

other naphthalene derivatives

Q 1020

40-090

Efficient Enantioselective Synthesis of Sertraline, a Potent Antidepressant, via a Novel Intramolecular Nucleophilic Addition to Imine.

— The asymmetric synthesis of sertraline (II) is accomplished in 45% overall yield and 6 steps starting from 3,4-dichlorocinnamic acid. The last step, unprecedented in literature, involves metal-halide exchange of iodoimine (I) followed by intramolecular, stereoselective anionic addition to the imine moiety. The high efficiency of this stereoselective ring closure is remarkable and of interest for application in the synthesis of other chiral amines. — (CHEN, CHENG-YI; REAMER, ROBERT A.; *Org. Lett.* 1 (1999) 2, 293-294; Process Res. Dep., Merck Res. Lab., Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ 07065, USA; EN)

