

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
3 January 2003 (03.01.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/000672 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C07D 307/87**

(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK02/00426

(22) International Filing Date: 25 June 2002 (25.06.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
PA 2001 00991 25 June 2001 (25.06.2001) DK

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT (utility model), AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ (utility model), CZ, DE (utility model), DE, DK (utility model), DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE (utility model), EE, ES, FI (utility model), FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK (utility model), SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF RACEMIC CITALOPRAM AND/OR S- OR R-CITALOPRAM BY SEPARATION OF A MIXTURE OF R- AND S-CITALOPRAM

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a process for the preparation of racemic citalopram free base or an acid addition salt thereof and/or R- or S-citalopram as the free base or an acid addition salt thereof by separation of a mixture of R- and S-citalopram with more than 50% of one of the enantiomers into a fraction consisting of racemic citalopram and/or a fraction of S-citalopram or R-citalopram characterized in that i) citalopram is precipitated from a solvent as the free base or as an acid addition salt thereof; ii) the precipitate formed is separated from the mother liquor; iia) if the precipitate is crystalline it is optionally recrystallised one or more times to form racemic citalopram, and then optionally converted into an acid addition salt thereof; iib) if the precipitate is not crystalline, steps i) and ii) are optionally repeated until a crystalline precipitate is obtained and the crystalline precipitate is recrystallised one or more times to form racemic citalopram, and then optionally converted into an acid addition salt thereof; iii) the mother liquor is optionally subjected to further purification and S-citalopram or R-citalopram is isolated from the mother liquor and optionally converted into an acid addition salt thereof.



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