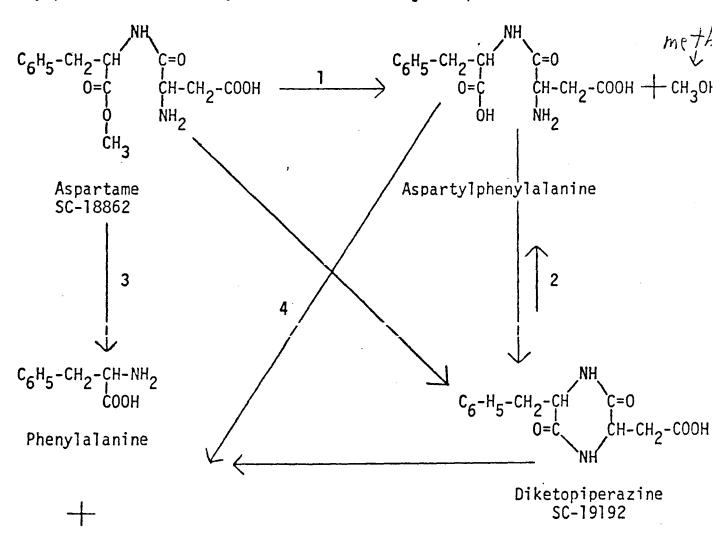
FAP 2A3661

SEARLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

ASPARTAME FOR USE AS A SWEETENER IN CARBONATED BEVERAGES

PETITION CONTROL VOLUME 1 1 of 4

The transformation of aspartame in aqueous solution is due mainly to the hydrolysis of the methyl ester linkage of the carboxylic compound. Although splitting of the amide linkages may occur, the rate of hydrolysis is much slower than that of the methyl ester. The hydrolysis may proceed as follows; with route 1 being the predominant mechanism.



Aspartic Acid

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OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76) Prescribed by GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206