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in which R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, R9, R10, and R11 are independently hydrogen or an electron-withdrawing group;

R12 is Cl or acetate; and

M is iron, manganese, chromium, ruthenium, cobalt, copper or nickel.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein the inert aromatic solvent is a polyhalogenated aromatic solvent.

3. The process of claim 2, wherein the polyhalogenated aromatic solvent is trifluorotoluene.

4. The process of claim 1, wherein the reaction medium further comprises a co-solvent capable of increasing the solubility of the drug in the reaction medium.

5. The process of claim 4, wherein the co-solvent is a polar and poorly nucleophilic solvent.

6. The process of claim 4, wherein the co-solvent is 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol or 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-propan-2-ol.

7. The process of claim 4, wherein the co-solvent concentration ranges between 1% and 30%.

8. The process of claim 1, wherein the reaction medium comprises a biphasic solution.

9. The process of claim 8, wherein the reaction medium comprises an inert aromatic solvent and a co-solvent, the co-solvent having the capability of transferring the drug between phases.

10. The process of claim 8, wherein the co-solvent is hexafluoroisopropanol.

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11. The process of claim 8, wherein the reaction medium comprises a first aqueous phase that includes the oxidizing agent and a second organic phase that includes the drug, the metalloporphyrin, and the inert aromatic solvent.

12. The process of claim 11, wherein the second phase includes a co-solvent having the capability of transferring the oxidizing agent between phases.

13. The process of claim 12, wherein the co-solvent is water-miscible.

14. The process of claim 12, where the co-solvent is 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-propan-2-ol.

15. The process of claim 9, further comprising introducing a phase-transfer catalyst into the reaction medium, the phase-transfer catalyst having the capability of allowing the transfer of reactants from between phases.

16. The process of claim 15, wherein the phase-transfer catalyst is a tetraalkyl ammonium salt.

17. The process of claim 16, wherein the tetraalkyl ammonium salt is dodecyl-trimethyl-ammonium bromide.

18. The process of claim 1, wherein R1, R2, and R3 of formula 1 are independently hydrogen, Cl, F, Br or SO₃Na.

19. The process of claim 1, wherein R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, R19, R10, and R11 of formula 1 are independently hydrogen, Cl, F, Br, NO₂, CN or SO₃Na.

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