

Z-Isomers of compounds of general formula (IV): [wherein  $R^1$  is 2-(2-N-protected aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-alkoxyiminoacetyl or the like,  $R^2$  is hydrogen or the like;  $R^3$  is hydrogen, a carboxyl-protecting group or the like; and  $R^8$  is alkyl or the like] can be prepared at high selectivities and in high yields by reacting a compound of general formula (I): [wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each as defined above; and  $R^4$  is aryl or the like] with a 4-substituted or -unsubstituted thiazole-5-carbaldehyde in a mixed solvent comprising a chlorinated hydrocarbon and a lower alkanol at a temperature of as low as +5 °C or below.

