

A process is disclosed for preparing carboxylic acid derivatives having the general formula (I), in which X stands for OR^2 or NH_2 , R^1 stands for $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ hydroxyalkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{12}$ -cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_{12}$ alkyl-cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_{12}$ -cycloalkyl-alkyl, $\text{C}_5\text{-C}_{20}$ alkyl-cycloalkyl-alkyl, aryl, $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$ aralkyl, $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$ alkylaryl, an heteroaliphatic or heteroaromatic ring with 5 to 8 carbon atoms and R^2 stands for $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ alkyl, from carboxylic acid nitriles having the general formula (II) $\text{R}^1-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$, in which R^1 has the above-mentioned meanings, and from alcohols having the general formula (III) $\text{R}^2\text{-OH}$, in which R^2 has the above-mentioned meanings. The reaction is carried out in the liquid phase at temperatures from 50 to 300°C and pressures from 0.1 to 350 bars in the presence of an heterogeneous catalyst.

