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(54) **SNAR PROCESS FOR PREPARING BENZIMIDAZOLE COMPOUNDS**

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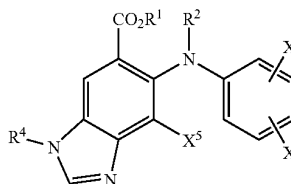
ABSTRACT

Provided are methods for the synthesis of heterocyclic compounds such as benzimidazole carboxylic acid core structures having Formula Ia-2 and their synthetic intermediates: wherein X¹, X², X⁵, R¹, R² and R⁴ are as defined herein. Compounds of Formula Ia-2 and their synthetic intermediates can be used to prepare heterocyclic derivatives such as benzimidazole derivatives.

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