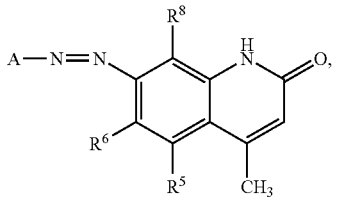
9. A process according to claim 3, wherein the conversion of a compound of formula III into a compound II and of the resulting compound of formula II into a compound of formula I is carried out as a one-pot reaction.

10. A process according to claim 1, wherein a compound of formula I is reacted with a suitable coupling component to form a compound of formula

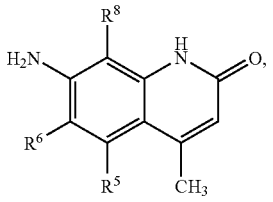
(VI)



R^5, R^6 and R^8 being as defined in claim 1 and A being the radical of a coupling component.

11. A compound of the formula

(I)



wherein R^5, R^6 and R^8 are each independently of the others a hydrogen atom, a nitro group, a sulfo group, a halogen atom, a pseudohalogen, a group $COOR^1$ or $CONHR^2$ or a C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{1-8}alkoxy or aryloxy radical, an amide group, a thioalkyl or thioaryl radical, an alkyl- or aryl-sulfonyl radical, an alkyl- or aryl-sulfinyl radical, a trifluoromethyl group or a phosphono group, R^1 and R^2 being a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-8}alkyl radical or an aryl or aralkyl radical, having an isomeric purity of more than 95%.

* * * * *