

ABSTRACT**PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ENANTIOMERICALLY PURE 1-SUBSTITUTED-3-AMINOALCOHOLS**

Provided is a process for the preparation of enantiomerically pure 1-substituted-3-aminoalcohols, particularly of (S)-(-)- and (R)-(+)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanol, by asymmetrically hydrogenating salts of a carboxylic acids with an aminoketone of formula (II), wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of 2-thienyl, 2-furanyl and phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C_{1-4} -alkoxy groups, and wherein R^2 is C_{1-4} -alkyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C_{1-4} -alkyl or C_{1-4} -alkoxy groups, and wherein the corresponding aminoalcohols are obtained by subsequent hydrolysis of their salts. Furthermore provided are salts of a carboxylic acid with said aminoketones and the aminoalcohols obtained by asymmetrically hydrogenating said aminoketones, respectively.

