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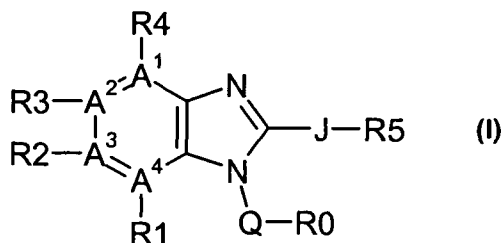
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(54) Title: A REGIOSELECTIVE PALLADIUM CATALYZED SYNTHESIS OF BENZIMIDAZOLES AND AZABENZIMIDAZOLES



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a process for the regioselective synthesis of compounds of the formula (I), wherein RO; R1; R2; R3; R4; R5; A1; A2; A3; A4, Q and J have the meanings indicated in the claims. The present invention provides a direct palladium catalyzed, regioselective process to a wide variety of unsymmetrical, multifunctional *N*-substituted benzimidazoles or azabenzimidazoles of formula (I) starting from 2-halo-nitroarenes and Λ -substituted amides useful for the production of pharmaceuticals, diagnostic agents, liquid crystals, polymers, herbicides, fungicides, nematocides, parasiticides, insecticides, acaricides and arthropodocides.