

**A simple synthesis of 7,4'-dihydroxy-6-methoxyisoflavone, glycitein, the third soybean isoflavone.**

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**Abstract**

4-Methoxyresorcinol (3) was synthesized as the precursor for glycitein (6) synthesis by the oxidation of 3-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzaldehyde (1) to the aryl formate with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and a catalytic amount of SeO<sub>2</sub>. Glycitein (6) was synthesized by cyclization of 2,4,4'-trihydroxy-5-methoxydeoxybenzoin (5) with N,N-dimethylformamide, boron trifluoride diethyl ether, and methanesulfonyl chloride in a microwave oven.