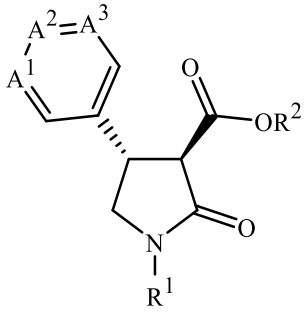
CLAIMS

The-claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A process for preparing a compound of Formula **II-B**



II-B

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

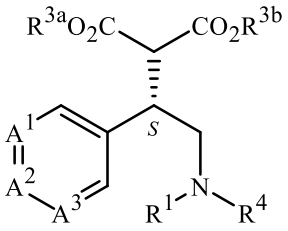
A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$;

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl; and

R^2 is C_1–C_4 alkyl

comprising reducing a compound of Formula **IV**



IV

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$;

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl;

each R^{3a} and R^{3b} is independently C_1–C_4 alkyl; and

R^4 is benzyl substituted with C_1–C_4 alkyl, C_1–C_4 alkoxy or C_2–C_4 alkenyl; or unsubstituted benzyl

with a reducing agent.

2. The process of Claim 1 wherein

in the compound of Formula **II-B**

R^1 is methyl, ethyl or propyl; and

R^2 is methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl or *t*-butyl

comprising reducing a compound of Formula **IV** wherein

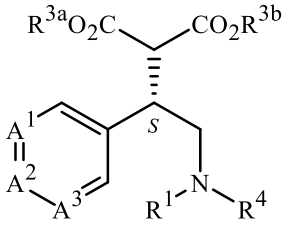
R^1 is methyl, ethyl or propyl;

each R^{3a} and R^{3b} is independently methyl or ethyl; and

R^4 is unsubstituted benzyl

wherein the reducing agent comprises a catalyst.

3. A process for preparing a compound of Formula **IV**



IV

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

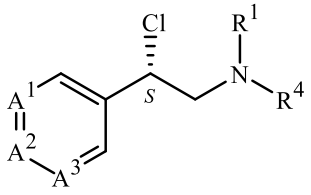
A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$;

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl;

each R^{3a} and R^{3b} is independently C_1–C_4 alkyl; and

R^4 is benzyl substituted with C_1–C_4 alkyl, C_1–C_4 alkoxy or C_2–C_4 alkenyl; or unsubstituted benzyl

comprising reacting a compound of Formula **V** or a salt thereof



V

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$;

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl; and

R^4 is benzyl substituted with C_1–C_4 alkyl, C_1–C_4 alkoxy or C_2–C_4 alkenyl; or unsubstituted benzyl

with a di-(C_1–C_4 alkyl) malonate, or a salt thereof.

4. The process of Claim 3 wherein

in the compound of Formula **IV**

R^1 is methyl, ethyl or propyl;

each R^{3a} and R^{3b} is independently methyl, ethyl or propyl; and

R^4 is unsubstituted benzyl

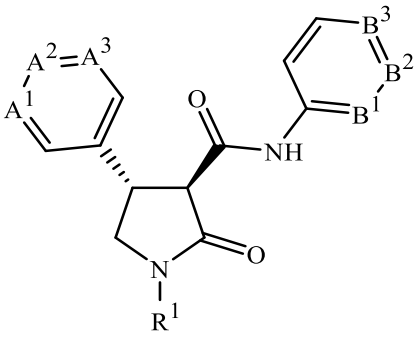
comprising reacting a compound of Formula **V** or a salt thereof wherein

R^1 is methyl, ethyl or propyl; and

R^4 is unsubstituted benzyl

with a di-(C_1–C_4 alkyl) malonate or a salt thereof selected from the group consisting of dimethyl malonate, diethyl malonate, diisopropyl malonate or di-*n*-propyl malonate or a sodium, lithium or potassium salt thereof.

5. A process for preparing a compound of Formula **I**



I

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$;

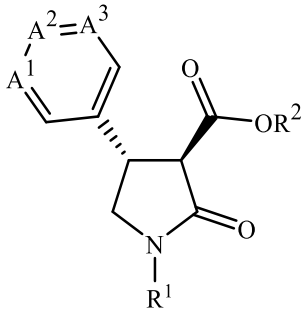
R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl;

B^1 is CF, B^2 is CH and B^3 is CH; or

B^1 is CF, B^2 is CF and B^3 is CH; or

B^1 is CF, B^2 is N and B^3 is CF

comprising contacting a compound of Formula **II-A**



II-A

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

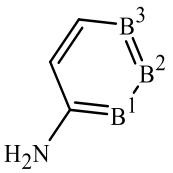
A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$;

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl; and

R^2 is H

with a compound of Formula **VI**



VI

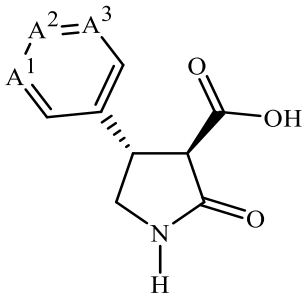
wherein

B^1 is CF, B^2 is CH and B^3 is CH; or

B^1 is CF, B^2 is CF and B^3 is CH; or

B^1 is CF, B^2 is N and B^3 is CF

wherein the compound of Formula **II-A** is prepared by a process comprising alkylating a compound of Formula **III**



III

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$

with an alkylating agent.

6. The process of Claim 5 wherein

in the compound of Formula **I**

R^1 is methyl, ethyl or propyl;

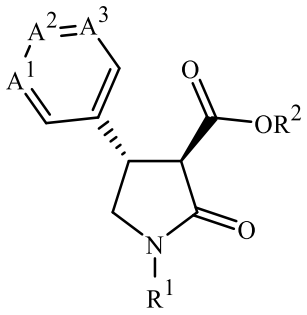
comprising contacting a compound of Formula **II-A** wherein

R^1 is methyl, ethyl or propyl

with a compound of Formula **VI**.

7. The process of Claim 6 wherein a compound of Formula **II-A** is prepared using the process described in Claim 5 comprising alkylating a compound of Formula **III**.

8. The process of Claim 6 wherein a compound of Formula **II-A** is prepared by first hydrolyzing the compound of Formula **II-B**



II-B

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

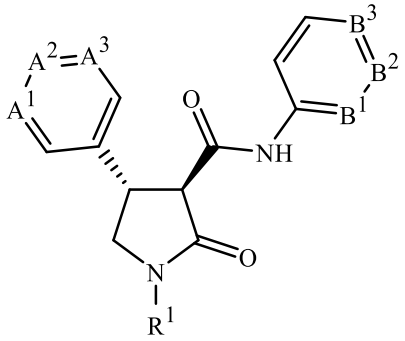
A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$;

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl; and

R^2 is C_1–C_4 alkyl.

9. A process for preparing a compound of Formula **I**



I

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$;

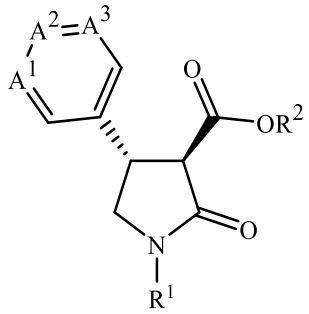
R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl;

B^1 is CF, B^2 is CH and B^3 is CH; or

B^1 is CF, B^2 is CF and B^3 is CH; or

B^1 is CF, B^2 is N and B^3 is CF

comprising contacting a compound of Formula **II-B**



II-B

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

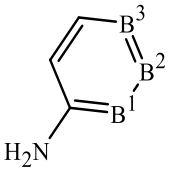
A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$;

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl; and

R^2 is C_1–C_4 alkyl

with a compound of Formula **VI**



VI

wherein

B^1 is CF, B^2 is CH and B^3 is CH; or

B^1 is CF, B^2 is CF and B^3 is CH; or

B^1 is CF, B^2 is N and B^3 is CF

wherein the compound of Formula **II-B** is prepared by the process according to Claim 6

10. The process of Claim 9 wherein

in the compound of Formula **I**

R^1 is methyl, ethyl or propyl

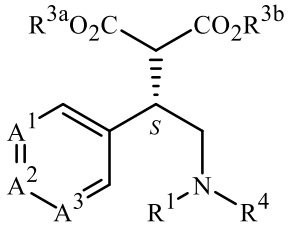
comprising contacting a compound of Formula **II-B** wherein

R^1 is methyl, ethyl or propyl; and

R^2 is methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl or *t*-butyl

with a compound of Formula **VI**.

11. The process of Claim 9 wherein a compound of Formula **II-B** is prepared using the process described in-Claim 1 comprising reducing a compound of Formula **IV**



IV

wherein

A^1 is CCF_3, A^2 is CH and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CH, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is N, A^2 is CCF_3 and A^3 is CH; or

A^1 is CCH_3, A^2 is N and A^3 is $COCHF_2$;

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl;

each R^{3a} and R^{3b} is independently C_1–C_4 alkyl; and

R^4 is benzyl substituted with C_1–C_4 alkyl, C_1–C_4 alkoxy or C_2–C_4 alkenyl; or unsubstituted benzyl

with a reducing agent.

12. The process of Claim 9 wherein a compound of Formula **II-B** is prepared using the process described in Claim 1 comprising reducing a compound of Formula **IV** and the compound of Formula **IV** is prepared using the process as described Claim 3 comprising reacting a compound of Formula **V** or a salt thereof with a di-(C_1–C_4 alkyl) malonate or a salt thereof.