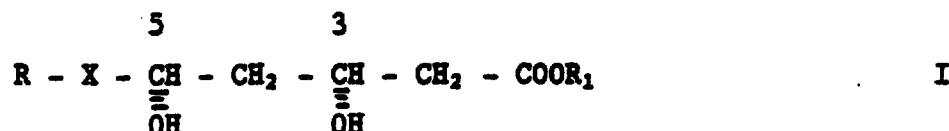




## Abstract

~~PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF 7-SUBSTITUTED-HEPT-6-ENOIC AND  
-HEPTANOIC ACIDS AND DERIVATIVES AND INTERMEDIATES THEREOF~~

~~A novel process for the preparation~~ Compounds of formula I



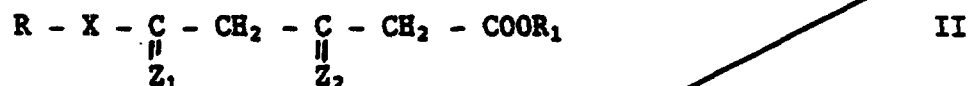
are disclosed  
wherein

X is  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$  or  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ ;

$\text{R}_1$  is an ester group inert to the reaction conditions; and

R is an organic radical having groups which are inert under reducing conditions,

~~by stereoselective reduction of a corresponding compound of formula II~~



wherein

R,  $\text{R}_1$  and X are as defined above and

one of  $\text{Z}_1$  and  $\text{Z}_2$  is oxygen and the other is hydroxy and hydrogen,

is disclosed.

The compounds of formula I are pharmaceuticals, especially anti-atherosclerotic, antihyperlipidemic and antihypercholesterolemic agents.

or the free acid or a salt form or a further ester form or the  $\delta$ -lactone, i.e. internal ester form thereof, in a state of purity such that the proportion of erythro to threo isomer is 99:1 : 0.9 or higher.

with the proviso that, when R is triphenylmethyl, then  $\text{R}_1$  additionally includes allyl and X is  $-\text{OCH}_2-$