

(V), and

cc) said compound of formula (V) is reacted in the presence of aqueous alkali metal hydroxide or a strong base to give the compound of formula (I);

wherein

R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from a C1-C4 alkyl, and

X is -Br or -Cl.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein X is –Br.

3. The process according to claims 1 or 2, wherein R^1 and R^2 are both methyl.

4. The process according to claim 2, wherein reaction step bb) is carried out in the presence of aqueous alkali metal hydroxide at 50-80°C and under reduced pressure below 100 mbar.

5. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the catalyst in step aa) is $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ and the alkali metal hydroxide in step bb) is lithium- or sodium hydroxide.

5. The process according to claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (IV) is dissolved in a mixture of water and *N*-methylpyrrolidone, and is reacted in the presence of aqueous sodium hydroxide at about 75 to about 85°C and under reduced pressure for 15 to 20 hours to give directly the compound of formula (I) without the need to apply an aqueous work-up of the compound of formula (V).

7. The compound of formula (IV) according to claim 1.

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