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19. The process of claim 16, wherein in step (1) thereof, the heterogeneous reaction mixture is an ether/water mixture.

20. The process of claim 16, wherein in step (2) thereof, the ether type solvent is tetrahydrofuran.

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21. The process of claim 16, wherein in step (2) thereof, HX is HCl.

22. The process of claim 16, wherein in step (3) thereof, HY is HCN.

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