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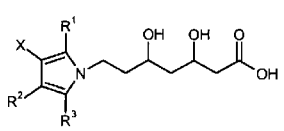
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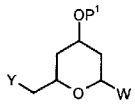
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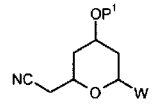
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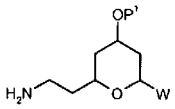
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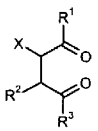
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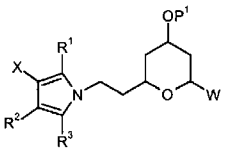

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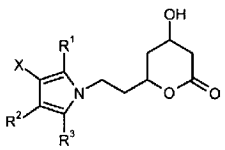

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(57) Abstract: There is provided a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (7) or salts thereof: wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R^2 represents a hydrogen or substituent group, R^3 represents a hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, and X represents a hydrogen or substituent group which comprises a) cyanating a compound of formula (1): wherein Y represents a halo group, preferably CI or Br; P^1 represents hydrogen or a protecting group, and W represents =0 or -OP^2, in which P^2 represents hydrogen or a protecting group, to give a compound of formula (2): b) reducing the compound of formula (2) to give a compound of formula (3): coupling the compound of formula (3) with a compound of formula (4): to give a compound of formula (5): when W represents -OP^2, deprotecting and then oxidising the compound of formula (5) to give a compound of formula (6): and e) subjecting the compound of formula (5) when W represents =O, or compound of formula (6) to ring-opening, and removal of any remaining protecting groups, to give a compound of formula (7) or salts thereof.

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