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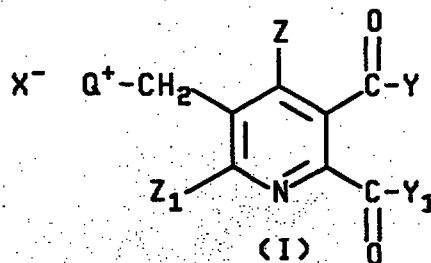


5,6-DISUBSTITUTED-3-PYRIDYLMETHYL AMMONIUM HALIDE
COMPOUNDS USEFUL FOR THE PREPARATION OF 5-
(SUBSTITUTED METHYL)-2,3-PYRIDINEDICARBOXYLIC ACIDS

It is an object of this invention to provide high purity 5,6-disubstituted-3-pyridylmethyl ammonium halide compounds which are useful intermediates in the preparation of high purity 5-(substituted methyl)-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acids.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a method for the preparation of the 5,6-disubstituted-3-pyridylmethyl ammonium halide compounds and a method for the preparation of 5-(substituted methyl)-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acids from said 5,6-disubstituted-3-pyridylmethyl ammonium halide compounds.

The present invention relates to 5,6-disubstituted-3-pyridylmethyl ammonium halide compounds of formula I



wherein

Z is hydrogen or halogen;

Z_1 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano or nitro;

X is Cl, Br, I or R_3SO_3 ;

R_3 is C_1-C_4 alkyl or

phenyl optionally substituted with one to three

C_1-C_4 alkoxy groups, C_1-C_4 alkyl groups,

nitro groups, cyano groups or halogen atoms;

Y and Y_1 are each independently OR_4 , NR_4R_5 , or when

taken together YY_1 is $-O-$, $-S-$ or $-NR_6-$;

R_4 and R_5 are each independently hydrogen,

C_1-C_4 alkyl optionally substituted with C_1-C_4

alkoxy or phenyl optionally substituted with

one to three C_1-C_4 alkyl groups, C_1-C_4 alkoxy

groups or halogen atoms, or

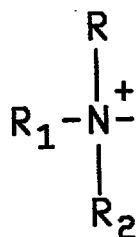
phenyl optionally substituted with one to three

C_1-C_4 alkyl groups, C_1-C_4 alkoxy groups or

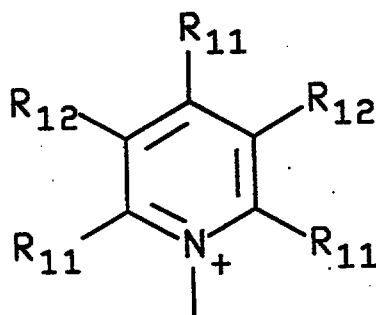
halogen atoms;

R_6 is hydrogen or $C_1 - C_4$ alkyl;

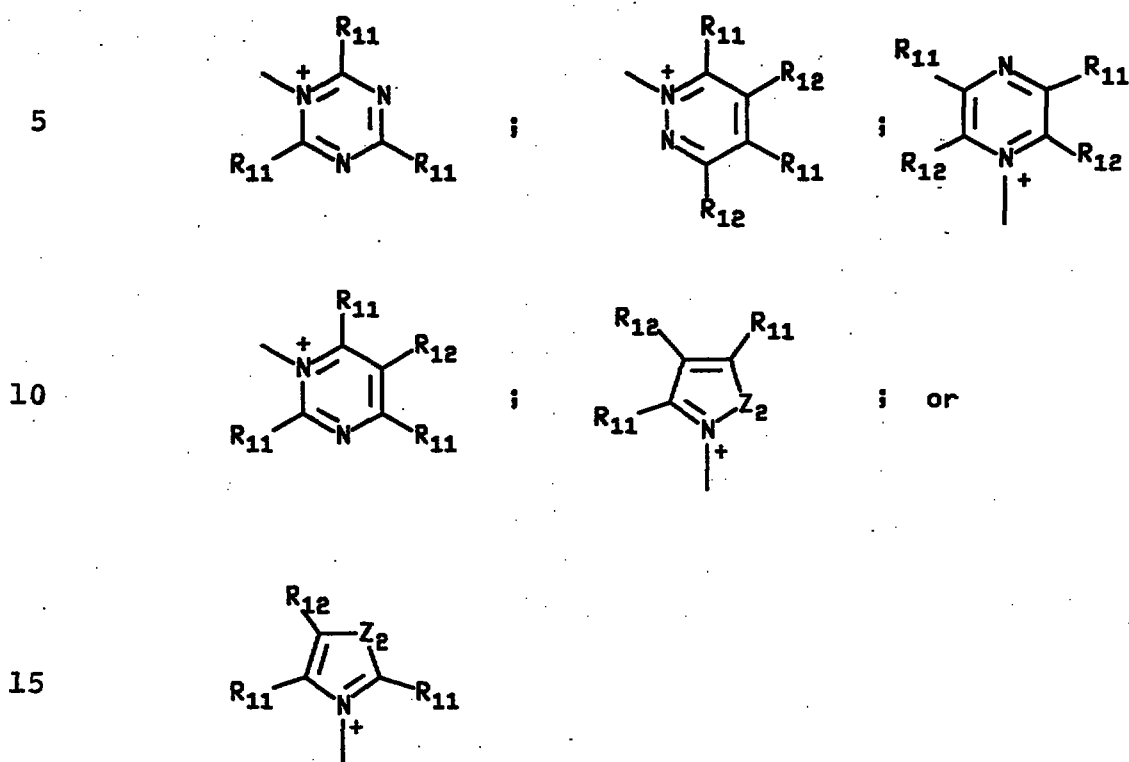
Q is



;



;



20 R, R_1 and R_2 are each independently C_1-C_4 alkyl, and when taken together, R and R_1 may form a 5- or 6-membered ring in which RR_1 is represented by the structure: $-(CH_2)_n-$, optionally interrupted by O, S or NR_{10} , where n is an integer of 3, 4 or 5, provided R_2 is C_1-C_4 alkyl;

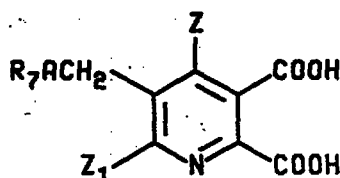
25 Z_2 is O, S or NR_{10} ;

R_{10} is C_1-C_4 alkyl; and

30 R_{11} and R_{12} are each independently hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl or C_1-C_4 alkoxy, and when taken together, R_{11} and R_{12} may form a 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring optionally interrupted by O, S, or NR_{10} and optionally substituted with one to three halogen atoms, C_1-C_4 alkyl groups or C_1-C_4 alkoxy groups.

35 The present invention also relates to an efficient method for the preparation of high purity

formula I compounds and their use in a method for the preparation of high purity 5-(substituted methyl)-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid compounds of formula II



(II)

wherein

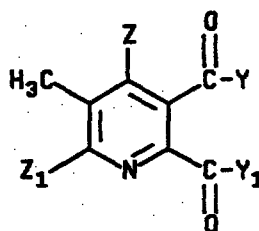
Z is hydrogen or halogen;

Z₁ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano or nitro;

A is O or S; and

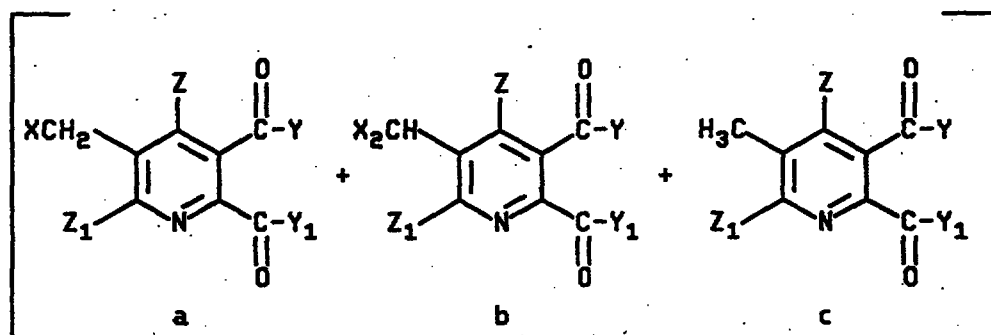
R₇ is C₁-C₄ alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl optionally substituted with one to three C₁-C₄ alkyl groups or halogen atoms, or phenyl optionally substituted with one to three C₁-C₄ alkyl groups or halogen atoms.

Compounds of formula I, wherein X is Cl or Br, may be prepared by reacting 5-methyl-2,3-pyridine-dicarboxylic acid derivative compounds of formula III



(III)

wherein Z, Z₁, Y and Y₁ are as described above with a halogenating agent in the presence of a first solvent, optionally in the presence of a catalytic amount of a radical initiator, preferably at a temperature range of about 0°C to 100°C to form a first mixture containing compounds of formula IV

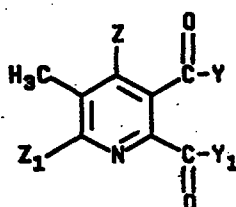


(IV)

10 wherein Z, Z₁, Y and Y₁ are as described above and
 X is Cl or Br. The amount of halogenating agent used
 is chosen to minimize the production of formula IVb
 compounds. Said first mixture is then reacted with at
 least 1.0 molar equivalent of a C₁-C₄ trialkylamine, a
 15 5 to 6 membered saturated or 5 to 14 membered unsatu-
 rated heterocyclic amine optionally substituted with
 one to three C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups or
 halogen atoms, in the presence of a second solvent
 preferably at a temperature range of about 0°C to 100°C
 20 to form 5,6-disubstituted-3-pyridylmethyl ammonium
 halide compounds of formula I. The method of prepara-
 tion is illustrated in Flow Diagram I.

FLOW DIAGRAM I

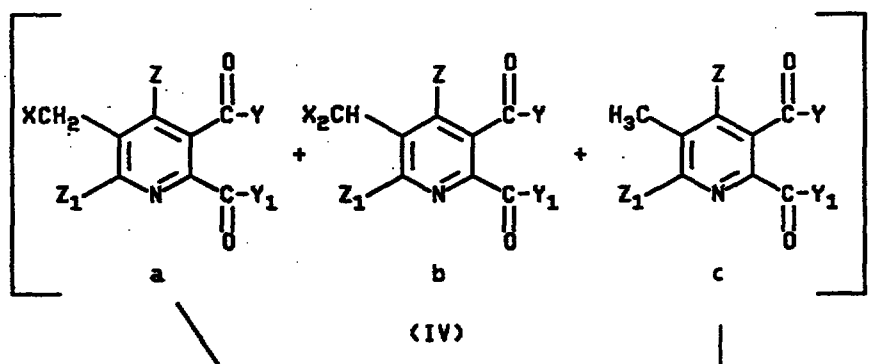
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(III)

halogenating agent radical initiator

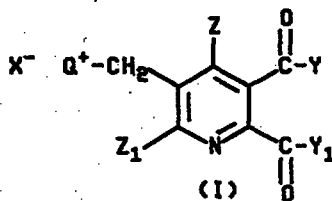
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(IV)

1. C₁-C₄ trialkylamine or optionally substituted heterocyclic saturated or unsaturated amine

15



(I)

The above method is especially efficacious for the preparation of formula I compounds wherein

20

Z is hydrogen;
Z₁ is hydrogen;
X is Cl or Br;

Y and Y₁ are each independently OR₄;

R₄ is C₁-C₄ alkyl; and

R, R₁ and R₂ are each independently methyl or ethyl, or when R and R₁ are taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached they form a pyridine ring provided that R₂ is not present.

Preferred formula I compounds that are prepared by the method of the invention are [(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]trimethylammonium bromide, dimethyl ester; [(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]trimethylammonium bromide, diethyl ester; [(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]pyridinium bromide, dimethyl ester; 1-[(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]-4-methylpyridinium bromide, dimethyl ester; 1-[(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]pyrazinium bromide, dimethyl ester; 1-[(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]pyridazinium bromide, dimethyl ester; 1-[(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]quinolinium bromide, dimethyl ester; 1-[(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]isoquinolinium bromide, dimethyl ester; 3-[(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]-4,5-dimethyl thiazolium bromide, dimethyl ester; 3-[(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]-4-methylthiazolium bromide, dimethyl ester; and 1-[(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]-3-methyl imidazolium bromide, dimethyl ester; and 1-[(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]benzothiazolium bromide, dimethyl ester.

The formula I compounds may be isolated in high purity by filtration or, alternatively, by extraction with water.

The amines that may be used in the method of the invention are alkyl amines, 5 to 6 membered saturated and 5 to 14 membered unsaturated heterocyclic amines optionally substituted with one to three C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups or halogen atoms. The preferred amines are C₁-C₄ trialkylamines, 5 or 6 membered saturated heterocyclic amines, and 5 to 14



membered unsaturated heterocyclic amines wherein the heterocyclic ring system contains one to three nitrogen atoms and optionally include sulfur or oxygen in the ring system.

5 The more preferred amines include the alkyl-
amines trimethyl amine and triethyl amine, the saturat-
ed heterocyclic amines including pyridines, picolines,
pyrazines, pyridazines triazines, quinolines, isoquino-
lines, imidazoles, benzothiazoles and benzimidazoles,
10 optionally substituted with one to three halogen atoms,
C₁-C₄ alkyl groups or C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups, and unsatu-
rated heterocyclic amines such as pyrrolidines,
piperidines, piperazines, morpholines, thiazolidines
and thiamorpholines.

15 The amount of halogenating agent used depends
on both the reaction mode (batch vs. continuous) and
the recycle procedures used to recover unreacted
starting material. Typically a batch reaction will
employ about 0.3 to 0.8 molar equivalents of the
20 halogenating agent and in a continuous reaction, less
molar equivalents of the halogenating agent are ini-
tially required.

 Halogenating agents that may be used in the
method of the invention include N-bromosuccinimide,
25 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin, bromine, chlorine,
t-butylhypochlorite, sulfuryl chloride, sulfuryl
bromide, N-chlorosuccinimide and the like. Preferred
halogenating agents are chlorine, bromine, N-bromosuc-
cinimide, 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin and sul-
furyl chloride. Radical initiators suitable for use in
30 the method of the invention include 2,2'-azobisisobuty-
ronitrile, 2,2'-azobis(2-methylbutanenitrile), 2,2'-
azobis(2,4-dimethylpentanenitrile), 1,1'-azobis(cyclo-
hexanecarbonitrile), organic and inorganic peroxides
35 such as hydrogen peroxide, benzoyl peroxide and the
like, photochemical irradiation and the like with

2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile and 2,2'-azobis(2-methylbutanenitrile) being preferred. Among the C_1-C_4 trialkylamines that may be used in the method of the invention are trimethylamine and triethylamine.

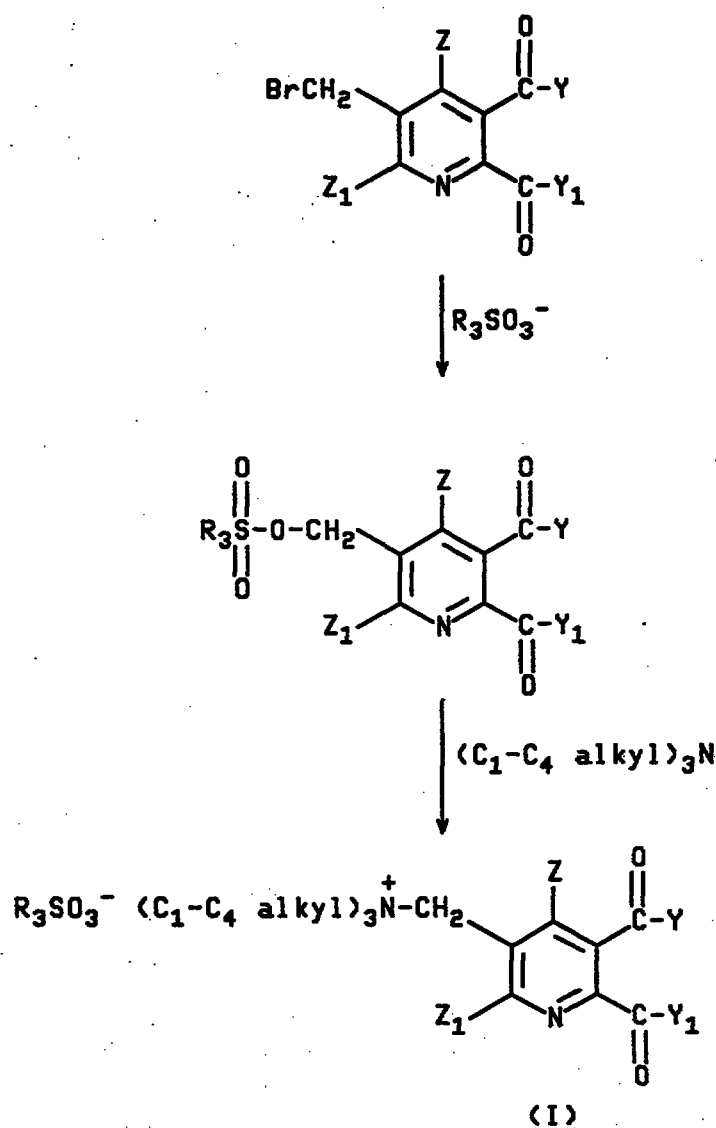
5 Solvents that may be used in the method of the invention include halogenated hydrocarbons such as dichloroethane, carbon tetrachloride and the like, halogenated aromatic hydrocarbons such as chloro-
10 benzene, dichlorobenzene and the like, nitrobenzene, acetic acid, water, and alcohols such as methanol, ethanol, n-propanol and the like as well as mixtures of the above solvents. Preferred first solvents include chlorobenzene, dichlorobenzene and carbon tetrachloride and mixtures of chlorobenzene and methanol. Preferred
15 second solvents include methanol, ethanol, chlorobenzene.

Another method of preparing certain formula I compounds is shown below in Flow Diagram II:

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FLOW DIAGRAM II

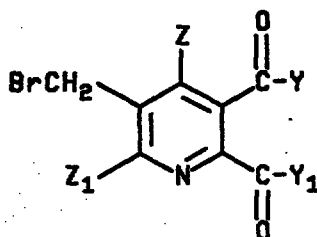


wherein Z, Z₁, R₃, Y and Y₁ are as described above for formula I.

Similarly, other formula I compounds may be prepared by the reaction scheme shown in Flow Diagram III:

FLOW DIAGRAM III

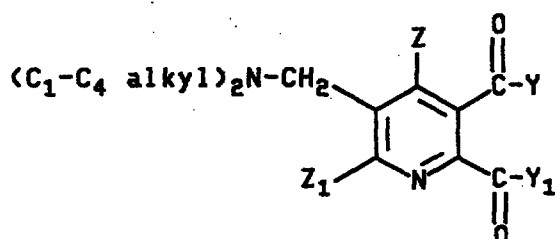
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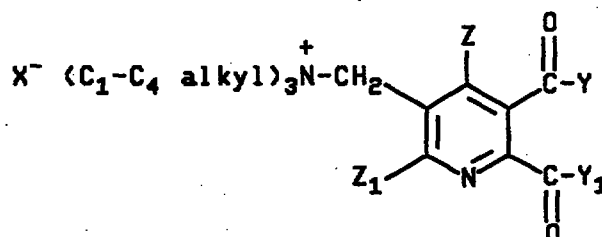
$(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4 \text{ alkyl})_2\text{NH}$

15



20

$\text{X-(C}_1\text{-C}_4 \text{ alkyl)}$



25

(I)

wherein Z, Z₁, Y and Y₁ are as described for formula I above and X is I or R₃SO₃ as described above.

30

Alternatively, compounds of formula I in which one of the R, R₁ or R₂ C₁-C₄ alkyl groups is attached to a polymeric material, may be prepared by passing the formula IV mixture over an anion exchange resin containing amine substituents. Advantageously, the formula IVb and IVc compounds do not react with the resin and are removed. The high purity ammonium halide

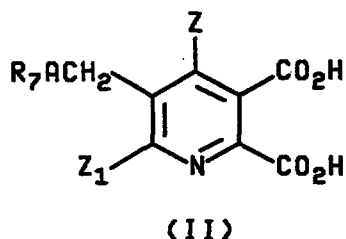
compounds are further reacted to give formula II compounds.

5 The formula I compounds of the invention are intermediates in a method for the preparation of high purity 5-(substituted methyl)-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid compounds of formula II. Compounds of formula II may be prepared by reacting 5,6-disubstituted-3-pyridylmethyl ammonium halide compounds of formula I as described above with at least 1.0 molar equivalent of
10 an alkoxide or alkylsulfide compound of formula V



V

15 wherein R_7 and A are as described above for formula II and M is an alkali metal such as sodium or potassium in the presence of an organic solvent preferably at a temperature range of 0°C to 110°C to form a first mixture further reacting said first mixture with at least 2.0 molar equivalents of an aqueous base preferably at a temperature range of about 20°C to 120°C to
20 form a second mixture and adjusting the pH of said second mixture to a value below 2.5 with an acid to form 5-(substituted methyl)-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid compounds of formula II. The method of preparation is illustrated in Flow Diagram IV.
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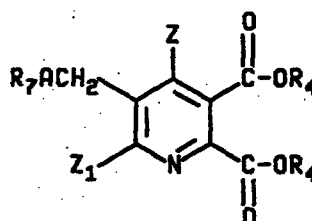
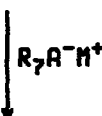
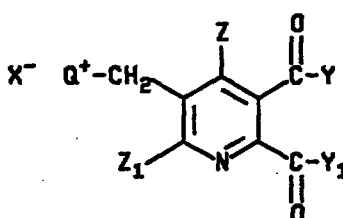
Aqueous bases suitable for use in the method of the invention include aqueous sodium hydroxide solution, aqueous potassium hydroxide solution and the

like. Acids that may be used in the method of the invention include mineral acids such as sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid and the like.

Organic solvents that may be used in the method of the invention include acetonitrile, tetrahydrofuran, aromatic hydrocarbons, R_7OH alcohols wherein R_7 is as described above for formula II and the like. Preferred inert organic solvents include alcohols corresponding to R_7 in formula II above such as methanol and ethanol.

Alternatively, the corresponding diesters of formula II compounds may be prepared by the following reactions shown in Flow Diagram V:

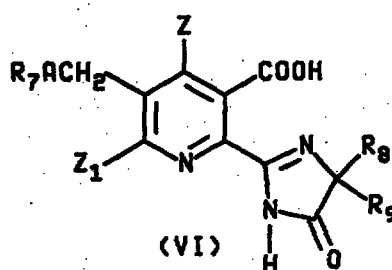
FLOW DIAGRAM V



wherein Z, Z₁, R₇, A, Q, X and M are as described above and R₄ is C₁-C₄ alkyl optionally substituted with C₁-C₄ alkoxy or phenyl optionally substituted with one to three C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups or halogen atoms, or phenyl optionally substituted with

one to three C_1-C_4 alkyl groups, C_1-C_4 alkoxy groups or halogen atoms.

The high purity formula II compounds are useful as starting materials for the preparation of herbicidal 2-(2-imidazolin-2-yl)pyridine compounds having the structural formula VI



wherein

R_8 is C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R_9 is C_1-C_4 alkyl or C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl; and

when R_8 and R_9 are taken together with the carbon to which they are attached they may represent C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl optionally substituted with methyl;

Z is hydrogen or halogen;

Z_1 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano or nitro;

A is O or S;

R_7 is C_1-C_4 alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl optionally substituted with one to three C_1-C_4 alkyl groups or halogen atoms, or phenyl optionally substituted with one to three C_1-C_4 alkyl groups or halogen atoms; and

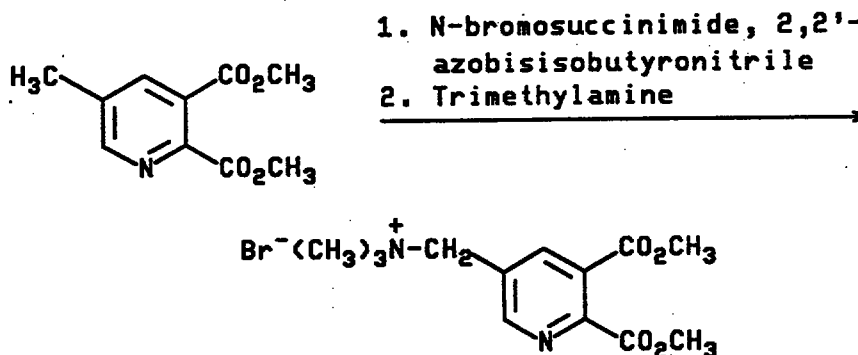
when R_8 and R_9 represent different substituents, the optical isomers thereof.

Advantageously, product formula VI compounds obtained from formula II compounds, prepared by the method of the invention, are surprisingly purer than formula VI compounds obtained by the methods of the prior art.

In order to facilitate a further understanding of the invention, the following examples are presented to illustrate more specific details thereof. The invention is not to be limited thereby except as defined in the claims. The term NMR designates nuclear magnetic resonance and the term HPLC designates high pressure liquid chromatography.

EXAMPLE 1

Preparation of [(5,6-Dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]trimethylammonium bromide, dimethyl ester using N-bromosuccinimide

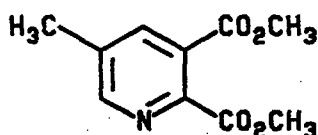


A mixture of dimethyl 5-methyl-2,3-pyridine-dicarboxylate (523 g, 2.5 mol) in chlorobenzene (2,440 mL) is heated to 85°C under nitrogen. A mixture of N-bromosuccinimide (356 g, 2.0 mol) and 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile (12.5 g, 0.076 mol) is added to the reaction mixture over 1 hour at 80°-90°C. After the addition is complete, the reaction mixture is held at 80° to 90°C for 1 hour, cooled to room temperature overnight and diluted with water. The organic layer is separated, diluted with methanol, cooled to 10°C and anhydrous trimethylamine (180 mL, 1.8 mol) is added. The reaction mixture is stirred at 5°-10°C for 3 hours and filtered to obtain a solid. The solid is dried overnight in a vacuum oven to give the title product as a white solid (429 g, mp 200°-208°C dec).

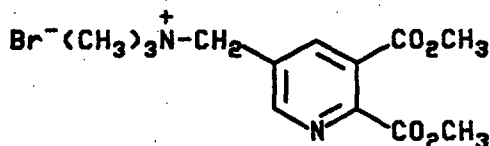
Following the above procedure, but substituting diethyl 5-methyl-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylate for dimethyl 5-methyl-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylate gives [(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]trimethylammonium bromide, diethyl ester as a white solid (mp 156°-161° dec).

EXAMPLE 2

Preparation of [(5,6-Dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]trimethylammonium bromide, dimethyl ester using 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin



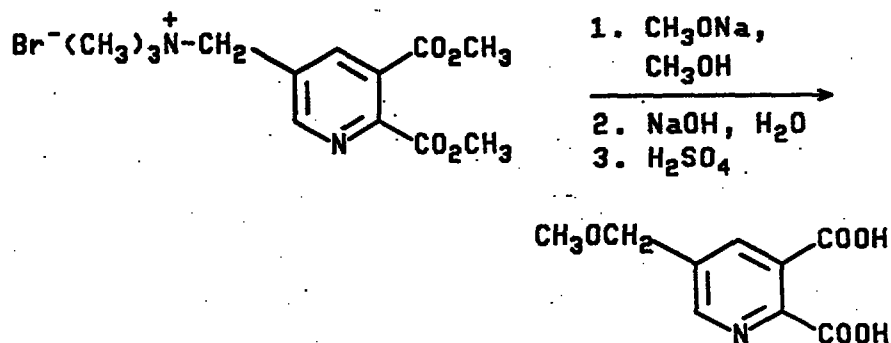
1. 1,3-Dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin, 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile
2. Trimethylamine



A mixture of dimethyl 5-methyl-2,3-pyridine-dicarboxylate (104.5 g, 0.5 mol) in chlorobenzene (470 mL) is heated to 85°C under nitrogen. A mixture of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin (71.5 g, 0.25 mol) and 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile (2.5 g, 0.015 mol) is added to the reaction mixture over 30 minutes at 80°-95°C. After the addition is complete, the reaction mixture is held at 80° to 85°C for 3.5 hours, cooled to room temperature, washed with water and dried. The dried organic mixture is diluted with methanol, cooled to 10°C and anhydrous trimethylamine (17.4 g, 0.29 mol) is added. The reaction mixture is stirred at 10°-36°C overnight and filtered to obtain a solid. The solid is washed with chlorobenzene and vacuum dried to give the title product as a white solid (74.4 g, mp 200°-208° dec).

EXAMPLE 3

Preparation of 5-(Methoxymethyl)-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid



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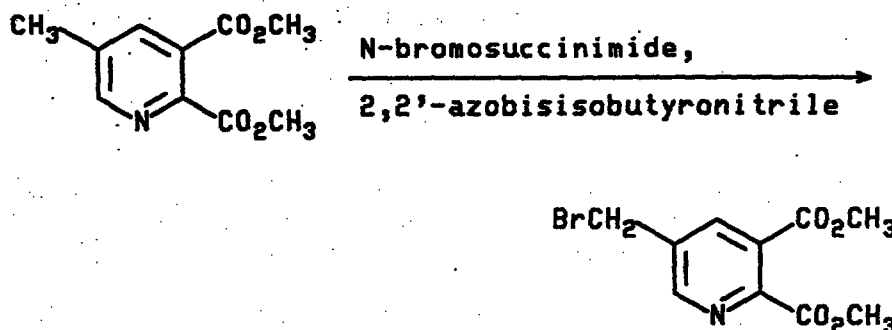
A mixture of 25% sodium methoxide in methanol (270 g, 1.25 mol) and [(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)-methyl]trimethylammonium bromide, dimethyl ester (347 g, 1.00 mol) in methanol (650 mL) is heated at reflux for 1 hour under nitrogen. Water (1 L) and sodium hydroxide (80.0 g, 2.0 mol) are added and the reaction mixture is distilled until the pot is 100°-105°C. The reaction mixture is cooled to room temperature, treated with sulfuric acid to adjust the pH to a value from 1.5 to 2 and filtered to obtain a solid.

20

The solid is washed with water and dried in a vacuum oven to obtain the title product as a white solid (mp 161°-162°C) which is greater than 99% pure by HPLC analysis.

EXAMPLE 4

Preparation of Dimethyl 5-(bromomethyl)-2,3-pyridine-dicarboxylate



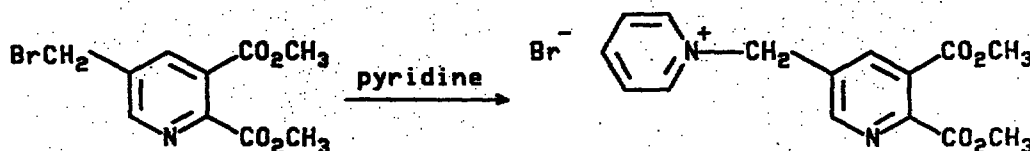
15 A mixture of dimethyl 5-methyl-2,3-pyridine-dicarboxylate (30.0 g, 0.143 mol), N-bromosuccinimide (32.0 g, 0.18 mol) and 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile (0.9 g, 0.0055 mol) in carbon tetrachloride (200 mL) is heated at 80°C for 1.5 hours. Additional 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile (0.9 g, 0.0055 mol) is added and the reaction mixture is heated at reflux for 2 hours, cooled to room temperature and filtered. The filter cake is washed with carbon tetrachloride. The filtrate and wash are combined, washed with water and concentrated in vacuo to give an oil. The oil is shown by HPLC to contain 57% of the title product, 16% dimethyl 5-methyl-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylate and 23% dimethyl 5-dibromomethyl-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylate.

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EXAMPLE 5

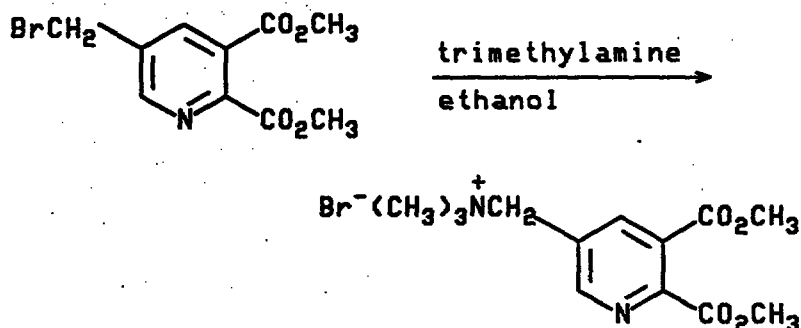
Preparation of [(5,6-Dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]pyridiniumbromide, dimethyl ester



A mixture of the oil prepared in example 6 (32.0 g) and pyridine (9.2 g, 0.12 mol) in absolute ethanol is heated at reflux for 2 hours under nitrogen, cooled to room temperature and filtered. The filter cake is washed with ethanol and vacuum dried at 50°C to give the title product as a solid (18.1 g) which is greater than 99% pure by HPLC analysis.

EXAMPLE 6

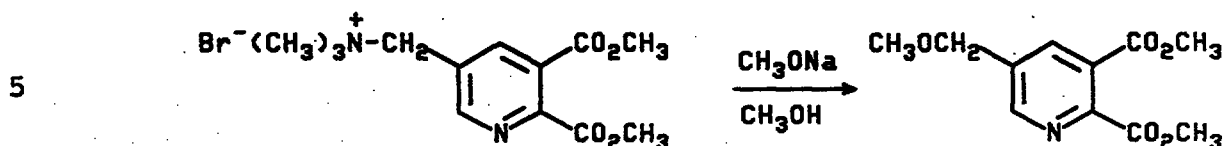
Preparation of [(5,6-Dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]trimethylammonium bromide, dimethyl ester in ethanol using anhydrous trimethylamine



A mixture of an oil prepared according to the procedure of example 6 (100 g) in absolute ethanol is cooled to 5°C under nitrogen. Anhydrous trimethylamine (16 g, 0.27 mol) is added and the reaction mixture is stirred for 3 hours at 5°C and filtered. The filter cake is washed with ethanol and air dried to give the title product as a white solid (49.1 g).

EXAMPLE 7

Preparation of Dimethyl 5-(methoxymethyl)-2,3-pyridine-dicarboxylate



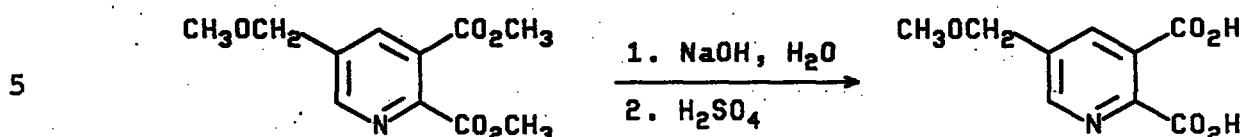
10 A mixture of 25% sodium methoxide in methanol (320.0 g, 1.5 mol) and [(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)-methyl]trimethylammonium bromide, dimethyl ester (160.0 g, 0.5 mol) in methanol (650 mL) is heated at reflux for 6 hours under nitrogen. The reaction mixture is cooled to 5°C and acetic acid (90 g) and water (200 mL) are added. Methanol is removed in vacuo, water is added and the mixture is extracted with methylene chloride. The combined organic extracts are washed sequentially with 5% sodium bicarbonate solution and water and concentrated in vacuo to obtain the title product as a clear liquid (83.2 g) which is identified by ^1H NMR spectral analysis.

20 Following the above procedure, but substituting [(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]pyridinium bromide, dimethyl ester for [(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]-trimethylammonium bromide, dimethyl ester gives the title product as a clear liquid.

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EXAMPLE 8

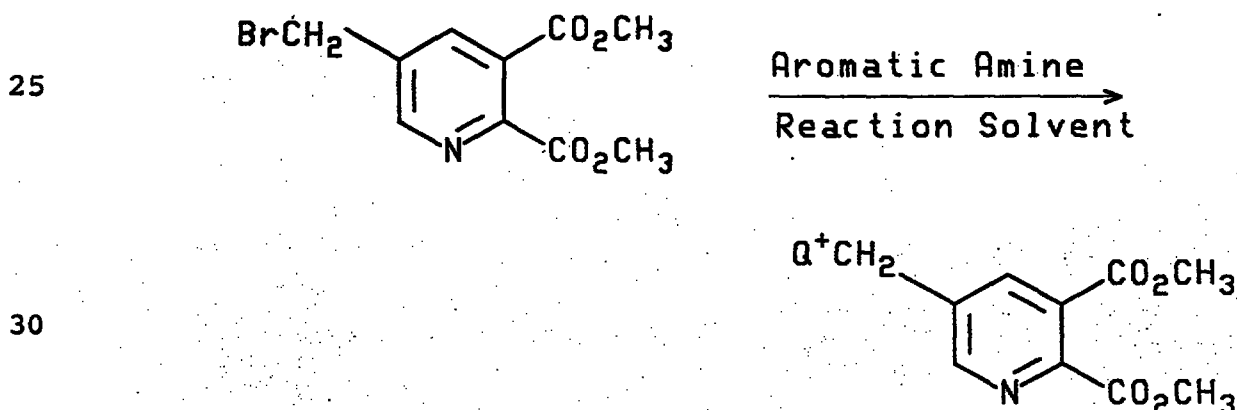
Preparation of 5-(Methoxymethyl)-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid



10 A mixture of dimethyl 5-(methoxymethyl)-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylate (60.0 g, 0.25 mol) and 50% sodium hydroxide solution (50.0 g, 0.63 mol) in water is heated at 90°-110°C for 2 hours under nitrogen while distilling off methanol and water. The reaction mixture is cooled to 10°C, treated with sulfuric acid to adjust the pH to 2.0 and filtered to obtain a solid. 15 The solid is washed with water and vacuum dried to give the title product as a white solid (44.3 g, mp 161°-162°C).

EXAMPLE 9

20 **Preparation of 2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid, 5-(aromatic amine) methyl bromide, dimethyl ester**



To a 250 mL flask under nitrogen were added the reaction solvent set forth in Table I (either 100 mL of absolute ethanol or 200 mL of a 50/50 mixture of methanol/chlorobenzene), and 30 g of crude 5-monobromo-
5 methyl pyridine-2,3-dicarboxylic acid, dimethyl ester (57% real by HPLC), and 0.1 moles of an aromatic amine set forth in Table I. The mixture was heated to reflux and held for approximately 5 hours. The reaction solvent was removed under vacuum at 40-60°C. The
10 resulting residue was cooled to room temperature and slurried with approximately 100 mL of an organic solvent identified as the "Slurry Solvent" in Table I. The mixture was then filtered and the cake was washed with approximately 50 mL of the slurry solvent. The
15 resulting crystalline solid was vacuum dried at 50°C. The melting points were then taken and structure was confirmed by ^1H , ^{13}C , NMR and ^{13}C ATP1 NMR.

TABLE I

AROMATIC AMINE SALTS OF 5-METHYL-2,3-DICARBOXYLIC DIMETHYL ESTER

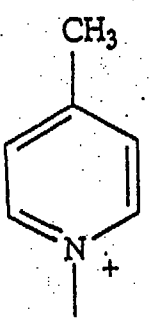
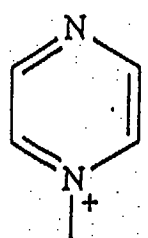
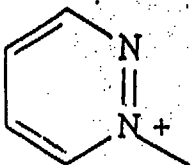
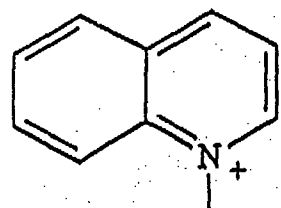
Q+	Aromatic Amine	Reaction Solvent	Slurry Solvent	Isolated Salt Yield, g	Melting Point °C
	<u>4-Picoline</u>	Ethanol	Acetone	15.2	155-157
	<u>Pyrazine</u>	Ethanol	Ethanol	12.5	167-169
	<u>Pyridazine</u>	Ethanol	Acetone	18.2	135-137

TABLE I (CONTINUED)



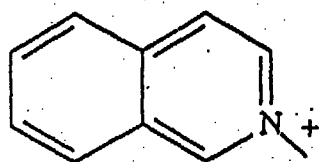
Quinoline

Ethanol

Acetone/
Toluene

14.6

112-114



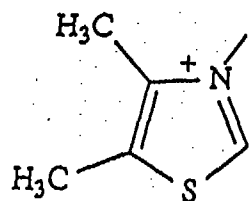
Isoquinoline

Methanol/
Chlorobenzene

Acetone

22.9

164-166



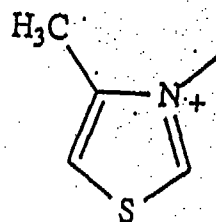
4,5-dimethylthiazole

Ethanol

THF

9.2

133-140



4-Methylthiazole

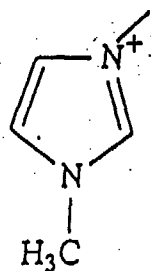
Ethanol

THF

9.0

112-115

TABLE I (CONTINUED)



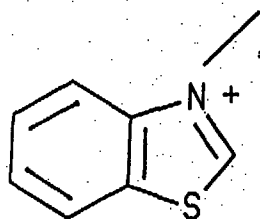
1-Methylimidazole

Methanol/
Chlorobenzene

Acetone

19.4

109-111



Benzothiazole

Ethanol

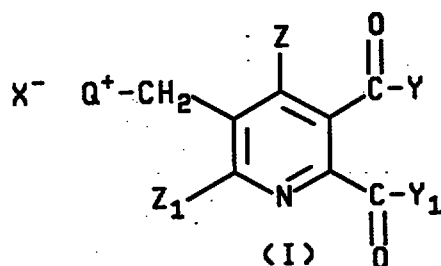
Acetone

6.4

93-97

I CLAIM:

1. A 5,6-disubstituted-3-pyridylmethyl ammonium halide compound having the structural formula



wherein

Z is hydrogen or halogen;

Z₁ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano or nitro;

X is Cl, Br, I or R₃SO₃;

R₃ is C₁-C₄ alkyl or

phenyl optionally substituted with one to three

C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups, C₁-C₄ alkyl groups,

nitro groups, cyano groups or halogen atoms;

Y and Y₁ are each independently OR₄, NR₄R₅, or when

taken together YY₁ is -O-, -S- or -NR₆-;

R₄ and R₅ are each independently hydrogen,

C₁-C₄ alkyl optionally substituted with C₁-C₄

alkoxy or phenyl optionally substituted with

one to three C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups or halogen atoms, or

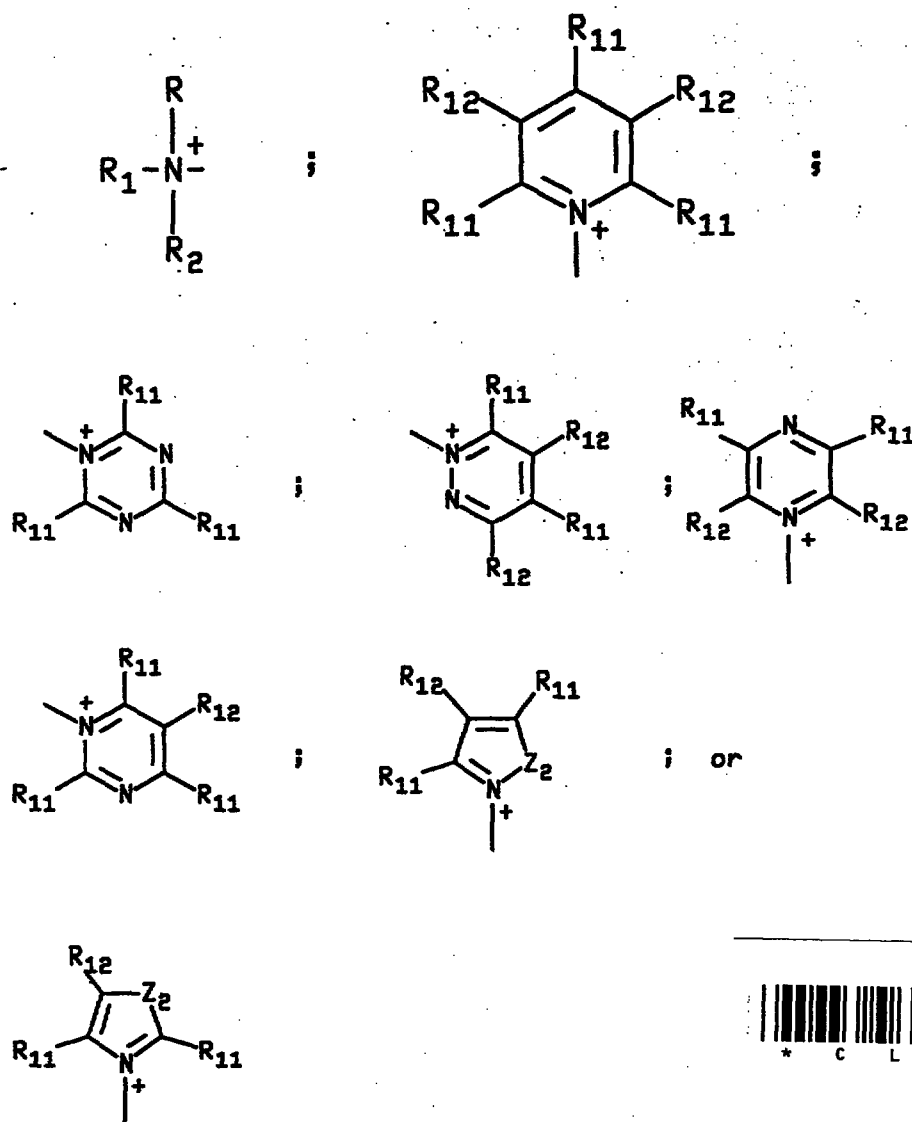
phenyl optionally substituted with one to three

C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups or halogen atoms;

R₆ is hydrogen or C₁ - C₄ alkyl;

Q is





R, R₁ and R₂ are each independently C₁-C₄ alkyl, and when taken together, R and R₁ may form a 5- or 6-membered ring in which RR₁ is represented by the structure: $-(CH_2)_n-$, optionally interrupted by O, S or NR₁₀, where n is an integer of 3, 4 or 5, provided R₂ is C₁-C₄ alkyl;

Z₂ is O, S or NR₁₀;

R₁₀ is C₁-C₄ alkyl; and

R₁₁ and R₁₂ are each independently hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl or C₁-C₄ alkoxy, and when taken together, R₁₁ and R₁₂ may form a 5- or 6-membered

saturated or unsaturated ring optionally interrupted by O, S, or NR₁₀ and optionally substituted with one to three halogen atoms, C₁-C₄ alkyl groups or C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups.

2. The compound according to claim 1,

wherein

Z is hydrogen;

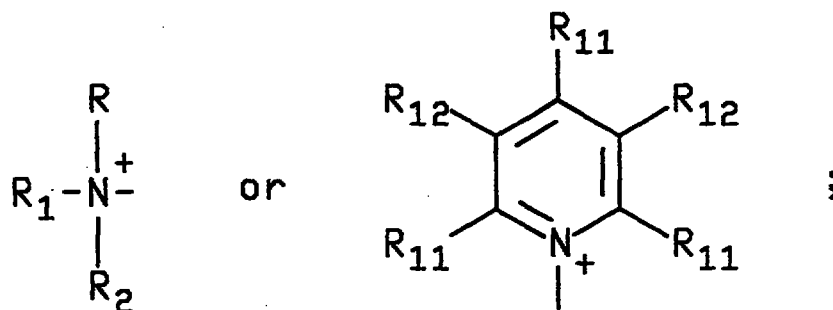
Z₁ is hydrogen;

X is Cl or Br;

Y and Y₁ are each independently OR₄;

R₄ is C₁-C₄ alkyl;

Q is



R, R₁ and R₂ are each independently methyl or ethyl;

R₁₁ and R₁₂ are each independently hydrogen, halogen,

C₁-C₄ alkyl or C₁-C₄ alkoxy, and when taken

together, R₁₁ and R₁₂ may form a 5- or 6-membered

saturated or unsaturated ring optionally inter-

rupted by O, S, or NR₁₀ and optionally substituted

with one to three halogen atoms, C₁-C₄ alkyl

groups or C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups; and

R₁₀ is C₁-C₄ alkyl.

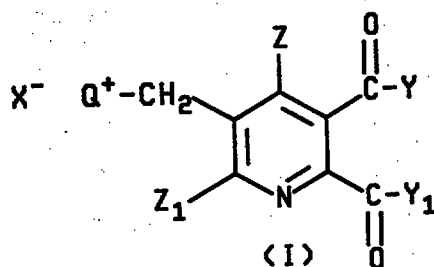
3. The compound according to claim 2,

selected from the group consisting of [(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]trimethylammonium bromide, dimethyl ester; [(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]



trimethylammonium bromide, diethyl ester; [(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]pyridinium bromide, dimethyl ester; and 1-[(5,6-dicarboxy-3-pyridyl)methyl]isoquinolinium bromide, dimethyl ester.

4. A method for the preparation of a 5,6-disubstituted-3-pyridylmethyl ammonium halide compound having the structural formula



wherein

Z is hydrogen or halogen;

Z₁ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano or nitro;

X is Cl, Br, I or R₃SO₃;

R₃ is C₁-C₄ alkyl or

phenyl optionally substituted with one to three

C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups, C₁-C₄ alkyl groups,

nitro groups, cyano groups or halogen atoms;

Y and Y₁ are each independently OR₄, NR₄R₅, or when taken together YY₁ is -O-, -S- or -NR₆-;

R₄ and R₅ are each independently hydrogen,

C₁-C₄ alkyl optionally substituted with C₁-C₄

alkoxy or phenyl optionally substituted with

one to three C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups or halogen atoms, or

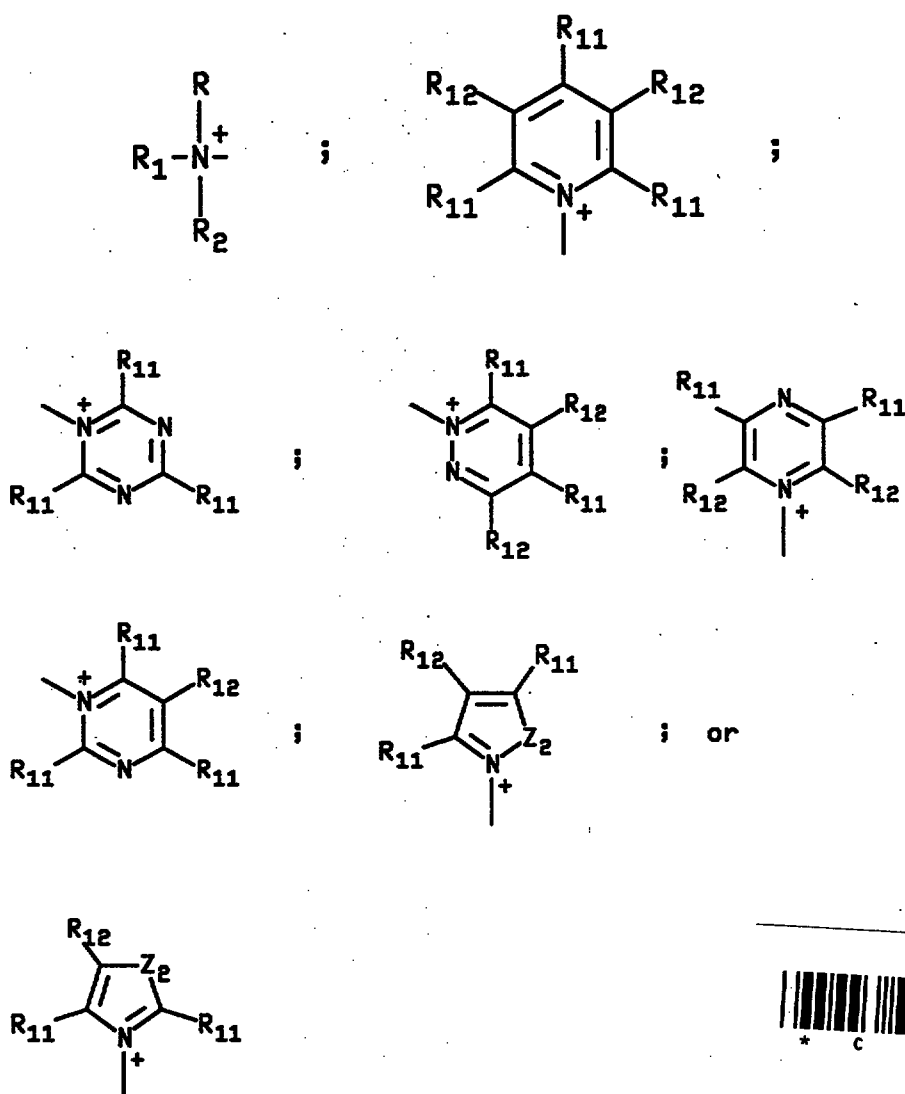
phenyl optionally substituted with one to three

C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups or halogen atoms;

R₆ is hydrogen or C₁ - C₄ alkyl;

Q is





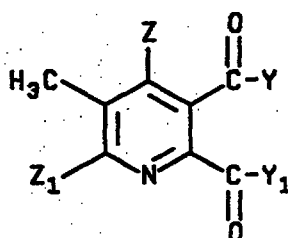
R, R₁ and R₂ are each independently C₁-C₄ alkyl, and when taken together, R and R₁ may form a 5- or 6-membered ring in which RR₁ is represented by the structure: $-(CH_2)_n-$, optionally interrupted by O, S or NR₁₀, where n is an integer of 3, 4 or 5, provided R₂ is C₁-C₄ alkyl;

Z₂ is O, S or NR₁₀;

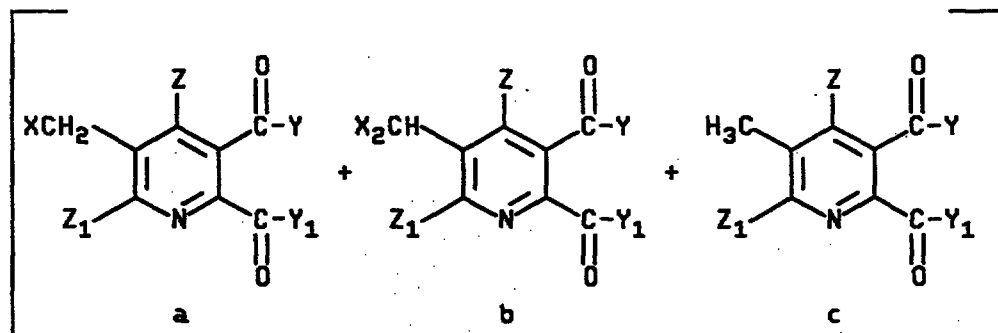
R₁₀ is C₁-C₄ alkyl; and

R₁₁ and R₁₂ are each independently hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl or C₁-C₄ alkoxy, and when taken together, R₁₁ and R₁₂ may form a 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring optionally

interrupted by O, S, or NR_{10} and optionally substituted with one to three halogen atoms, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl groups or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkoxy groups; which is characterized by reacting a 5-methyl-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid derivative compound having the structural formula



wherein Z, Z_1 , Y and Y_1 are as described above with a halogenating agent in the presence of a first solvent, optionally in the presence of a radical initiator to form a first mixture containing compounds having the structural formulas



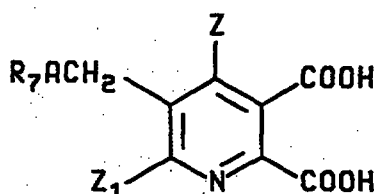
wherein Z, Z_1 , Y and Y_1 are as described above and X is Cl or Br, reacting said first mixture with at least 1.0 molar equivalent of a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ trialkylamine, a 5 to 6 membered saturated or 5 to 14 membered unsaturated heterocyclic amine, optionally substituted with one to three $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl groups, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkoxy groups or halogen atoms in the presence of a second solvent to form said 5,6-disubstituted-3-pyridylmethyl ammonium halide compound.



5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the radical initiator is present in a catalytic amount; the halogenating agent is present in the amount of at least 0.3 molar equivalents; the first solvent is selected from the group consisting of carbon tetrachloride, chlorobenzene and mixtures thereof; the second solvent is selected from the group consisting of chlorobenzene, methanol, ethanol and mixtures thereof; and wherein the temperature of the first mixture is about 0°C to 100°C.

6. The method according to claim 4, wherein the halogenating agent is selected from the group consisting of N-bromosuccinimide, 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin, chlorine, bromine, sulfuryl bromide and sulfuryl chloride; the radical initiator is selected from the group consisting of 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile, 2,2'-azobis(2-methylbutanenitrile), 2,2'-azobis(2,4-dimethylpentanenitrile) and 1,1'-azobis(cyclohexanecarbonitrile); and the C₁-C₄ trialkylamine is selected from the group consisting of trimethylamine and triethylamine.

7. A method for the preparation of a 5-(substituted methyl)-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid compound having the structural formula



wherein

Z is hydrogen or halogen;

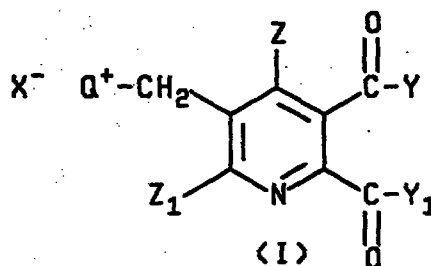
Z₁ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano or nitro;

A is O or S; and

R₇ is C₁-C₄ alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl



optionally substituted with one to three
C₁-C₄ alkyl groups or halogen atoms, or
phenyl optionally substituted with one to three
C₁-C₄ alkyl groups or halogen atoms which
is characterized by reacting a 5,6-disubstituted-3-
pyridylmethyl ammonium halide compound having the
structural formula



wherein

Z is hydrogen or halogen;

Z₁ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano or nitro;

X is Cl, Br, I or R₃SO₃;

R₃ is C₁-C₄ alkyl or

phenyl optionally substituted with one to three

C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups, C₁-C₄ alkyl groups,
nitro groups, cyano groups or halogen atoms;

Y and Y₁ are each independently OR₄, NR₄R₅, or when
taken together YY₁ is -O-, -S- or -NR₆-;

R₄ and R₅ are each independently hydrogen,

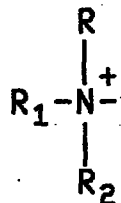
C₁-C₄ alkyl optionally substituted with C₁-C₄
alkoxy or phenyl optionally substituted with
one to three C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, C₁-C₄ alkoxy
groups or halogen atoms, or

phenyl optionally substituted with one to three
C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups or
halogen atoms;

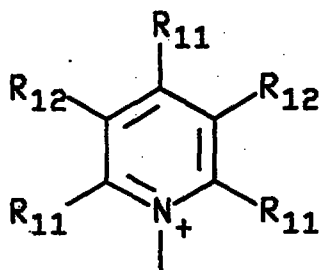
R₆ is hydrogen or C₁ - C₄ alkyl;

Q is

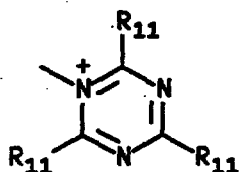




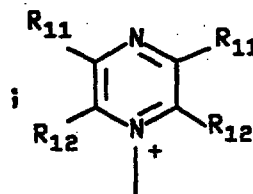
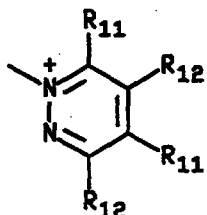
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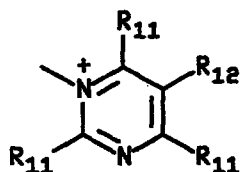
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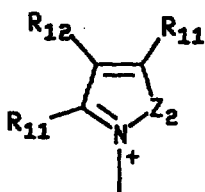
;



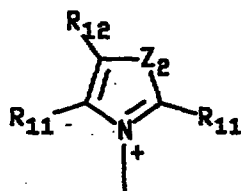
;



;



; or



R, R₁ and R₂ are each independently C₁-C₄ alkyl, and when taken together, R and R₁ may form a 5- or 6-membered ring in which RR₁ is represented by the structure: -(CH₂)_n-, optionally interrupted by O, S or NR₁₀, where n is an integer of 3, 4 or 5, provided R₂ is C₁-C₄ alkyl;

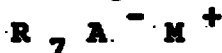
Z₂ is O, S or NR₁₀;

R₁₀ is C₁-C₄ alkyl; and

R₁₁ and R₁₂ are each independently hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl or C₁-C₄ alkoxy, and when taken together, R₁₁ and R₁₂ may form a 5- or 6-membered

saturated or unsaturated ring optionally interrupted by O, S, or NR_{10} and optionally substituted with one to three halogen atoms, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl groups or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkoxy groups;

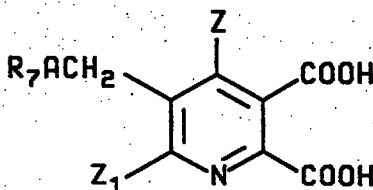
with at least 0.1 molar equivalent of an alkoxide or alkylsulfide compound having the structural formula



wherein R_7 and A are as described above and M is an alkali metal in the presence of an organic solvent to form a first mixture, further reacting said first mixture with at least 2.0 molar equivalents of an aqueous base to form a second mixture and adjusting the pH of said second mixture to a value below 2.5 with an acid to form said 5-(substituted methyl)-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid compound.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the aqueous base is selected from the group consisting of aqueous sodium hydroxide solution and aqueous potassium hydroxide solution; the acid is selected from the group consisting of sulfuric acid and hydrochloric acid; the R_7OH alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol and ethanol; the temperature of the first mixture is about 20°C to 110°C and the temperature of the second mixture is about 20°C to 120°C .

9. A method for the preparation of a 5-(substituted methyl)-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid compound having the structural formula





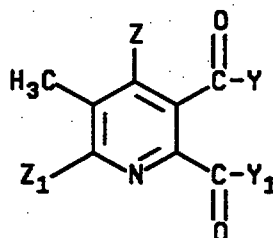
wherein

Z is hydrogen or halogen;

Z₁ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano or nitro;

A is O or S; and

R₇ is C₁-C₄ alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl optionally substituted with one to three C₁-C₄ alkyl groups or halogen atoms, or phenyl optionally substituted with one to three C₁-C₄ alkyl groups or halogen atoms which is characterized by reacting a 5-methyl-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid compound having the structural formula



wherein

Z is hydrogen or halogen;

Z₁ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano or nitro;

Y and Y₁ are each independently OR₄, NR₄R₅, or when taken together YY₁ is -O-, -S- or -NR₆-;

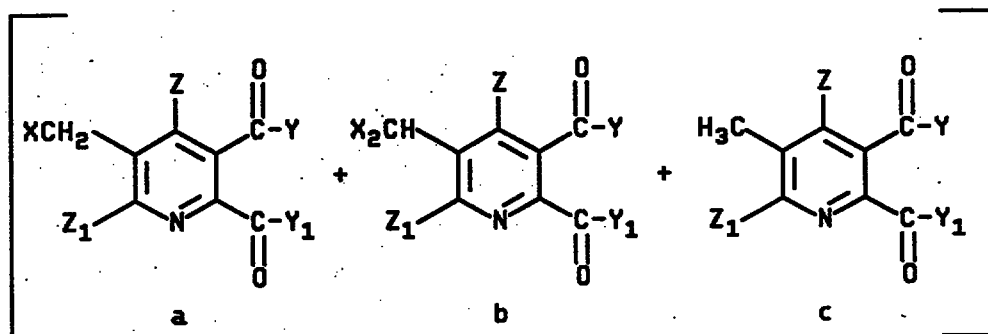
R₄ is hydrogen,

C₁-C₄ alkyl optionally substituted with C₁-C₄ alkoxy or phenyl optionally substituted with one to three C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups or halogen atoms, or

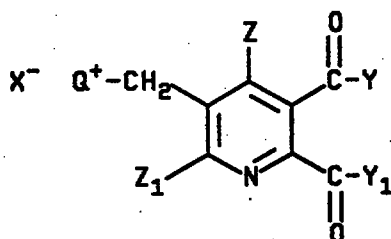
phenyl optionally substituted with one to three C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups or halogen atoms; and

R₆ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl with a halogenating agent in the presence of a first solvent, optionally in the presence of a radical initiator to form a first mixture containing compounds having the structural formulas

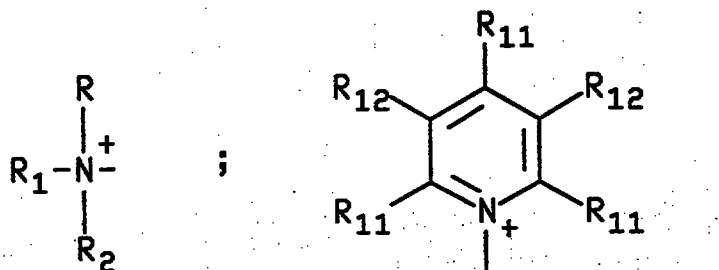


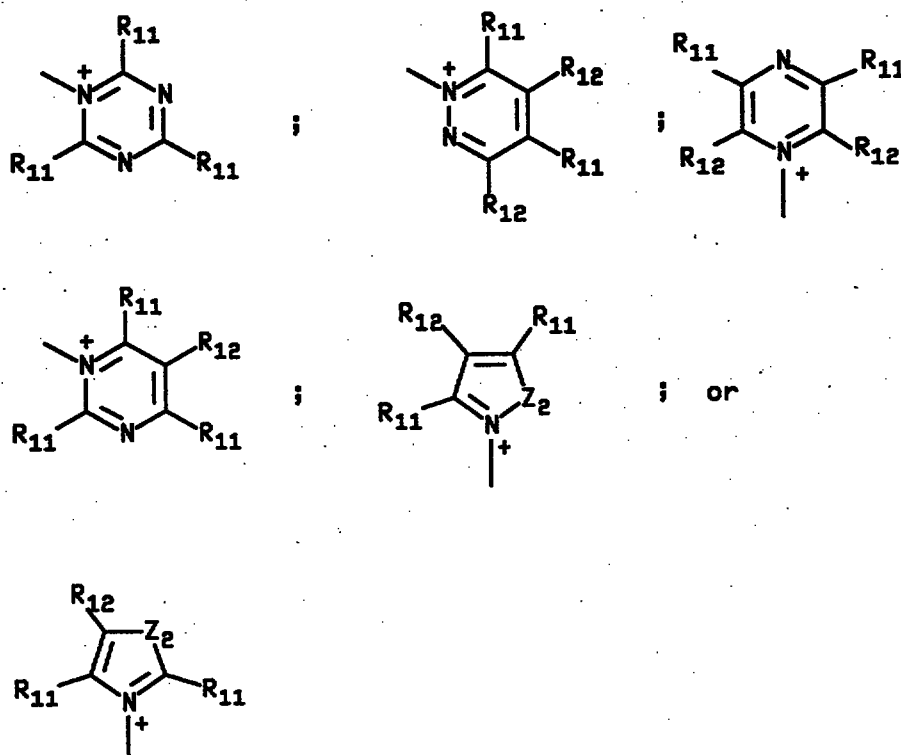


wherein Z, Z₁, Y and Y₁ are as described above and X is Cl or Br, reacting said first mixture with at least about 1.0 molar equivalent of a C₁-C₄ trialkylamine, a 5 to 6 membered saturated or 5 to 14 membered unsaturated heterocyclic amine optionally substituted with one to three C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups or halogen atoms in the presence of a second solvent to form a 5,6-disubstituted-3-pyridylmethyl ammonium halide compound having the structural formula



wherein Z, Z₁, X, Y and Y₁ are as described above and Q is





R, R₁ and R₂ are each independently C₁-C₄ alkyl, and when taken together, R and R₁ may form a 5- or 6-membered ring in which RR₁ is represented by the structure: $-(CH_2)_n-$, optionally interrupted by O, S or NR₁₀, where n is an integer of 3, 4 or 5, provided R₂ is C₁-C₄ alkyl;

Z₂ is O, S or NR₁₀;

R₁₀ is C₁-C₄ alkyl; and

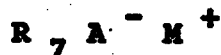
R₁₁ and R₁₂ are each independently hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl or C₁-C₄ alkoxy, and when taken together, R₁₁ and R₁₂ may form a 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring optionally interrupted by O, S, or NR₁₀ and optionally substituted with one to three halogen atoms, C₁-C₄ alkyl groups or C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups;

reacting the said 5,6-disubstituted-3-pyridylmethyl ammonium halide compound with at least 1.0 molar





equivalent of an alkoxide or alkylsulfide compound having the structural formula



wherein R_7 and A are as described above and M is an alkali metal in the presence of an organic solvent to form a second mixture further reacting said second mixture with at least 2.0 molar equivalents of an aqueous base to form a third mixture and adjusting the pH of said third mixture to a value below about 2.5 with an acid to form said 5-(substituted methyl)-2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid compound.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the radical initiator is present in a catalytic amount; the halogenating agent is present in the amount of at least 0.3 molar equivalents; the halogenating agent is selected from the group consisting of N-bromosuccinimide, 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin, chlorine, bromine, sulfuryl bromide and sulfuryl chloride; the radical initiator is selected from the group consisting of 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile, 2,2'-azobis(2-methylbutanenitrile); 2,2'-azobis(2,4-dimethylpentanenitrile) and 1,1'-azobis(cyclohexanecarbonitrile); the C_1-C_4 trialkylamine is selected from the group consisting of trimethylamine and triethylamine; the aqueous base is selected from the group consisting of aqueous sodium hydroxide solution, aqueous potassium hydroxide solution; the acid is selected from the group consisting of sulfuric acid and hydrochloric acid; and wherein the temperature of the first mixture is about 0°C to 100°C , the temperature of the second mixture is about 20°C to 110°C , and the temperature of the third mixture is about 20°C to 120°C .

