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(54) **PREPARATION OF A CAMPTOTHECIN
DERIVATIVE BY INTRAMOLECULAR
CYCLISATION**

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(58) **Field of Search** **514/291; 546/83**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a method for the preparation
for camptothecin and camptothecin-like compounds and to
novel intermediates used in this preparation. In particular,
the invention provides a process for the preparation of the
camptothecin derivative of formula (I') known by the chemi-
cal name "7-(4-methylpiperazino-methylene)-10,11-
ethylenedioxy-20(R,S)-camptothecin", which comprises
cyclising the compound of formula (II'), wherein X is
halogen, particularly chloro, bromo, or iodo; and when the
compound of formula (I') is obtained as a mixture of
enantiomers optionally resolving the mixture to obtain the
desired enantiomer; and/or if desired, converting the result-
ing compound of formula (I') or a salt thereof into a
physiologically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

5 Claims, No Drawings