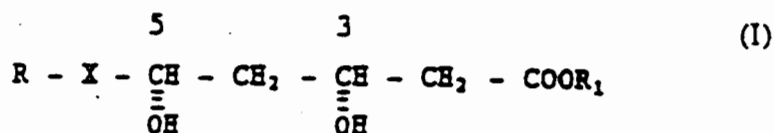


ABSTRACT

**7-SUBSTITUTED-HEPT-6-ENOIC AND -HEPTANOIC ACIDS AND DERIVATIVES
THEREOF**

A compound of formula I



wherein

X is -CH₂CH₂- or -CH=CH-;

R₁ is an ester group inert to the reaction conditions; and

R is an organic radical having groups which are inert under reducing conditions, with the proviso that, when R is triphenylmethyl, then R₁ additionally includes allyl and X is -OCH₂-.

or the free acid or a salt form or a further ester form or the δ-lactone, i.e. internal ester form thereof, in a state of purity such that the proportion of erythro to threo isomer is 99.1 : 0.9 or higher.