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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication****Sanchez-Ferrer et al.**(10) **Pub. No.: US 2003/0073156 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Apr. 17, 2003**(54) **PROCESS FOR PREPARING
CEPHALOSPORIN DERIVATIVES**(76) Inventors: **Alvaro Sanchez-Ferrer**, Murcia (ES);
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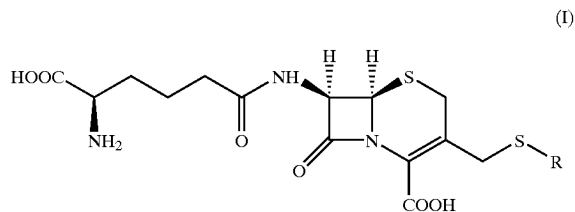
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WASHINGTON, DC 20004 (US)(21) Appl. No.: **10/125,554**(22) Filed: **Apr. 19, 2002**(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

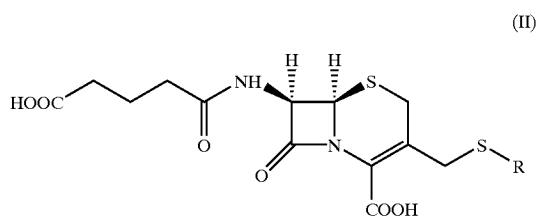
Apr. 19, 2001	(EP)	EP01201426.2
May 9, 2001	(EP)	EP01201699.4
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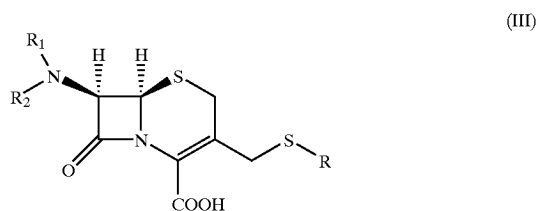
An enzymatic process for preparing 3-thiolated 7-aminocephalosporanic acid derivatives comprises the steps of enzymatically converting a 3-thiolated cephalosporin C of the formula I:



to form a 3-thiolated -glutaryl-7-ACA of the formula II



and enzymatically converting a compound of formula II to form a 3-thiolated-7-ACA of the formula III



wherein R is a heterocyclic group comprising at least one nitrogen atom and R₁ and R₂ are both hydrogen atoms or one of them is a hydrogen atom and the other is an acyl donor.