



- (51) **International Patent Classification:**  
*C07C 35/27* (2006.01) *C07C 211/42* (2006.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**  
PCT/IB2016/050249
- (22) **International Filing Date:**  
19 January 2016 (19.01.2016)
- (25) **Filing Language:** Italian
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**  
MI2015A000045 20 January 2015 (20.01.2015) IT
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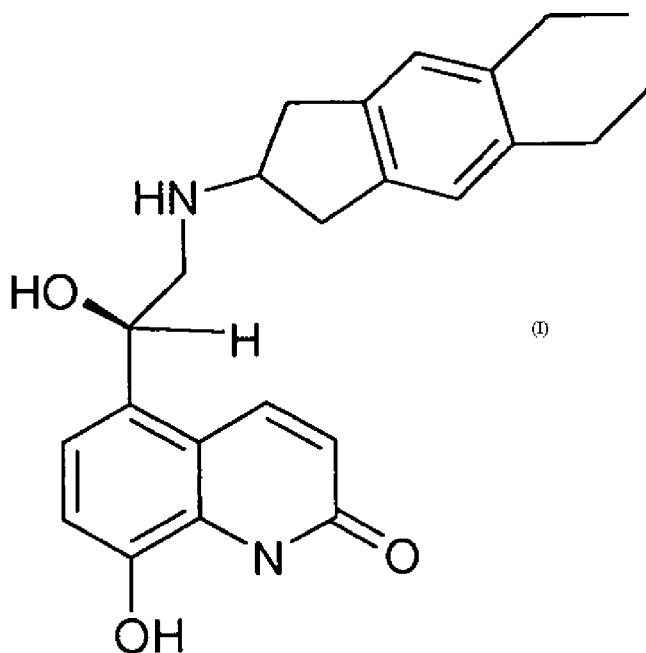
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- (81) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

- (84) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE,

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- (54) **Title:** PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF INDANAMINE DERIVATIVES AND NEW SYNTHESIS INTERMEDIATES



- (57) **Abstract:** Subject-matter of the invention is a process for the preparation of a key intermediate in the synthesis of indicaterol. Subject-matter of the invention are also new synthesis intermediates. Formula (I):



DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, **Published:**

LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE,  
SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,  
GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

## "PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF INDANAMINE DERIVATIVES AND NEW SYNTHESIS INTERMEDIATES"

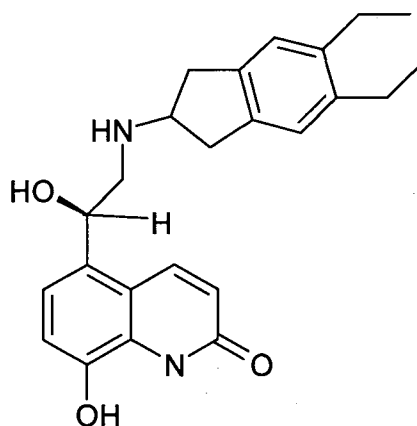
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### Abstract of the Invention

Subject-matter of the invention is a process for the preparation of a key intermediate in the synthesis of indacaterol. Subject-matter of the invention are also new synthesis intermediates.

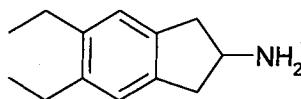
### Technical Field

Indacaterol is the international nonproprietary name of the compound (R)-5-[2-[(5,6-diethyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)amino]-1-hydroxyethyl]-8-hydroxyquinolin-2(1H)-one, having the following formula:



Indacaterol is a drug acting as selective agonist of beta-2 receptors and is recommended in the bronchospasm and in other bronchial pathological conditions such as bronchial asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

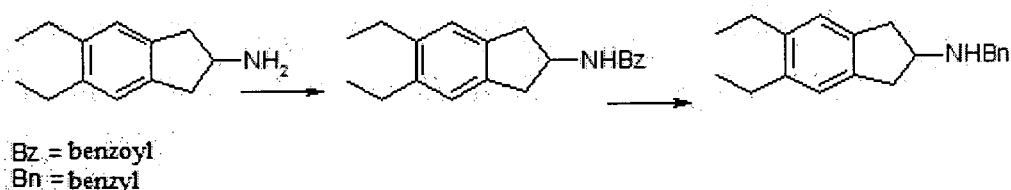
Some synthesis of the indacaterol are known which make use of 4,5-diethyl-1H-inden-2-yl-amine with the following formula



or N-substituted derivatives thereof, in particular the N-benzyl derivative, as key intermediates. Said intermediates are usually produced starting from the indanamine after protection of the amine group. For example, WO03/076387 describes the preparation of 4,5-diethyl-1H-inden-2-yl-amine starting from the indanamine

protected with trifluoroacetyl, by means of two consecutive Friedel-Crafts reactions, each of them followed by the reduction of the introduced ketone group. The above indicated process has the drawback of requiring the isolation and purification of the compounds obtained after each individual reaction step, thus resulting in a process complexity related to the several isolations of the intermediates and, obviously, in a yield loss.

Moreover, the preparation of the derivative wherein R is a benzyl group is described starting from the 4,5-diethyl-1H-inden-2-yl-amine, whose amine group is reacted with benzyl chloride and then subjected to reduction, according to the following scheme:



As it can be noted, the preparation of the benzyl derivative reported above requires two additional reaction steps, which affect the economy of the synthesis and determines higher costs, in particular in the case of industrial production.

WO 00/75114 describes the preparation of 4,5-diethyl-1H-inden-2-yl-amine starting from diethylbenzene; the process results in very low yields and, in addition, the starting compound (diethylbenzene) is particularly expensive. These drawbacks make the process described in WO00/75114 of no industrial interest.

Therefore, there is the need of finding a synthesis of the compounds of formula (I) which is of simple realization and does not require complex isolation and purification steps of the intermediates.

### Objects of the Invention

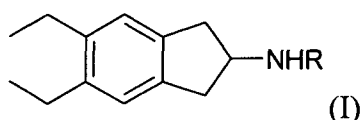
It is an object of the present invention to provide a process for the preparation of 4,5-diethyl-1H-inden-2-yl-amine or a N-derivative thereof which provides excellent yields and purity, while not necessarily requiring the isolation and purification of all the intermediate compounds.

It is another object of the invention to provide new versatile intermediate derivatives that can be used in the preparation of 4,5-diethyl-1H-inden-2-yl-amine or an N-derivative thereof, or as intermediates in the synthesis of other chemical compounds.

### Description of the Invention

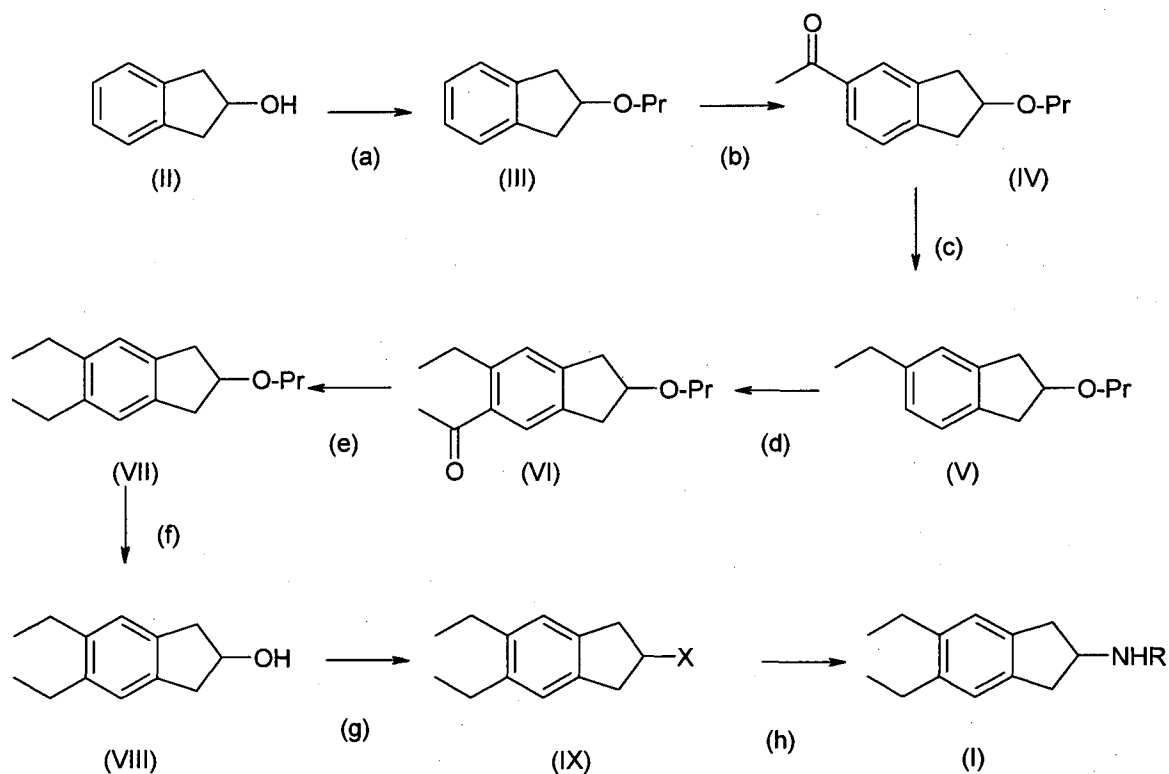
- It has been found that it is possible to prepare the 4,5-diethyl-1H-inden-2-yl-amine or the N-derivatives thereof or the salts thereof, by means of a simple synthesis starting from the indanol.

Therefore, according to one of its aspects, subject-matter of the invention is a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)

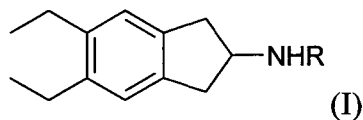


or salts thereof, wherein R is a hydrogen atom or an amine protecting or activating group, comprising the following steps from (a) to (g) according to the following scheme (I):

Scheme (I)



wherein R is as defined above, Pr is a protecting group of the oxygen which is not cleavable by hydrogenation and X is a leaving group for a nucleophilic substitution. In particular, it is a subject-matter of the invention a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)



or the salts thereof, wherein R is a hydrogen atom or an amine protecting or activating group, comprising:

- (a) protecting the hydroxy of the compound of formula (II) to obtain the compound of formula (III);
- (b) carrying out a Friedel Crafts reaction on the compound of formula (III) to obtain the compound of formula (IV);
- (c) reducing the compound of formula (IV) to obtain the compound of formula (V);
- (d) carrying out a Friedel Crafts reaction on the compound of formula (V) to obtain the compound of formula (VI);
- (e) reducing the compound of formula (VI) to obtain the compound of formula (VII);
- (f) deprotecting the hydroxy of the compound of formula (VII) to obtain the compound of formula (VIII);
- (g) introducing the X leaving group in place of the hydroxy to obtain the compound of formula (IX);
- (h) reacting the compound of formula (XI) with a compound of formula R-NH<sub>2</sub> to obtain the compound of formula (I) and optionally converting it into a salt thereof.

As "protecting group of the oxygen which is not cleavable by hydrogenation" it is meant herein to denote a protecting group which is not removed by the reduction reaction of the first ketone group introduced with the Friedel-Crafts reaction. Such protecting groups include acetyl, trifluoroacetyl and benzoyl and substituted benzoyls with deactivating substituents for the Friedel-Crafts reaction.

A preferred protecting group according to the present invention is the acetyl group.

As "X leaving group for a nucleophilic substitution" it is meant herein to denote a group allowing the nucleophilic substitution on the compound (VIII). Such groups include methanesulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate, benzenesulfonate, trifluoromethanesulfonate and halogens, for example chlorine and bromine. A preferred X group according to the present invention is the methanesulfonate group (also known as mesylate group).

The "amine protecting or activating group" includes benzyl and substituted benzyl, the latter being for example substituted with electron donating groups, the unsubstituted benzyl being a preferred group.

In step (a) the hydroxy protection can be carried out according to the techniques known to one skilled in the field, advantageously with an acyl halide, for example acetyl chloride which is not expensive and easily removable. Moreover, the use of the acetyl chloride avoids the isolation of the compound of formula (III) and allows to carry out step (a) and step (b), i.e., the Friedel-Crafts reaction, as a one-pot reaction, without therefore isolating the intermediate compound.

The Friedel-Crafts reaction of step (b) is carried out in the presence of an acyl halide, advantageously acyl chloride and a Lewis acid, for example  $\text{AlCl}_3$  according to the known techniques. Preferably, the acetyl-indanol/acyl halide/Lewis acid molar ratios are about 1/2-4/1.5-3.5, more preferably 1/3/2.5. The reaction temperature can range from  $-15^\circ\text{C}$  to  $+10^\circ\text{C}$ , advantageously between  $-10^\circ\text{C}$  and  $+0^\circ\text{C}$ , for example about  $-10^\circ\text{C}$ .

When the reactions of steps (a) and (b) are carried out as a one-pot reaction, the acetyl-indanol/acyl halide/Lewis acid molar ratios are preferably 1/4/2.5.

The dilution of the reaction bulk in step (b) can vary from 4 to 11 volumes, preferably 4-6 volumes of solvent, with respect to the starting product. It has been unexpectedly noted that by carrying out the reaction at low temperature, for example lower than  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , advantageously lower than  $-5^\circ\text{C}$ , for example about  $-10^\circ\text{C}$ , and by reducing the amount of solvent used, it is possible to half the formation of the undesired isomers (i.e., the compounds wherein the group introduced by the Friedel-Crafts reaction is in the 3 and 6 positions). As a matter of fact it has been observed

that a dilution of 4-6 volumes (with respect to the starting compound) allows to obtain an improvement in the yields of the desired compound with respect to what is obtained by using bigger solvent volumes. It can be easily understood that, in addition to a significant increase of the reaction yield, this involves also a reduced use of solvent which, from an industrial point of view, leads to a significant saving by reducing the costs of the raw material and disposal. This result is unique and unexpected.

The reduction reaction of step (c) can be carried out according to any possible known technique, for example the catalytic hydrogenation of the ketone in a suitable solvent, for example in an alcohol or in acetic acid, for example in ethanol, optionally with the addition of acetic acid, and by using Pd/C as catalyst. An example of a preferred hydrogenation of the step (c) is provided in the Experimental Section below.

In step (d), the Friedel Crafts reaction of step (b) is repeated in order to introduce the second substituent, preferably under the conditions described above.

Unless desired, it is not necessary to isolate the intermediate of formula (VI) and the following reduction reaction of step (e), advantageously carried out according to the procedures described in step (c), can be carried out on the raw product of the reaction of step (d).

The compound (VII) may also not be isolated and the deprotection reaction of step (f) can be carried out on the raw product of the reaction according to any method known in the art, for example in a solvent such as an alcohol, in a weakly basic environment. By way of example, the reaction can be carried out by heating a mixture of the raw product of the reaction of step (e) in ethanol, in the presence of an alkaline metal carbonate.

As an alternative to step (f), it is possible to carry out the hydrogenation step (e) under an acidic pH, for example in the presence of acetic acid, at temperatures of about 60-70°C. In this case, the compound of formula (VI) is reduced and deprotected at the same time, directly providing the compound of formula (VIII).

The compound (VIII) obtained from the reaction of step (e) under the above described conditions or from step (f), when carried out, may not be isolated and



purified and it is possible to proceed to the reaction of step (g) directly on the raw product of the reaction.

The step (g) can be carried out according to the methods known in the art, for example from the mixture of the compound (VIII) in a suitable solvent, in a basic environment, for example by addition of an amine, such as diisopropylethylamine and by adding the desired reagent to obtain the X group. By way of example, if it is desired to obtain the compound (VIII) wherein X is a methanesulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate, benzenesulfonate, trifluoromethanesulfonate group and the like, it is possible to use a methanesulfonyl, p-toluenesulfonyl, benzenesulfonyl or trifluoromethanesulfonyl halide, the halide being preferably chloride.

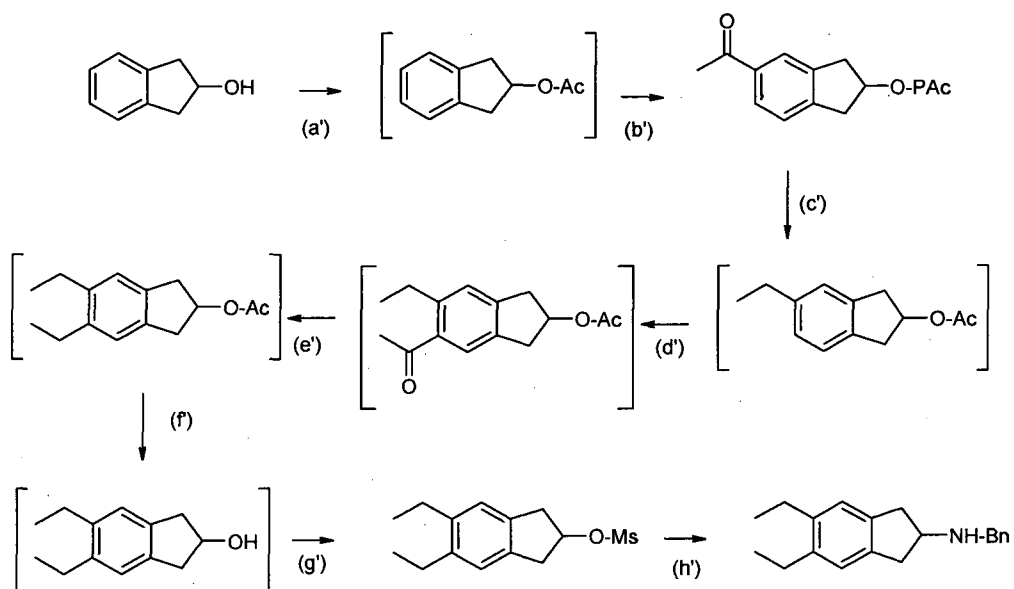
Alternatively, if it is desired to obtain the compound (VIII) wherein X is a halogen atom, it will be possible to use conventional halogenating agents, including HX; therefore, in the case of chlorine, it will be possible to use a conventional chlorinating agent, such as HCl, SOCl<sub>2</sub>, PCl<sub>3</sub>, PCl<sub>5</sub>, and the like.

According to a preferred embodiment, X is selected from methanesulfonate and p-toluenesulfonate, advantageously methanesulfonate.

The compound of formula (IX) is preferably isolated and purified according to known methods and is converted into the compound of formula (I) by reacting with the desired amine of formula NH<sub>2</sub>R in step (h). When the reaction is carried out with ammonia or benzylamine, it is preferably performed without any solvent, by simply heating the mixture of the compound of formula (IX) and of the amine.

According to a preferred embodiment, the process of the invention is carried out according to the following scheme (II):

Scheme (II)

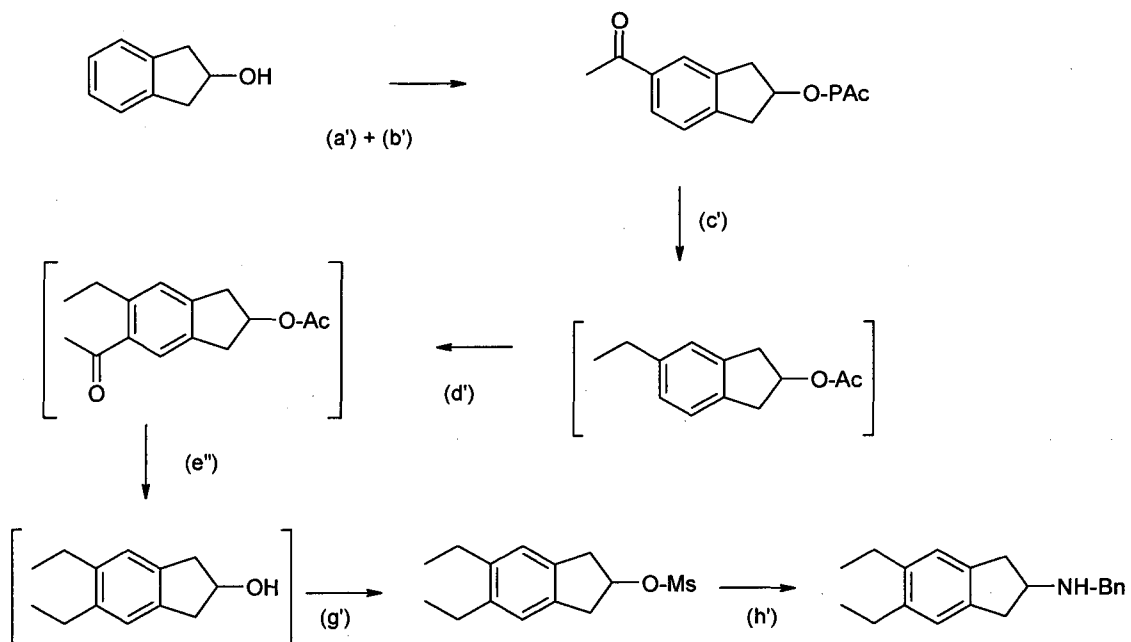


wherein

Ac = acetyl, Ms = mesyl and Bn = benzyl.

According to a particularly preferred embodiment, the process of Scheme (II) is carried out by combining together steps (a') and (b') and by carrying out the reaction of step (e') under acidic environment and at a temperature of about 60-70°C to avoid step (f') according to the following scheme (III):

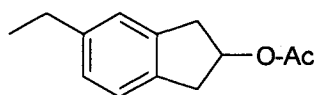
Scheme (III)



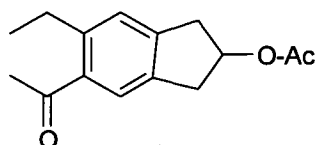
With respect to known synthesis, for example the synthesis described in WO03/076387, the process of the invention allows to obtain the compounds of formula (I) in an original and even easier way, by using the specific sequence of reactions described above which involve cheap reagents and do not require the isolation and purification of the individual intermediates. As a matter of fact, in performing the process described in WO03/076387, it is necessary to isolate and crystallize nearly all of the intermediates obtained from the various steps, whereas in the synthesis subject-matter of the invention it is necessary to isolate only the compounds (IV) and (IX) (see Scheme (I)). These further treatments significantly affect yields and industrial costs and also for these reasons the process of the invention is a technical advancement with respect to the known art.

If desired, however, such intermediates can be obviously isolated and purified.

The compounds of formula (VII), (VIII), (IX), (X) and (XI)



(X)



(XI)

wherein Ac is an acetyl group, are new and represent a further subject-matter of the present invention.

According to a preferred embodiment, in the compound of formula (IX), X is selected from a halogen atom, a methanesulfonate group, a p-toluenesulfonate group, a benzenesulfonate group and a trifluoromethanesulfonate group.

According to a particularly preferred embodiment, X is selected from a chlorine atom, a methanesulfonate group, a p-toluenesulfonate group, a benzenesulfonate group and a trifluoromethanesulfonate group.

A particularly preferred compound of formula (IX) is the compound wherein X is a methanesulfonate group.

Subject-matter of the invention, according to another of the aspects thereof, is a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VIII) comprising carrying out the reactions of steps (a) to (f) as defined above.

Subject-matter of the invention, according to another of the aspects thereof, is a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IX) comprising carrying out the reactions of steps (a) to (g) as defined above.

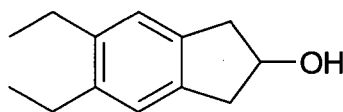
If desired, it is possible to convert the compound of formula (I) into a salt thereof, for example into the hydrochloride, according to the methods known in the art.

A further subject-matter of the invention is the use of the compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof obtained by the process described herein and claimed for the preparation of the indacaterol.

It is also a subject-matter of the invention the use of at least one compound selected from the compounds of formula (VII), (VIII), (IX), (X) and (XI) as defined above for the preparation of the indacaterol.

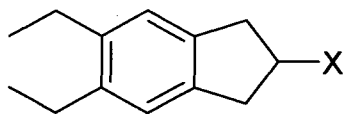
It is a further subject-matter of the invention a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined above, or a salt thereof, comprising:

introducing the group of formula Pr' on the hydroxy of a compound of formula (VIII)



(VIII)

to obtain the compound of formula (IX)



(IX)

reacting the compound of formula (IX) with a compound of formula R-NH<sub>2</sub> wherein R is as defined above, to obtain the compound of formula (I) and optionally converting it into a salt thereof.

According to a preferred embodiment, in the process above X is selected from methanesulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate, benzenesulfonate and trifluoromethanesulfonate and a halogen atom, advantageously chlorine.

According to another preferred embodiment, in the process described above R is hydrogen or benzyl.

## **Experimental Section**

### Definitions

UPLC/MS ultra-performance liquid chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry detector

DIPEA diisopropylethylamine

DCM dichloromethane

iPrOAc isopropyl acetate

IPA isopropyl alcohol

CG gas chromatography

### Steps (a) + (b)

21.2 ml (298.32 mmols) of AcCl are charged into a flask, cooled to 0°C and 10 g (74.58 mmols) of indanol are added during about 10 minutes. The bath is removed and left under stirring for 1 h. 24.8 g (186.45 mmols) of AlCl<sub>3</sub> are charged into a three-neck flask, 70 ml of DCM are added followed by cooling at 0°C. The indanol solution is then added dropwise into the suspension of AlCl<sub>3</sub> in DCM. It is stirred for 45 min. The control is done by UPLC/MS. The reaction is added dropwise into 200 ml of water and 35 ml of concentrated HCl, while keeping the temperature below 25°C. It is stirred for 45 minutes. The phases are separated, the aqueous phase is extracted once with 100 ml of DCM. It is washed with 100 ml of water, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated to a small volume. Recrystallization is carried out from heptane/iPrOAc: 4/1 (50 ml).

### Step (c)

50.3 g (230.5 mmols) of the raw product of the reaction obtained in the preceding reaction are dissolved in 522 g of ethanol, the hydrogenator is charged and 5 g of Pd/C are added. It is brought to 25 bars at ambient temperature. The hydrogenation is

carried out until the completion of the reaction (GC control) followed by catalyst filtration on cellulose. It is concentrated under vacuum to a small volume.

Step (d)

18.22 g (133.6 mmols) of  $\text{AlCl}_3$  are charged into a flask and 55 ml of DCM are added. It is cooled to  $0^\circ\text{C}$  and 11.65 ml (161 mmols) of  $\text{AcCl}$  are added dropwise while keeping the temperature at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ . It is stirred for 15 minutes, then 11 g of the raw product of the reaction obtained in the preceding reaction (53.44 mmols) are added while keeping the temperature at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ . It is stirred for about 1 hour by checking the evolution by UPLC/MS. The reaction is added dropwise in 160 ml of cold water and 35 ml of concentrated  $\text{HCl}$  while keeping the temperature below  $25^\circ\text{C}$  and stirring for 45 minutes. The phases are separated, the aqueous phase is extracted once with 80 ml of DCM. It is washed with 100 ml of water, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated to a small volume.

Step (d)

12.4 g (50.35 mmols) of the raw product of the reaction obtained in the preceding reaction are dissolved in 350 ml of ethanol, the hydrogenator is charged and 1.33 g of  $\text{Pd/C}$  are added. It is brought to  $50^\circ\text{C}$  and 25 bars and the hydrogenation is carried out until the completion of the reaction.

Step (f)

10.4 g (44.76 mmols) of the raw product of the reaction obtained in the preceding reaction are charged into a flask and 85 ml of methanol and 35 ml of water are added. 12.4 g (89.52 mmols) of  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  are added and it is left under stirring overnight. The completion of the reaction is checked by means of UPLC/MS. It is diluted with 35 ml of water, extracted 2 times with 80 ml of DCM, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated to a small volume.

Step (g)

3.508 g (18.43 mmols) of substrate are charged into a flask and 30 ml of DCM are added. It is cooled to  $0^\circ\text{C}$  and 3.852 ml (22.11 mmols) of DIPEA are added dropwise. 1.570 ml (20.27 mmols) of  $\text{MsCl}$  are added dropwise and it is stirred until the completion of the reaction, which is checked by means of UPLC. It is washed with 20 ml 2M  $\text{HCl}$ , the phases are separated, the organic phase is washed with 30

ml of  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  and then with 30 ml of HCl. It is dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated to a small volume. Crystallization is carried out from iPrOAc/heptane 1:10 (35 ml). Yield: 62% white solid.

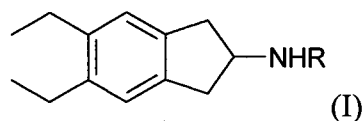
Step (h)

2.285 ml (20.9 mmols) of benzylamine are charged into a flask which is heated to  $80^\circ\text{C}$ . 1.871 g (6.97 mmols) of the compound obtained in the step (g) are added portionwise followed by heating to  $80^\circ\text{C}$ . The reaction is checked by UPLC/MS. Dilution is carried out with 35 ml of DCM followed by washing with 15 ml of 5% citric acid to remove the unreacted benzylamine. The phases are separated and the organic phase is washed with 15 ml of 1M NaOH. It is anhydriified and concentrated to a small volume, it is diluted with 10 ml of acetone and 700  $\mu\text{l}$  of concentrated HCl are added dropwise. The precipitate is filtered over a Buchner filter. 1.7 g of a white solid are obtained (Molar yield = 80%). The product can be crystallized, for example in IPA, for further purification. The product contains less than 0.7-0.2% (GC analysis) of regioisomer.

Overall yield from (a) to (h) 50%.

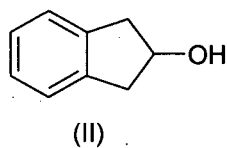
**CLAIMS**

1. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)

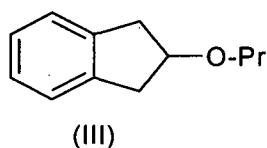


or salts thereof, wherein R is a hydrogen atom or an amine protecting or activating group, comprising:

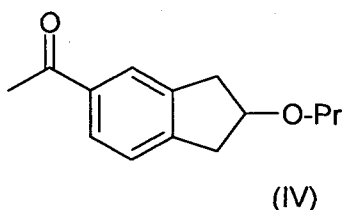
- (a) protecting the hydroxy of the compound of formula (II)



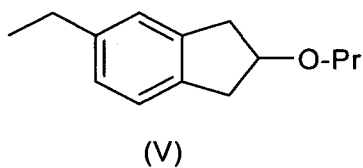
to obtain the compound of formula (III)



- (b) carrying out a Friedel Crafts reaction on the compound of formula (III) to obtain the compound of formula (IV)

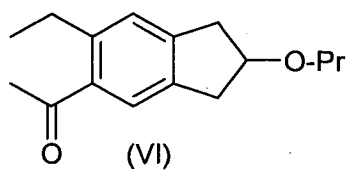


- (c) hydrogenating the compound of formula (IV) to obtain the compound of formula (V)

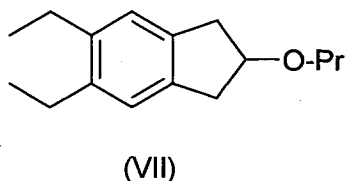


- (d) carrying out a Friedel Crafts reaction on the compound of formula (V) to obtain the compound of formula (VI)

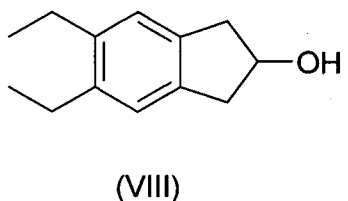




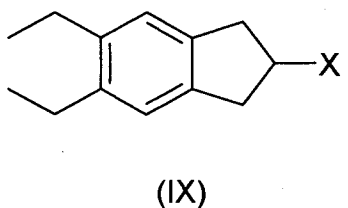
- (e) hydrogenating the compound of formula (VI) to obtain the compound of formula (VII)



- (f) deprotecting the hydroxy of the compound of formula (VII) to obtain the compound of formula (VIII)



- (g) introducing the group of formula X to obtain the compound of formula (IX);

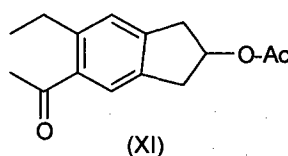
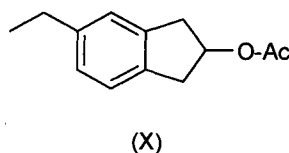


- (h) reacting the compound of formula (IX) with a compound of formula  $R-NH_2$  to obtain the compound of formula (I) and optionally converting it into a salt thereof,

wherein R is as defined above, Pr is a protecting group of the oxygen which is not cleavable by hydrogenation and X is a leaving group for a nucleophilic substitution.

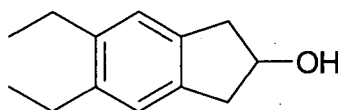
2. The process according to claim 1, characterized in that Pr is selected from acetate, trifluoroacetate and benzoate.

3. The process according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that X is selected from methanesulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate, benzenesulfonate, trifluoromethanesulfonate, and a halogen atom.
4. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that steps (a) and (b) are carried out with an acyl halide and are performed in a one-pot reaction.
5. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that step (c) and step (e) are carried out by hydrogenation, in the presence of a solvent and of a catalyst.
6. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that step (f) is not performed and in step (e) the ketone is reduced and at the same time the hydroxy group is deprotected, to directly obtain the compound of formula (VIII).
7. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that in step (g) a mesyl or tosyl halide or a chlorinating agent is used.
8. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that in step (h) a compound of formula  $R-NH_2$  is used, wherein R is as defined in claim 1.
9. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that steps (b) and (d) are carried out at temperatures lower than zero and with dilutions of 4-6 volumes of solvent with respect to the starting compound.
10. A compound selected from the compounds of formula (VII), (VIII), (IX) and from the compounds of formula (X) and (XI).



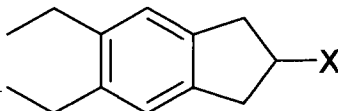
wherein Ac is an acetyl group.

11. A compound of formula (IX) wherein X is selected from a halogen atom and a methanesulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate, benzenesulfonate, trifluoromethanesulfonate group.
12. Use of the compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof obtained by the process according to any one of claims 1 to 9, for the preparation of indacaterol.
13. Use of at least one compound selected from the compounds of formula (VII), (VIII), (IX), (X) and (XI) as defined in claims 10 or 11, for the preparation of indacaterol.
14. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, or a salt thereof, comprising:
  - introducing the group of formula X on the hydroxy of a compound of formula (VIII)



(VIII)

- wherein X is as defined in claims 1 or 3, to obtain the compound of formula (IX);



(IX)

- reacting the compound of formula (IX) with a compound of formula R-NH<sub>2</sub> to obtain the compound of formula (I) and optionally converting it into a salt thereof.
15. The process according to claim 14, characterized in that X is selected from a methanesulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate, benzenesulfonate, trifluoromethanesulfonate group and a chlorine atom.
  16. The process according to claim 14 or 15, characterized in that R is selected from hydrogen and benzyl.

17. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VIII) comprising carrying out the reactions of steps (a) to (f) as defined in claims 1 to 9.
18. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IX) comprising carrying out the reactions of steps (a) to (g) as defined in claims 1 to 9.
19. The process according to claim 18, characterized in that X is a methanesulfonate group.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/IB2016/050249

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. C07C35/27 C07C211/42  
ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
C07C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, CHEM ABS Data

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A	example IIA	1
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

8 April 2016

Date of mailing of the international search report

25/04/2016

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/IB2016/050249

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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