stirred for 30 minutes at 60 °C (external temperature). Chloroacetone (purity 96.3%, 6.29 ml, 75.5 mmol) was added dropwise to the reaction mixture at 60 °C (external temperature), and the obtained mixture was stirred for 13.5 hours at 60 °C (external temperature). The reaction mixture was cooled
- 15 in an ice bath and water (60 ml), and toluene (70 ml) were then added to the reaction mixture at the same temperature. The obtained reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, and organic layers were then separated and washed with a 10% saline solution (50 ml). A solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, the obtained

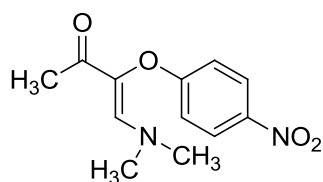
residues were dissolved with toluene (50 ml) at 60 °C (external temperature), and then cooled in an ice bath, and a precipitated solid was filtered. The obtained solid was washed with toluene (5 ml) and dried under reduced pressure at 50 °C, and a target compound (12.1 g, 86%) was then obtained.

- 5 ¹H-NMR (CD₃Cl) δ (ppm): 2.31 (3 H, s), 4.67 (2 H, s), 6.95 (2 H, d, J=9.3 Hz), 8.22 (2 H, d, J=9.3 Hz)

[0054]

(2) Production of (Z)-4-(dimethylamino)-3-(4-nitrophenoxy)but-3-en-2-one

[Chem. 34]



10

[0055]

- A mixture of 1-(4-nitrophenoxy)propan-2-one (12.1 g, 61.9 mmol), toluene (36.3 ml), and N, N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal (purity 98.3%, 9.22 ml, 68.1 mmol) was stirred for 21 hours at 80 °C (external temperature). Toluene (24.2 ml) was
- 15 added to the reaction mixture at the same temperature and cooled to room temperature. Additionally, the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 hours while cooling in an ice bath and a precipitated solid was then filtered. The obtained solid was washed with toluene (12.1 ml), and then dried at room temperature under reduced pressure, and a crude form (7.76 g, 50%) of a target compound was obtained. Toluene-methanol (23.3 ml:3.88 ml) was
- 20 added to the crude form (7.76 g) and suspended and stirred at 80 °C (external temperature), and toluene (15.5 ml) was added at the same temperature and cooled to room temperature. Additionally, the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 hours while cooling in an ice bath, and a precipitated solid was then filtered. The obtained solid was

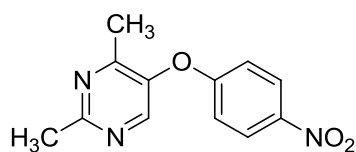
washed with toluene (7.76 ml) and then dried at room temperature under reduced pressure, and a target compound (5.90 g, 38%) was obtained.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CD_3Cl) δ (ppm): 2.00 (3 H, brs), 3.01 (6 H, s), 6.90-7.16 (2 H, brm), 7.16-7.46 (1 H, brs), 8.22 (2H, d, $J=8.8$ Hz)

5 [0056]

(3) Production of 2,4-dimethyl-5-(4-nitrophenoxy) pyrimidine

[Chem. 35]



[0057]

10 A mixture of (Z)-4-(dimethylamino)-3-(4-nitrophenoxy)but-3-en-2-one (3.00 g, 12.0 mmol), acetamidine hydrochloride (purity 96%, 2.83 g, 28.8 mmol), tripotassium phosphate (purity 98%, 6.23 g, 28.8 mmol) and acetonitrile (21.0 ml) was stirred for 22 hours at 80 °C (external temperature). The reaction mixture was cooled in an ice bath and water (18.0 ml) and ethyl acetate (21.0 ml) were then added thereto. The obtained
15 reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature and organic layers were then separated and washed with a 10% saline solution (15 ml). A solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, the obtained residues were dissolved with methanol (15.0 ml) at 50 °C (external temperature), and then cooled in an ice bath, and water (45.0 ml) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred for 2 hours in an ice bath, and a precipitated solid
20 was then filtered. The obtained solid was washed with water (6.00 ml), and then dried at room temperature under reduced pressure, and a target compound (2.78 g, 95%) was obtained.

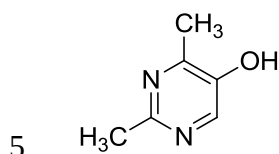
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CD_3Cl) δ (ppm): 2.40 (3 H, s), 2.75 (3 H, s), 6.96 (2 H, d, $J=9.0$ Hz), 8.24 (2 H,

d, J=9.0 Hz), 8.32 (1 H, s)

[0058]

(4) Production of 2,4-dimethylpyrimidine-5-ol

[Chem. 36]



[0059]

A mixture of 2,4-dimethyl-5-(4-nitrophenoxy) pyrimidine (3.58 g, 14.6 mmol), methanol (17.9 ml) and 48% aqueous sodium hydroxide (3.65 g, 43.8 mmol) was stirred for 19 hours at 60 °C (external temperature). The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, and toluene (35.8 ml) and water (14.3 ml) were then added thereto. The obtained reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, and aqueous layers were then separated and the aqueous layers were concentrated to an internal capacity of 17.9 ml under reduced pressure. Toluene (8.95 ml), concentrated hydrochloric acid (7.60 g, 73.0 mmol), and ethyl acetate (8.95 ml) were added to the obtained concentrated solution in an ice bath. The obtained reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, and aqueous layers were then separated and washed with toluene-ethyl acetate (8.95 ml:8.95 ml). Ethyl acetate (35.8 ml) was added to the obtained aqueous layers, and 5 mol/l aqueous sodium hydroxide was added in an ice bath to adjust a pH of 6-7. The obtained reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, and organic layers were then separated and aqueous layers were reextracted with ethyl acetate (35.8 ml). The obtained organic layers were combined and then washed with water (1.07 ml), and a solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. Toluene (8.95 ml) was added to the obtained residues and suspended and stirred at 50 °C (external temperature). The mixture was

stirred for 2 hours in an ice bath and then filtered. The obtained solid was washed with toluene (1.79 ml) and then dried at 50 °C under reduced pressure, and a target compound (1.67 g, 92%) was obtained.

¹H-NMR (CD₃Cl) δ (ppm): 2.51 (3 H, s), 2.65 (3 H, s), 8.02 (1 H, s), 10.01 (1 H, brs)

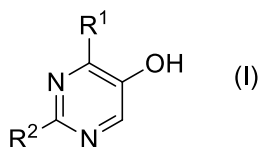
5 [Industrial Applicability]

[0060]

The present invention provides a method for producing 2,4-disubstituted pyrimidine-5-ol which is an intermediate for producing a compound that has an orexin receptor antagonistic action and is useful as an insomnia treatment agent, and an
10 intermediate thereof. In the production method of the present invention, an inexpensive and easily available starting material can be used, regioselectivity of a substituent group is easily controlled and impurities are easily controlled, and 2,4-disubstituted pyrimidine-5-ol can be produced without using reagents and intermediates causing health problems, risks and the like. Therefore, the production method is suitable for industrial
15 production.

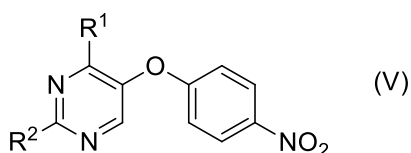
CLAIMS

1. A method for producing a compound of Formula (I) or a salt thereof



wherein R¹ and R² are both methyl groups, comprising

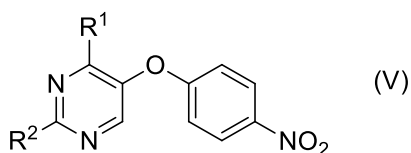
- 5 a step of hydrolyzing a compound of Formula (V) or a salt thereof



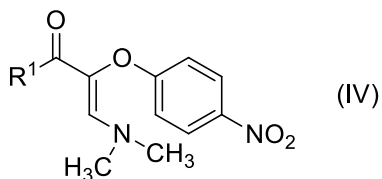
wherein R¹ and R² are both methyl groups.

2. The production method according to claim 1, comprising

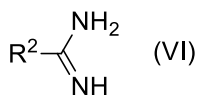
- 10 a step of producing a compound of Formula (V) or a salt thereof



wherein R¹ and R² are both methyl groups, by reacting a compound of Formula (IV) or a salt thereof



- 15 wherein R¹ is a methyl group, with a compound of Formula (VI) or a salt thereof

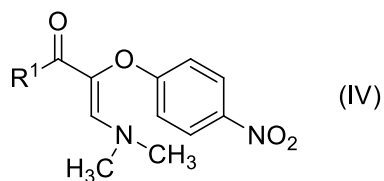


wherein R² is a methyl group; and

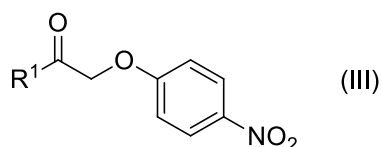
a step of hydrolyzing the compound of Formula (V) or the salt thereof.

- 20 3. The production method according to claim 1, comprising

a step of producing a compound of Formula (IV) or a salt thereof

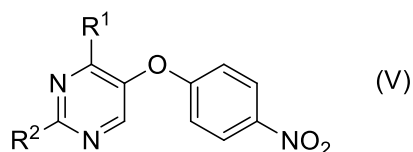


wherein R¹ is a methyl group, by reacting a compound of Formula (III)

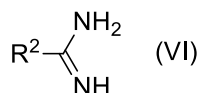


wherein R¹ is a methyl group, with N, N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal;

5 a step of producing a compound of Formula (V) or a salt thereof



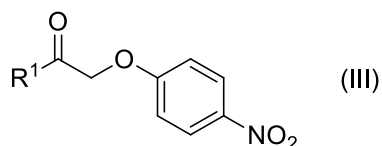
wherein R¹ and R² are both methyl groups, by reacting the compound of Formula (IV) or the salt thereof with a compound of Formula (VI) or a salt thereof



10 wherein R² is a methyl group; and

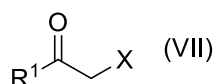
a step of hydrolyzing the compound of Formula (V) or the salt thereof.

4. The production method according to claim 1, comprising
a step of producing a compound of Formula (III)



15

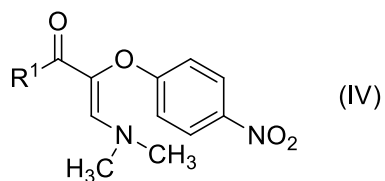
wherein R¹ is a methyl group, by reacting 4-nitrophenol with a compound of Formula (VII)



wherein X is chlorine or bromine, and R¹ is a methyl group;

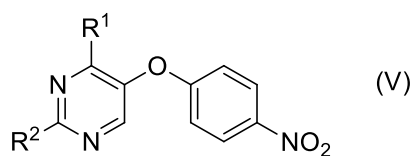
20

a step of producing a compound of Formula (IV) or a salt thereof

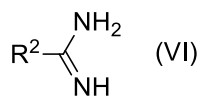


wherein R^1 is a methyl group, by reacting the compound of Formula (III) with N,N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal;

a step of producing a compound of Formula (V) or a salt thereof



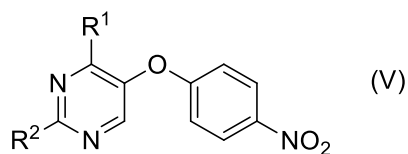
wherein R^1 and R^2 are both methyl groups, by reacting the compound of Formula (IV) or the salt thereof with a compound of Formula (VI) or a salt thereof



wherein R^2 is a methyl group; and

a step of hydrolyzing the compound of Formula (V) or the salt thereof.

5. A compound represented by Formula (V) or a salt thereof



wherein R^1 and R^2 are both methyl groups.