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PROCESS FOR PREPARING OPTICALLY ACTIVE 2-AMINO- ω -OXOALKANOIC ACID DERIVATIVES

Process for preparing an (S)-2-amino- ω -

5 oxoalkanoic acid derivative in which the corresponding aldehyde is converted into the corresponding acetal-protected aldehyde, the acetal-protected aldehyde is converted into the corresponding aminonitrile, the aminonitrile is converted into the corresponding amino

10 acid amide, the amino acid amide is subjected to an enzymatic, enantioselective hydrolysis in which the R enantiomer of the amino acid amide remains and the S enantiomer is converted into the S amino acid, and the S amino acid is isolated. Preferably, the reaction

15 mixture obtained after the conversion of the aminonitrile into the amino acid amide is treated with a benzaldehyde, upon which the Schiff base of the amino acid amide is formed, the Schiff base is separated and is converted into the free amino acid amide.