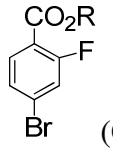
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (C):

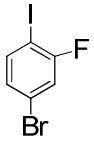


(C)

wherein R is $C_1$ to $C_{12}$ alkyl,

which comprises:

(a) combining a compound of formula (A):



(A)

with $R^1MgX$ in an aprotic organic solvent; wherein $R^1$ is $C_1$ to $C_6$ alkyl and X is Cl, Br or I;

(b) combining a $C_1$ to $C_{12}$ alkyl chloroformate or a di-($C_1$ to $C_{12}$ alkyl)dicarbonate with the product of step (a), to provide the compound of formula (C).

2. The process of claim 1 wherein R is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, iso-butyl and neo-butyl.

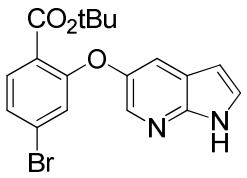
3. The process of claim 1 wherein $R^1$ is isopropyl.

4. The process of claim 1 wherein R is ethyl and the $C_1$ to $C_{12}$ alkyl chloroformate is ethyl chloroformate.

5. The process of claim 1, wherein R is methyl and the $C_1$ to $C_{12}$ alkylchloroformate is methyl chloroformate.

6. The process of claim 1 wherein R is tert-butyl and the di-($C_1$ to $C_{12}$ alkyl)dicarbonate is di-tert-butyl dicarbonate.

7. A compound of the formula:

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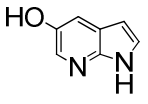
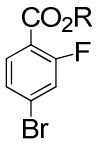
8. A process for the preparation of the compound of claim 7, wherein the process comprises:

(x) combining a compound of formula (B):




(B);

with a compound of formula (C):

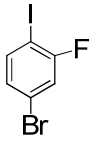



(C), wherein R is tert-butyl,

and a *tert*-butoxide salt in an organic solvent to provide the compound of claim 7.

9. The process of claim 8, wherein the compound of formula (C) is prepared according to the following steps:

(a) combining a compound of formula (A):




(A)

with $R^1MgX$ in an aprotic organic solvent; wherein $R^1$ is tert-butyl and X is Cl, Br or I; and

(b) combining a $C_1$ to $C_{12}$ alkyl chloroformate or a di-($C_1$ to $C_{12}$ alkyl)dicarbonate with the product of step (a), to provide the compound of formula (C).

10. The process of claim 9, wherein the di-($C_1$ to $C_{12}$ alkyl)dicarbonate is di-tert-butyl dicarbonate.