

ABSTRACT

**TITLE OF INVENTION: PROCESS FOR PREPARING N-PROTECTED
AMINO ACID ALPHA-HALOMETHYL
KETONES AND ALCOHOLS FROM N-PROTECTED
AMINO ACID ESTERS**

The present invention relates to a novel method useful for the conversion of amino acids to halomethylketones, which are then converted to amino acid epoxides. Such epoxides are important intermediates for the synthesis of inhibitors of renin and HIV protease, which are particularly useful in the treatment and/or prevention of HIV infection (AIDS).