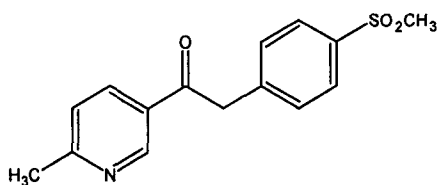


Abstract

The present invention relates to a novel in-situ process for preparing 1-(6-methylpyridin-3-yl)-2-[(4-(methylsulphonyl)phenyl)ethanone of the formula I,



I

which eliminates the isolation of ketosulfide stage and avoids use of methanesulfonic acid and alkali metal tungstate for the oxidation of ketosulfide to ketosulfone.