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

(75) Inventors: **Francis Gerard Fang**, Durham, NC (US); **Edward McDonald Huie**, Cary, NC (US); **Shiping Xie**, Cary, NC (US); **Daniel L. Comins**, Raleigh, NC (US)

(73) Assignee: **OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**, Melville, NY (US)

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Primary Examiner—Alan L. Rotman
Assistant Examiner—Rita Desai
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—John P. White; Cooper & Dunham LLP

(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 chemical 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 resulting compound of formula (I') or a salt thereof into a physiologically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

2 Claims, No Drawings