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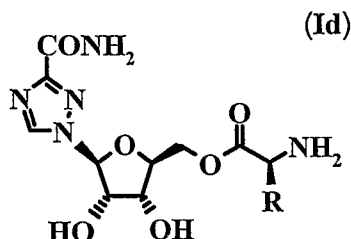
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PREPARING ANTIVIRAL NUCLEOSIDE DERIVATIVES



(57) Abstract: Process and novel intermediates for preparing 2-aminocarboxylic acid esters of the 5- hydroxymethyl group of levovirin (1-(3S, 4R-dihydroxy-5S-hydroxymethyl-tetrahydro furan-2S-yl)-1H-[1,2,4]triazole-3-carboxylic acid amide; Id: R¹=R²=R³=H) and acid addition salts thereof. The present process provides the monoesters selectively in high purity with increased efficiency with reduced number of production steps. The process involves condensation of a cyclopentylidene levovirin compound with a N-urethane-N-carboxylic anhydride and subsequent deprotection to directly provide the hydrochloride salt of the product. The mono esters are useful for treatment of viral diseases and are absorbed more efficiently than the parent compound.

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