

NON-STEROIDAL COMPOUNDS USEFUL AS GLUCOCORTICOID RECEPTOR MODULATORS

- 5 The present invention relates to glucocorticoid receptor modulating compounds as well as to the use of these compounds in therapy.

Intracellular receptors are a class of structurally related proteins involved in the regulation of gene proteins. Steroid receptors are a subset of these receptors, including
10 the glucocorticoid receptor (GR), progesterone receptor (PR), androgen receptor (AR), estrogen receptor (ER), and mineralocorticoid receptor (MR). Regulation of a gene by such receptors or factors requires the intracellular receptor and a corresponding ligand which has the ability to selectively bind to the receptor in a way that affects gene transcription.

- 15 The current steroidal glucocorticoid receptor modulators (glucocorticoids) like prednisolone a.o. are very effective anti-inflammatory agents that are currently used to treat diseases like Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), Lupus, allergies, asthma, psoriasis and to prevent transplant rejection (J.D. Baxter, Advances in Internal Medicine 45; 317-349; 2000). Anti-inflammatory effects of these
20 compounds are thought to be mediated through an inhibition of the expression of pro-inflammatory mediators like adhesion molecules, cytokines, chemokines and enzymes by a mechanism that involves the interaction of the ligand-bound GR with transcription factors. This mechanism is referred to as transrepression (M. Karin, Cell 93; 487-490; 1998) .

- 25 The use of current steroidal glucocorticoids is accompanied by metabolic and other side effects (e.g. diabetes, hypertension, osteoporosis, muscle wasting, a.o.). Part of these side effects are thought to be mediated through the direct interaction of the ligand bound GR to glucocorticoid responsive elements (GRE's) on the DNA of target genes and the subsequent induction of gene expression (J.D. Baxter, Advances in Internal
30 Medicine 45; 317-349; 2000; M. Karin, Cell 93;487-490; 1998). Another part of these side effects might be due to cross-reactivity with other steroidal receptors, like the mineralcorticoid (MR) or the progesterone receptor (PR).

Non-steroidal glucocorticoids have no molecular structural similarity with steroids and therefore one might also expect differences in physicochemical properties,

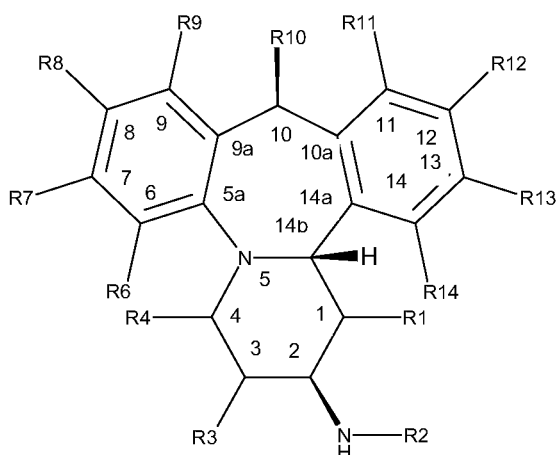
pharmacokinetics (PK) parameters, tissue distribution (*e.g.* CNS versus peripheral) and more importantly non-steroidal glucocorticoids may show no/less cross-reactivity to other steroid receptors or may show no/less metabolic or other side effects.

- 5 The present invention provides non-steroidal compounds that modulate glucocorticoid receptor activity. More particularly, the present invention provides high affinity non-steroidal compounds for GR binding which show anti-inflammatory effects *in vitro* and *in vivo*. According to the present invention compounds are provided having a general formula I, or a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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The present invention provides non-steroidal compounds that modulate glucocorticoid receptor activity. More particularly, the present invention provides high affinity non-steroidal compounds which are agonists, partial agonists or antagonists of the glucocorticoid receptor. According to the present invention compounds are provided

- 15 having a general Formula I,



Formula I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In this formula the R groups have the following meanings:

- R₁ is -H or -(1-4C)alkyl;
- 20 -R₂ is -C(O)R₁₅ or -S(O)₂R₁₅;
- R₃ is -H, -(1-4C) alkyl or -OR₁₆;
- R₄ is -H, -(1-4C)alkyl or -OR₁₆;
- R₆ is -H or -C(R₁₆)NOR₁₆;
- R₇ is -H, -halogen, -cyano;
- 25 -(1-6C) alkyl, -(2-6C)alkenyl or -(2-6C)alkynyl, all optionally substituted with -amino,

- hydroxyl or -halogen;
-R₈ is -H, -cyano, -halogen, -nitro;
-(1-6C)alkyl, -(2-6C)alkenyl, -(2-6C)alkynyl or -O(1-6C)alkyl, all optionally substituted with -amino, -hydroxyl or -halogen;
- 5 -(hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -cyano, -halogen, -(1-4C)alkyl, -(1-4C)alkoxy, -(1-4C)alkoxy(1-4C)alkyl or -(hetero)aryl;
-C(R₁₆)NOR₁₆, -C(O)N(R₁₇)₂, -C(O)R₁₈, -C(O)OR₁₉, -NHC(O)R₂₀ or -NHS(O)₂R₂₁;
-R₉ is -H, -halogen, -cyano, or -(1-4C)alkyl, optionally substituted with -halogen;
-R₁₀ is -H or -(1-4C)alkyl;
- 10 -R₁₁ is -H;
-R₁₂ is -H, -cyano or -(1-4C)alkyl;
-R₁₃ is -H, -(1-4C)alkyl, -halogen or -formyl;
-R₁₄ is -H, -halogen, -cyano, -(1-4C)alkyl or -(hetero)aryl;
-R₁₅ is -H;
- 15 -(1-6C)alkyl, -(2-6C)alkenyl, -(2-6C)alkynyl, -O(2-6C)alkyl, -O(2-6C)alkenyl or -O(2-6C)alkynyl, all optionally substituted with one or more -OH, -halogen, -cyano or -(hetero)aryl;
-(hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -(1-4C)alkyl, -halogen or -NH₂;
-NH₂, -(di)(1-4C)alkylamino, -(1-4C)alkylthio(1-4C)alkyl, -(1-4C)alkoxy(1-4C)alkyl
- 20 or -NR₁₆OR₁₆;
-R₁₆ is -H, -(1-6C)alkyl, -(2-6C)alkenyl or -(2-6C)alkynyl;
-R₁₇ is -H;
-(1-6C)alkyl, optionally substituted with halogen, -(1-4C)alkoxy or -(hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -halogen, -(1-4C)alkyl or -(1-4C)alkoxy;
- 25 -(3-6C)cycloalkyl or -(hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -halogen, -(1-4C)alkyl or -(1-4C)alkoxy;
-R₁₈ is -H, -NH₂ or -(1-4C)alkyl, optionally substituted with -OH, -halogen, -cyano or -S(1-4C)alkyl;
-R₁₉ is -H or -(1-6C)alkyl, optionally substituted with -OH or -halogen;
- 30 -R₂₀ is -H;
-(1-6C)alkyl or -(2-6C)alkenyl, both optionally substituted by -halogen, -O(1-6C)alkyl, -(hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -(1-4C)alkyl or -halogen;

-(3-6C)cycloalkyl, -(1-6C)alkoxy, -(1-6C)alkenyloxy;
-(hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -(1-4C)alkyl;
-NH₂, -NH(1-6C)alkyl or -NH((hetero)aryl) and
-R₂₁ is -H or -(1-6C)alkyl.

5

Thus, it has now been found, that the foregoing class of compounds according to Formula I or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, have glucocorticoid receptor modulatory activity.

- 10 The term -(1-6C)alkyl as used in the definition of the invention means a branched or unbranched alkyl group having 1-6 carbon atoms, for example methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, sec-butyl and tert-butyl, pentyl and hexyl. Preferred are -(1-4C)alkyl. The term -(1-4C)alkyl as used in the definition of the invention means a branched or unbranched alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms, for example methyl, ethyl, propyl,
15 isopropyl, butyl, sec-butyl and tert-butyl. Preferred are methyl and ethyl. Most preferred is methyl.

The term -(3-6C)cycloalkyl means a cyclic alkyl group having 3-6 carbon atoms.

The term halogen means fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine.

- The term -(2-6C)alkenyl means a branched or unbranched alkenyl group having 2-6
20 carbon atoms, such as ethenyl, 2-butenyl, pentenyl and hexenyl. Preferred are -(2-4C)alkenyl.

The term -(2-4C)alkenyl means a branched or unbranched alkenyl group having 2-4 carbon atoms, such as ethenyl and 2-butenyl.

- The term -(2-6C)alkynyl means a branched or unbranched alkynyl group having 2-6
25 carbon atoms, such as ethynyl, propynyl, butyl, pentynyl and hexynyl. Preferred are -(2-4C)alkynyl.

The term -(2-4C)alkynyl means a branched or unbranched alkynyl group having 2-4 carbon atoms, such as ethynyl and propynyl.

- The term -O(1-6C)alkyl means -(1-6C)alkyloxy wherein -(1-6C)alkyl has the
30 previously defined meaning.

The term -O(2-6C)alkenyl means -(2-6C)alkenyloxy wherein -(2-6C)alkenyl has the previously defined meaning.

The term -O(2-6C)alkynyl means -(2-6C)alkynyloxy wherein -(2-6C)alkynyl has the previously defined meaning.

The term -(1-4C)alkyloxy means an alkyloxy group having 1-4 carbon atoms, the alkyl moiety having the same meaning as previously defined. -(1-2C)Alkyloxy groups are
5 preferred. Most preferred is methoxy.

The term -(1-4C)alkoxy(1-4C)alkyl means a -(1-4C)alkoxy attached to a -(1-4C)alkyl group, both groups having the previously defined meanings.

The term -(di)(1-4C)alkylamino means a amino moiety, with at least one, optionally two hydrogens replaced by a -(1-4C) alkyl group as previously defined.

10 The term -S(1-4C)alkyl means a -(1-4C)alkylthio group, the -(1-4C)alkyl group having the previously defined meaning.

The term -NH(1-6C)alkyl means a -(1-6C)alkylamine group, the -(1-6C)alkyl group having the previously defined meaning.

The term -NH(hetero)aryl means a -(hetero)arylamine group, the -(hetero)aryl group
15 having the previously identified meaning.

The term -(1-4C)alkylthio(1-4C)alkyl means an -(1-4C)alkylthio group attached to a -(1-4C)alkyl group, both having the previously defined meanings.

The term aryl means 6 membered aromatic ring system.

The term -(hetero)aryl means a 5 or 6 membered aromatic ring system containing at
20 least one heteroatom selected from the group of N, O and S, such as, but not limited to, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, tetrazolyl, thiadiazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, dihydrooxazolyl or furanyl.

The term pharmaceutically acceptable salt represents those salts which are, within the scope of medical judgement, suitable for use in contact for the tissues of humans and
25 lower animals without undue toxicity, irritation, allergic response and the like, and are commensurate with a reasonable benefit/risk ratio. Pharmaceutically acceptable salts are well known in the art. They may be obtained during the final isolation and purification of the compounds of the invention, or separately by reacting the free base function with a suitable mineral acid such as hydrochloric acid, phosphoric acid, or
30 sulfuric acid, or with an organic acid such as for example ascorbic acid, citric acid,

- 6 -

tartaric acid, lactic acid, maleic acid, malonic acid, fumaric acid, glycolic acid, succinic acid, propionic acid, acetic acid, methanesulfonic acid, and the like. The acid function can be reacted with an organic or a mineral base, like sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or lithium hydroxide.

5 The invention thus relates to the compounds of formula I as defined here above.

Another aspect of the invention concern the compounds according to Formula I wherein $-R_3$, $-R_6$, $-R_7$, $-R_9$, $-R_{12}$, $-R_{13}$, $-R_{14}$ and $-R_{15}$ are $-H$ and $-R_4$ and $-R_{16}$ are $-H$ or $-(1-4C)alkyl$ and the other groups have the indicated meaning.

Another aspect of the invention is directed compounds according to Formula I wherein

- 10 $-R_1$ is $-H$;
- $-R_2$ is $-H$, $-cyano$ or $-halogen$;
- $-(hetero)aryl$, optionally substituted with $-(1-4C)alkyl$;
- $-C(R_{16})NOR_{16}$, $-C(O)N(R_{17})_2$, $-C(O)R_{18}$ or $-C(O)OR_{19}$;
- $-R_{10}$ is $-(1-4C)alkyl$;
- 15 $-R_{15}$ is $-(1-6C)alkyl$, optionally substituted with one or more $-halogen$ or $-(hetero)aryl$;
- $-(hetero)aryl$, optionally substituted with $-(1-4C)alkyl$ or $-NH_2$; or
- $-(di)(1-4C)alkylamino$;
- $-R_{17}$ is $-(hetero)aryl$, optionally substituted with $-(1-4C)alkoxy$;
- $-R_{18}$ is $-(1-4C)alkyl$ and
- 20 $-R_{19}$ is $-(1-6C)alkyl$.

In yet another aspect the invention concerns compounds according to Formula I wherein

- $-R_2$ is $-cyano$,
- $-(hetero)aryl$, optionally substituted with $-(1-4C)alkyl$;
- 25 $-CO(N)R_{17}$, $-C(O)R_{18}$ or $-C(O)OR_{19}$.

In a further aspect the invention relates to compounds according to Formula I wherein

$-(hetero)aryl$ in $-R_2$ is a 6-membered heteroaromatic ring.

In still a further aspect the invention relates to compounds according to Formula I wherein the heteroaromatic ring in $-(hetero)aryl$ in $-R_2$ contains 1 or more N atoms.

In yet another aspect the invention is directed to compounds according to Formula I wherein $-R_2$ is $-C(O)R_{15}$.

In a further aspect the invention relates to compounds according to Formula I wherein $-R_{15}$ is a -5-membered (hetero)aryl.

- 5 In another aspect the invention relates to compounds according to Formula I wherein $-R_{15}$ is a -(1-4C)alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more halogen.

The invention also resides in compounds according to Formula I which are highly specific for the glucocorticoid receptor. Specificity can be determined by testing the compound as described further on for the glucocorticoid receptor, with other well-
10 known receptors such as progesterone receptor, androgen receptor, mineralocorticoid receptor or estrogen receptor.

Furthermore, the present invention covers all possible combinations of particular and preferred groups described hereinabove.

- 15 The compounds of the present invention possess at least three chiral carbon atoms and may therefore be obtained as pure enantiomers, or as a mixture of enantiomers, or as a mixture of diastereomers. Methods for obtaining the pure enantiomers are known in the art, *e.g.* crystallization of salts which are obtained from optically active acids and the racemic mixture, or chromatography using chiral columns. For separation of
20 diastereomers, straight phase or reversed phase columns may be used.

The compounds of the present invention can be synthesized in a sequence of reaction steps as shown in steps A through I.

25 Step A

Treatment of anthraquinone (**1**) with sodium azide in concentrated sulfuric acid gives access to the desired 5H-dibenzo[b,e]azepine-6,11-dione (**2**) in quantitative yield (Scheme 1)

Step B

Compounds of general structure **2** can then be methylated to afford compounds of general structure **3**.

Step C

- 5 Compounds of general structure **3** can then be reduced to afford compounds of general structure **4**. The above mentioned reaction is typically conducted using lithium aluminium hydride as reagent.

Step D

- 10 Compounds of general structure **4** can then be selectively oxidized to afford the morphantridine derivative **5**.

The above mentioned reaction is typically conducted at ambient temperature in the presence of manganese dioxide.

Steps E,F

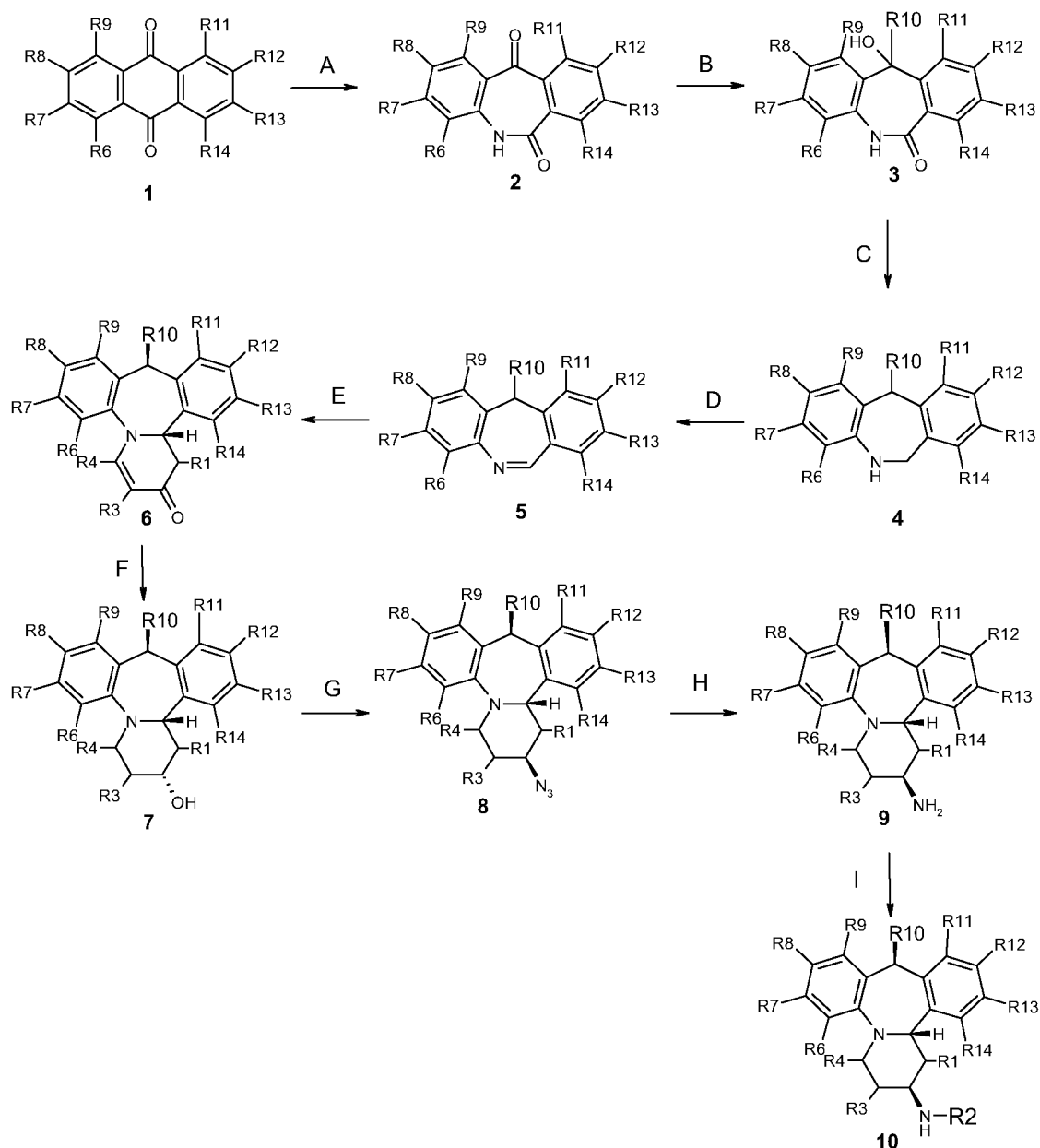
- 15 Compounds of general structure **5** can then be reacted in a Diels-Alder fashion to form ring D and afford tetracyclic compounds of general structure **6**. These compounds can then be reduced in-situ to afford the tetracyclic alcohols of general structure **7**, which are obtained mainly in the trans conformation.

- The first above mentioned reaction is typically conducted at reduced temperature in the presence of Danishefsky's diene and ytterbium trifluoromethanesulfonate, with the use of an organic solvent. These crude products are then reduced at ambient temperature in the presence of sodium borohydride, with the use of an organic solvent.
- 20

Step G

- 25 Compounds of general structure **7** can then be reacted under Mitsunobu conditions to afford azide compounds of general structure **8**.

The above mentioned reaction is typically conducted at ambient temperature in the presence of triphenylphosphine, diisopropylazodicarboxylate and diphenylphosphoryl azide, with the use of an organic solvent.



Scheme 1

5 Step H

Compounds of general structure **8** can then be reduced to afford the free amine compounds of general structure **9**. The above mentioned reaction is typically conducted at ambient temperature in the presence of triphenylphosphine and water, with the use of an organic solvent.

Step I

These products **9** are then converted into the desired amides, carbamates and urea's and sulphonamides **10** by general procedures.

- 5 Compounds **7**, **9** and **10** are the key intermediate compounds in the formation of all other compounds disclosed within. These compounds, either already being halogenated or can be halogenated, etc. and then further modified by the methods described within to afford the desired entities with the desired rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-stereochemistry.

The compounds of the present invention possess at least three chiral carbon atoms and
10 may therefore be obtained as pure enantiomers, or as a mixture of enantiomers, or as a mixture of diastereomers. Methods for obtaining the pure enantiomers are known in the art, *e.g.* crystallization of salts which are obtained from optically active acids and the racemic mixture, enzymatic resolution proceedings or chromatography using chiral columns. For separation of diastereomers, straight phase or reversed phase columns
15 may be used.

It has been found that eutomers have (2S,10S,14bS)-stereochemistry.

The compounds of the present invention modulate glucocorticoid receptor activity. The compounds thus can be used in the treatment of immunological and inflammatory diseases. In particular the compounds can be used to treat rheumatic diseases such as
20 rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile arthritis, and ankylosing spondylitis, dermatological diseases including psoriasis and pemphigus, allergic disorders including allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, and contact dermatitis, pulmonary conditions including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and other immune and inflammatory diseases including Crohn disease, ulcerative colitis, systemic lupus
25 erythematosus, autoimmune chronic active hepatitis, osteoarthritis, tendonitis, and bursitis. In addition, the compounds can be used to help prevent rejection of organs after organ transplantation.

More in particular the compounds can be used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Crohn disease or ulcerative colitis
30 and the compounds can be used to help prevent rejection of organs after organ transplantation.

Methods to determine receptor binding as well as *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays to determine biological activity of the compounds are well known in the art. In general,

the expressed receptor is treated with the compound to be tested and binding, stimulation or inhibition of a functional response is measured.

To measure binding, isolated cytosol containing the expressed GR may be used.

Radioactive or fluorescence labelled compounds may also be used. As reference

5 compound, native hormone or other compounds binding to the receptor can be used. As an alternative, also competition binding assays can be performed. These binding assays can be either developed in house or might be purchased as commercially available binding assays (kits). Experimental methods to determine binding affinities are well known in the art.

10 For selecting GR modulators, compounds should bind with an affinity of $< 10^{-5}$ M to the receptor. More preferably, binding affinity is $< 10^{-7}$ M and most preferably, binding affinity is $< 10^{-8}$ M.

To measure a functional response, isolated DNA encoding the glucocorticoid receptor gene, preferably the human receptor, is expressed in suitable host cells, for instance in

15 human osteoblastic U2OS cells.

Methods to construct recombinant glucocorticoid receptor-expressing cell lines are well known in the art (Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: a Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, latest edition). Expression of receptor is attained by expression of the DNA encoding the desired protein. Techniques

20 for site directed mutagenesis, ligation of additional sequences, PCR and construction of suitable expression systems are all, by now, well known in the art. Portions or the entire DNA encoding the desired protein can be constructed synthetically using standard solid phase techniques, preferably to include restriction sites for ease of ligation. Suitable control elements for transcription and translation of the included coding sequence can be provided to the DNA coding sequences. As is well known, expression systems are now available which are compatible with a wide variety of hosts, including prokaryotic hosts, such as bacteria, and eukaryotic hosts, such as yeast, plant cells, insect cells, mammalian cells, avian cells and the like.

In vitro, inflammation can be mimicked in a human cell line, stably transfected with

30 human GR DNA that is stimulated to secrete cytokines, chemokines and other inflammatory mediators. Anti-inflammatory effects of compounds can be quantified by measuring inhibition of the inflammatory response in that cell line. By testing full dose response curves, EC_{50} values can be calculated for both compounds and a reference compound like prednisolone. EC_{50} values might be compared to the EC_{50} values obtained for prednisolone within the same cellular assay. Preferably compounds have

EC₅₀ values that are in the range of the EC₅₀ obtained for prednisolone. More preferably, EC₅₀ values are less than that obtained for prednisolone.

The skilled artisan will recognize that desirable EC₅₀ values are dependent on the compound tested. For example, a compound with an EC₅₀, which is less than 10⁻⁵ M is, generally, considered a candidate for drug selection. Preferably this value is lower than 10⁻⁷ M. However, a compound which has a higher EC₅₀, but is selective for the particular receptor, may be even a better candidate.

In vivo, the anti-inflammatory effect of compounds can be tested in mice that are treated with lipopolysaccharide (LPS). Compounds can be administered systemically at or before the time of LPS treatment. Anti-inflammatory effects can be quantified as an inhibition of LPS-induced TNF α in the serum of mice or any other inflammatory cytokine or chemokine (S.R. Hyde & R.E. McCallum, *Infection and Immunity*, 60; 976-982 (1992)). The potency to inhibit arthritis could be tested in the mouse collagen type II-induced arthritis model (CIA) as the ability to inhibit paw swelling (D.E. Trentham et al. *J Exp Med* 146; 857-868 (1977)), or another arthritis model.

The invention thus also resides in a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound or a salt thereof having the general formula I. Thus, the compounds according to formula I can be used in therapy.

Suitable administration routes for the compounds of formula I or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, also referred to herein as the active ingredient are intramuscular injections, subcutaneous injections, intravenous injections or intraperitoneal injections, oral and intranasal administration. Preferably, the compounds may be administered orally. The exact dose and regimen of administration of the active ingredient, or a pharmaceutical composition thereof, will necessarily be dependent upon the therapeutic effect to be achieved (e.g. treatment of asthma, R.A, I.B.D) and may vary with the particular compound, the route of administration, and the age and condition of the individual subject to whom the medicament is to be administered. Generally, a therapeutically effective daily dose is from about 0.001 mg to about 15 mg/kg of body weight per day per compound of the invention; preferably, from about 0.1 mg to about 10 mg/kg of body weight per day; and most preferably, from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 1.5 mg/kg of body weight per day. Some degree of routine dose optimization may be required to determine an optimal dosing level and pattern.

- Administration of the compounds of the invention, in pure form or in an appropriate pharmaceutical composition, can be carried out using any of the accepted modes of administration of pharmaceutical compositions. Thus, administration can be, for example, orally, buccally (e.g., sublingually), nasally, parenterally, topically, transdermally, vaginally, or rectally, in the form of solid, semi-solid, lyophilized powder, or liquid dosage forms, such as, for example, tablets, suppositories, pills, soft elastic and hard gelatin capsules, powders, solutions, suspensions, or aerosols, or the like, preferably in unit dosage forms suitable for simple administration of precise dosage.
- 10 A further aspect of the invention resides in the use of the compounds according to Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof for the preparation of a medicament for immunotherapy.

Examples

- 15 The numbering in the examples refers to Scheme 1, where $R_1, R_3, R_4, R_6-R_9 = H$, $R_{10} = Me$, $R_{11}-R_{14} = H$, unless stated otherwise.

A mixture of concentrated sulfuric acid (25.2 mL) and DCM (dichloromethane) (8.4 mL) was cooled to 0°C, anthraquinone (**1**) (5 g, 24 mmol) was added, then sodium azide (1.84 g, 28.3 mmol) was added in small portions over a 1h period at 0-5°C. The reaction mixture stirred overnight at room temperature and then poured into ice water (300 mL). The product was filtered off, washed with water till acid-free and dried to give 5H-dibenzo[b,e]azepine-6,11-dione (**2**) as a white solid (5.3 g, 100 %). Data : (m/z) = 224 (M+H)⁺.

To a suspension of 5H-dibenzo[b,e]azepine-6,11-dione (**2**) (50 g, 0.22mol) in toluene (800 mL) methyl magnesium iodide (3 M in Et₂O, 200 mL, 0.6 mol) was added. The reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 6h, then poured into aqueous ammonium chloride and stirred for 10 minutes. The product was filtered off and dried to give 11-hydroxy-11-methyl-5,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,e]azepin-6-one (**3**) as a white solid (51.6 g, 96 %). Data : (m/z) = 240 (M+H)⁺.

30 11-Hydroxy-11-methyl-5,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,e]azepin-6-one (**3**) (51.6g 0.22mol) was added to a suspension of LiAlH₄ (33 g, 0.88 mol) in dioxane (850 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 105°C. After 2.5h under reflux the reaction mixture was cooled, the excess LiAlH₄ was destroyed with aqueous Na₂SO₄ (55 mL). ethyl acetate (1.8l) and Na₂SO₄ (440 g) were added, the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min.

The solids were filtered off and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica (Heptane : Ethyl acetate = 6 : 4) to give 6,11-dihydro-11-methyl-5H-dibenzo[b,e]azepine (**4**) (28 g, 61 %) Data : (m/z) = 210 (M+H)⁺.

- 5 A solution of 6,11-dihydro-11-methyl-5H-dibenzo[b,e]azepine (**4**) (8 g, 38.3 mmol) in acetone (1500 mL) was cooled to 0°C and NBS (N-bromosuccinamide; 6.81 g, 38.3 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 20 min at 0°C, quenched by addition of aqueous NaHCO₃ (300 mL) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was extracted into ethyl acetate which was washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄)
10 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica (Heptane : Ethyl acetate = 8 : 2) to give 2-bromo-6,11-dihydro-11-methyl-5H-dibenzo[b,e]azepine (**4**, R₈ = Br; 32 g, 97 %) Data : (m/z) = 288 / 290 (M+H)⁺.

- To a solution of 2-bromo-6,11-dihydro-11-methyl-5H-dibenzo[b,e]azepine (**4**, R₈ =
15 Br; 32 g, 0.11 mol) in DCM, MnO₂ (manganese oxide) (96.6 g, 1.11 mol) was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir overnight. The reaction mixture was filtered over decalite and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica (Heptane : Ethyl acetate = 8 : 2) to give 2-bromo-11-methyl-11H-dibenzo[b,e]azepine (**5**, R₈ = Br; 29.4 g, 92 %). Data : (m/z) = 286 /
20 288 (M+H)⁺.

- To a stirred solution of 2-bromo-11-methyl-11H-dibenzo[b,e]azepine (**5**, R₈ = Br; 666 mg, 2.33 mmol) ytterbium (III) triflate (146 mg, 0.23 mmol) was added. After stirring for 10 min. at room temperature Danishefsky's diene (0.89 mL, 4.66 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was allowed to stand overnight at room temperature. The
25 reaction mixture was quenched with aqueous NaHCO₃, extracted into ethyl acetate, washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica to give 8-bromo-10,14b-dihydro-10-methyl-dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2(1H)-one (**6**, R₈ = Br; 338 mg, 41 %). Data : (m/z) = 354 / 356 (M+H)⁺.

- 30 A suspension of 8-bromo-10,14b-dihydro-10-methyl-dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2(1H)-one (**6**, R₈ = Br; 13.07 g, 37 mmol) in ethanol (700 mL) was cooled to 0°C and NaBH₄ (14 g, 370 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture was cooled, the excess NaBH₄ was destroyed with acetone (300 mL), stirred for 30 min. and concentrated under reduced pressure.
35 The product was extracted with ethyl acetate and aqueous NH₄Cl, washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was

purified by column chromatography on silica (Heptane : Ethyl acetate = 7 : 3) to give rel-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-bromo-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2(1H)-ol (7, R₈ = Br; 7.8 g, 60 %). Data : (m/z) = 358/360 (M+H)⁺.

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A stirred solution of rel-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-bromo-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2(1H)-ol (7, R₈ = Br; 5.0 g, 14 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (4.76 g, 18.1 mmol) in dry THF (150 mL) was cooled to 0°C and diisopropylazodicarboxylate (3.60 mL, 18.1 mmol) was added.

- 10 Diphenylphosphorylazide (3.90 mL, 18.1 mmol) was added, then the cooling was removed. The reaction was allowed to warm to ambient temperature and stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica (Heptane : Ethyl acetate = 95 : 5) to afford rel-[(2R,10R,14bR)-2-azido-8-bromo-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine (8, R₈ = Br; 4.7 g, 89 %). Data : (m/z) = 383 / 385 (M+H)⁺.

- 15 To a stirred solution of rel-[(2R,10R,14bR)-2-azido-8-bromo-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine (8, R₈ = Br; 4.7 g, 12.3 mmol) in THF (150 mL) and H₂O (4.5 mL) triphenylphosphine (3.86 g, 14.7 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at 50°C then concentrated under reduced pressure to afford rel-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-bromo-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-3-amine (9, R₈ = Br). Data : (m/z) = 357 / 359 (M+H)⁺.

- 25 **Example 1**, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-bromo-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (10, R₈ = Br, R₂ = COCF₃).

- Crude 9 (R₈ = Br) was taken up in MeOH (150 mL), triethylamine (3.4 mL, 24.6 mmol) and ethyltrifluoroacetate (7.33 mL, 61.5 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was heated to 50°C and held for 3 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure then purified by column chromatography on silica (Heptane : Ethyl acetate = 8 : 2) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-bromo-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (10, R₈ = Br, R₂ = COCF₃; 4.7 g, 84 %). Data : (m/z) = 453 / 455 (M+H)⁺.

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Example 2, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (**10**, R₈ = CN, R₂ = COCF₃).

5 A stirred solution of **10** (R₈ = Br, R₂ = COCF₃; 800 mg, 1.77 mmol) in NMP (N-methylpyrrolidone) (15 mL) was degassed by bubbling nitrogen through for 0.5 hours. CuCN (395 mg, 4.43 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 7 hours at 200 °C. The reaction mixture was quenched with a 25 % NH₄OH solution in H₂O and the product was extracted into ethyl acetate. The organics were washed with a
10 25 % solution of NH₄OH in H₂O, brine, dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica (Heptane : Ethyl acetate = 8 : 2) to rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (**10**, R₈ = CN, R₂ = COCF₃; 630 mg, 89 %). Data : (m/z) = 400 (M+H)⁺.

15

Example 3, rel-2,2-dichloro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10**, R₈ = CN, R₂ = COCHCl₂).

To a stirred solution of **10** (R₈ = CN; R₂ = COCF₃; 78 mg, 0.195 mmol) in EtOH (5
20 mL) was added a 2N NaOH solution in H₂O (1 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The reaction was quenched with H₂O and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organics were washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford crude rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-3-amine (**9**, R₈ =
25 CN; 60 mg, 100 %).

A stirred solution of **9** (R₈ = CN; 108 mg, 0.356 mmol) and triethylamine (52 mL, 0.374 mmol) in DCM (4 mL) was cooled to 0 °C. Dichloroacetyl chloride (36 mL, 0.374 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The reaction was quenched with a saturated NaHCO₃ solution in H₂O and the product
30 was extracted into DCM. The organics were dried and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica, followed by preparative HPLC. Freeze-drying from EtOH / H₂O afforded rel-2,2-dichloro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10**, R₈ = CN, R₂ = COCHCl₂; 64 mg, 46
35 %). Data : (m/z) = 415 (M+H)⁺.

Example 4, rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_2 = CF_3$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 1, from **5** to afford rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_2 = CF_3$). Data : (m/z) = 375 (M+H)⁺.

Example 5, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = CN$, $R_2 = COC_3H_3N_2S$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **9** ($R_8 = CN$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = CN$, $R_2 = COC_3H_3N_2S$; 434 mg, 61 %). Data : (m/z) = 430 (M+H)⁺.

Example 6, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2,2-difluoroacetamide (**10** : $R_8 = CN$, $R_2 = COCHF_2$).

To a solution of difluoroacetic acid (8.5 μ l, 0.135 mmol) in DCM (1 mL), TBTU (O-(Benzotriazol-1-yl)-N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate) (51 mg, 0.159 mmol) and DIPEA (N,N-Diisopropylethylamine) (26 μ l, 0.149 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature. After 10 minutes a solution of **9** ($R_8 = CN$; 25 mg, 0.082 mmol) in DCM (1 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with a saturated NaHCO₃ solution in H₂O and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄) and the organics were concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified with column chromatography on silica to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2,2-difluoroacetamide (**10** : $R_8 = CN$, $R_2 = COCHF_2$; 13 mg, 34 %). Data : (m/z) = 382 (M+H)⁺.

Example 7, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]methanesulfonamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 = \text{SO}_2\text{Me}$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3,
5 from **9** ($R_8 = \text{CN}$) to afford **7**, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]methanesulfonamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 = \text{SO}_2\text{Me}$; 13 mg, 34 %). Data : $(m/z) = 382 \text{ (M+H)}^+$.

Example 8, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]ethanesulfonamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 = \text{SO}_2\text{Et}$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from
9 ($R_8 = \text{CN}$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]ethanesulfonamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 =$
15 SO_2Et ; 12 mg, 30 %). Data : $(m/z) = 396 \text{ (M+H)}^+$.

Example 9, rel-N'-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-N,N-dimethylaminosulfamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 = \text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$).

20 This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **9** ($R_8 = \text{CN}$) to afford rel-N'-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-N,N-dimethylaminosulfamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 = \text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$; 12 mg, 29 %). Data : $(m/z) = 411 \text{ (M+H)}^+$.

25 **Example 10**, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-3,5-dimethylisoxazole-4-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 = \text{COC}_5\text{H}_6\text{NO}$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from
9 ($R_8 = \text{CN}$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-3,5-dimethylisoxazole-4-carboxamide (**10**
30 : $R_8 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 = \text{COC}_5\text{H}_6\text{NO}$; 15 mg, 35 %). Data : $(m/z) = 427 \text{ (M+H)}^+$.

Example 11, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-acetyl-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{COCH}_3$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$).

A stirred solution of **10** ($R_8 = \text{Br}$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$; 250 mg, 0.55 mmol) in toluene was
5 charged with $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ (8 mg, 0.011 mmol) and 1-ethoxyvinyltributyltin (587 μl , 1.73 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight under reflux. A HCl solution in H_2O (2 N, 3 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 10 minutes at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with a saturated NaHCO_3 solution in H_2O and the product was extracted into ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with
10 brine, dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-acetyl-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{COCH}_3$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$; 150 mg, 65 %). Data : $(m/z) = 417 (\text{M}+\text{H})^+$.

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Example 12, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-acetyl-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{COCH}_3$, $R_2 = \text{COC}_3\text{H}_3\text{N}_2\text{S}$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from
20 **10** ($R_8 = \text{COCH}_3$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-acetyl-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{COCH}_3$, $R_2 = \text{COC}_3\text{H}_3\text{N}_2\text{S}$; 27 mg, 54 %). Data : $(m/z) = 447 (\text{M}+\text{H})^+$.

25 **Example 13**, rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-8-[1-(hydroxyimino)ethyl]-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{NOH}$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$).

A stirred solution of **10** ($R_8 = \text{COCH}_3$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$; 60 mg, 0.14 mmol) in EtOH was charged with hydroxylamine.HCl (20 mg, 0.28 mmol) and pyridine (35 μl , 0.45
30 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 40 hours. The reaction was quenched with H_2O and the product was extracted into ethyl acetate. The organics were washed with H_2O and brine, dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica. Freeze-drying from acetonitrile / H_2O afforded rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-
35 1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-8-[1-(hydroxyimino)ethyl]-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido-

[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C(CH_3)NOH$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 50 mg, 80 %).
Data : $(m/z) = 432 (M+H)^+$.

Example 14, rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COCF_3$).

To a stirred solution of **10** ($R_8 = Br$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 67 mg, 0.148 mmol) in a mixture of dioxane (3 mL) and H_2O (0.5 mL) $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (6 mg, 8.8×10^{-3} mmol), $K_3PO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$ (60 mg, 0.178 mmol), $AsPh_3$ (3 mg, 0.010 mmol) and 2,2-dimethylpropanediol cyclic ester pyridine-4-boronic acid (78 mg, 0.408 mmol) were added.
The reaction mixture was stirred overnight under reflux. The reaction was quenched with a saturated $NaHCO_3$ solution in H_2O and the product was extracted into DCM, dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica affording rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 24 mg, 36 %). Data : $(m/z) = 452 (M+H)^+$.

Example 15, rel-2,2-dichloro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COCHCl_2$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **10** ($R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COCF_3$) to afford rel-2,2-dichloro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COCHCl_2$; 18 mg, 55 %). Data : $(m/z) = 467 (M+H)^+$.

Example 16, rel-2-chloro-2,2-difluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COCF_2Cl$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **9** ($R_8 = C_5H_4N$) to afford rel-2-chloro-2,2-difluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-

yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COCF_2Cl$; 20 mg, 61 %). Data : $(m/z) = 468$ $(M+H)^+$.

Example 17, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = CO-CH_3$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **9** ($R_8 = C_5H_4N$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COCH_3$; 7 mg, 26 %). Data : $(m/z) = 398$ $(M+H)^+$.

Example 18, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]isoxazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COC_3H_2NO$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **9** ($R_8 = C_5H_4N$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]isoxazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COC_3H_2NO$; 19 mg, 57 %). Data : $(m/z) = 451$ $(M+H)^+$.

Example 19, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-5-methyl-isoxazole-3-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COC_4H_4NO$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **9** ($R_8 = C_5H_4N$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-5-methyl-isoxazole-3-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COC_4H_4NO$; 22 mg, 67 %). Data : $(m/z) = 465$ $(M+H)^+$.

Example 20, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COC_3H_3N_2S$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **9** ($R_8 = C_5H_4N$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-

methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COC_3H_3N_2S$; 20 mg, 59 %). Data : $(m/z) = 482 (M+H)^+$.

- 5 **Example 21**, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2-thiophenacetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COC_5H_5S$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **9** ($R_8 = C_5H_4N$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2-thiophenacetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COC_5H_5S$) 21 mg, 62 %). Data : $(m/z) = 480 (M+H)^+$.

- 15 **Example 22**, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]methanesulfonamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$ 4-pyridine, $R_2 = SO_2Me$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **9** ($R_8 = C_5H_4N$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]methanesulfonamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = SO_2Me$; 19 mg, 62 %). Data : $(m/z) = 434 (M+H)^+$.

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- Example 23**, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]ethanesulfonamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = SO_2Et$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **9** ($R_8 = C_5H_4N$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]ethanesulfonamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = SO_2Et$; 10 mg, 32 %). Data : $(m/z) = 448 (M+H)^+$.

- 25 **Example 24**, rel-N'-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-N,N-dimethylaminosulfamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = SO_2N(CH_3)_2$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **9** ($R_8 = C_5H_4N$) to afford rel-N'-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-

8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-N,N-dimethylaminosulfamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = SO_2N(CH_3)_2$; 14 mg, 42 %). Data : $(m/z) = 463 (M+H)^+$.

Example 25, rel-2,2-difluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COCHF_2$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 6, from **9** ($R_8 = C_5H_4N$) to afford rel-2,2-difluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COCHF_2$; 15 mg, 50 %). Data : $(m/z) = 434 (M+H)^+$.

Example 26, rel-4-amino-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-1,2,5-oxadiazole-3-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COC_2H_2N_3O$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 6, from **9** ($R_8 = C_5H_4N$) to afford rel-4-amino-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-1,2,5-oxadiazole-3-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COC_2H_2N_3O$; 23 mg, 70 %). Data : $(m/z) = 467 (M+H)^+$.

Example 27, rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-2-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_4H_3N_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$).

To a stirred solution of **10** ($R_8 = Br$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 100 mg, 0.22 mmol) in dioxane tributylstannylpyrimidine (98 mg, 0.26 mmol), CsF (72 mg, 0.473 mmol), $Pd_2(dba)_3$ (palladium dibenzylideneacetone, 6 mg, 6.6 μ mol) and $P(tBu)_3$ (10 % solution in hexane, 26 μ mol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight under reflux. The reaction was quenched with H_2O and the organics were extracted into ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica, followed by preparative HPLC. Freeze-drying from acetonitrile / H_2O afforded rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-2-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_4H_3N_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 31 mg, 31 %). Data : $(m/z) = 453 (M+H)^+$.

Example 28, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-2-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_4H_3N_2$, $R_2 = COC_3H_3N_2S$).

- 5 This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **10** ($R_8 = C_4H_3N_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-2-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_4H_3N_2$, $R_2 = COC_3H_3N_2S$; 14 mg, 47 %). Data : $(m/z) = 483 (M+H)^+$.

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Example 29, rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrazin-2-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_4H_3N_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$).

- This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 27,
15 from **10** ($R_8 = Br$, $R_2 = COCF_3$) to afford rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrazin-2-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_4H_3N_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 24 mg, 24 %). Data : $(m/z) = 453 (M+H)^+$.

- 20 **Example 30**, methyl rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl-amino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxylate (**10** : $R_8 = COOCH_3$, $R_2 = COCF_3$).

- To a solution of **10** ($R_8 = CN$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 400 mg, 1 mmol) in EtOH (20 mL) a 6 N KOH solution in H₂O (8.5 mL) was added. The mixture was heated in the
25 microwave to 120 °C (175 Watt) for 3 hours. Reaction mixture was neutralized with a 2 N HCl solution in H₂O. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and coevaporated with toluene.

- The residue was taken up in MeOH (30 mL) and triethylamine (277 µl, 2 mmol) and ethyl trifluoroacetate (597 µl, 5 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred
30 overnight at 55 °C and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica to afford (**10** : $R_8 = COOH$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 331 mg, 79 %).

To a stirred solution of **10** ($R_8 = COOH$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 30 mg, 0.072 mmol) in methanol (2 mL) at 0 °C, thionylchloride (300 µl, 3.46 mmol) was added. The

reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched with a saturated NaHCO_3 solution in H_2O and the product was extracted into ethyl acetate. The organics were washed with brine, dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica (Heptane : Ethyl acetate = 8 : 2). Freeze-drying from acetonitrile / H_2O afforded methyl rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl-amino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxylate (**10** : $\text{R}_8 = \text{COOCH}_3$, $\text{R}_2 = \text{COCF}_3$; 10.3 mg, 33 %). Data : $(m/z) = 433$ $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$.

10 **Example 31**, ethyl rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl 2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl-amino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxylate (**10** : $\text{R}_8 = \text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $\text{R}_2 = \text{COCF}_3$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 30, from **10** ($\text{R}_8 = \text{COOH}$, $\text{R}_2 = \text{COCF}_3$) to afford ethyl rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl-amino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxylate (**10** : $\text{R}_8 = \text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $\text{R}_2 = \text{COCF}_3$; 18.9 mg, 59 %). Data : $(m/z) = 447$ $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$.

20 **Example 32**, propyl rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl 2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl-amino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxylate (**10** : $\text{R}_8 = \text{COO}(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CH}_3$, $\text{R}_2 = \text{COCF}_3$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 30, from **10** ($\text{R}_8 = \text{COOH}$, $\text{R}_2 = \text{COCF}_3$) to afford propyl rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl 2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl-amino)dibenzo-
25 [c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxylate (**10** : $\text{R}_8 = \text{COO}(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CH}_3$, $\text{R}_2 = \text{COCF}_3$; 10.3 mg, 33 %). Data : $(m/z) = 461$ $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$.

Example 33, rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-N-phenyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl-amino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide (**10** : $\text{R}_8 = \text{CONH}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)$, $\text{R}_2 = \text{COCF}_3$).

To a stirred solution of **10** ($\text{R}_8 = \text{COOH}$, $\text{R}_2 = \text{COCF}_3$; 40 mg, 0.096 mmol) in DMF, TBTU (46 mg, 0.144 mmol) and DIPEA (84 μl , 0.48 mmol) were added. Then aniline (10 μl , 0.11 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 40 hours at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with H_2O and the organics were

extracted into DCM. The organic layer was dried over a separation filter and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by preparative HPLC, this afforded rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-N-phenyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl amino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide (10 : $R_8 = \text{CONH}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$; 27.3 mg, 58 %). Data : $(m/z) = 494$ (M+H)⁺.

Example 34, rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-N-(pyridin-4-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl amino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide (10 : $R_8 = \text{CONH}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_4\text{N})$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 33, from 10 ($R_8 = \text{COOH}$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$) to afford rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-N-(pyridin-4-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl amino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide (10 : $R_8 = \text{CONH}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_4\text{N})$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$; 17.5 mg, 37 %). Data : $(m/z) = 495$ (M+H)⁺.

Example 35, rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-N-(2-methoxypyrimidin-5-yl)-10-methyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl amino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide (10 : $R_8 = \text{CONH}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_6\text{NO})$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 33, from 10 ($R_8 = \text{COOH}$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$) to rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-N-(2-methoxypyrimidin-5-yl)-10-methyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl amino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide (10 : $R_8 = \text{CONH}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_6\text{NO})$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$; 35.5 mg, 71 %). Data : $(m/z) = 525$ (M+H)⁺.

Example 36, rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-N-(2-methoxyphenyl)-10-methyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl amino)-dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide (10 : $R_8 = \text{CONH}(\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{O})$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 33, from 10 ($R_8 = \text{COOH}$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$) to rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-N-(2-methoxyphenyl)-10-methyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl amino)-dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide (10 : $R_8 = \text{CONHC}_7\text{H}_7\text{O}$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$; 30.3 mg, 61 %). Data : $(m/z) = 524$ (M+H)⁺.

Example 37, rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_2N_4H_3$, $R_2 = COCF_3$).

To a solution of **10** ($R_8 = CN$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 210 mg, 0.53 mmol) in DME (3 mL),
5 trimethylsilylazide (278 μ l, 2.12 mmol) and dibutyltin oxide (52 mg, 0.21 mmol) were added. The mixture was heated in the microwave to 160 °C (300 Watt) for 45min. The reaction mixture was quenched with 0.2 N NaOH and washed with ethyl acetate. Then the basic waterlayer was acidified with 2 N HCl and extracted into ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with H₂O and brine, dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated under
10 reduced pressure to afford (**10**, $R_8 = CN_4H$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 208 mg, 89 %). Data : (m/z) = 443 (M+H)⁺.

To a solution of **10** ($R_8 = CN_4H$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 200 mg, 0.45 mmol) in acetone/DMF (1/1 20 mL) Na₂CO₃ (72 mg, 0.68 mmol) was added followed by MeI (280 μ l, 4.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 hours at room temperature. The reaction
15 was quenched with 2N HCl and extracted into ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with H₂O and brine, dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica (Heptane : Ethyl acetate = 6 : 4) to afford rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10**, $R_8 = C_2N_4H_3$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 99 mg 48 %). Data : (m/z) = 457 (M+H)⁺.
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Example 38, rel-2-chloro-2,2-difluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide
25 (**10** : $R_8 = C_2N_4H_3$, $R_2 = COCClF_2$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **10** ($R_8 = C_2N_4H_3$, $R_2 = COCF_3$) to afford rel-2-chloro-2,2-difluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_2N_4H_3$, $R_2 = COCClF_2$; 24 mg, 73 %). Data :
30 (m/z) = 473 (M+H)⁺.

Example 39, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_2N_4H_3$, $R_2 = COC_3H_3N_2S$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **10** ($R_8 = C_2N_4H_3$, $R_2 = COCF_3$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_2N_4H_3$, $R_2 = COC_3H_3N_2S$; 17 mg, 50 %). Data : (m/z) = 487 (M+H)⁺.

Example 40, rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_4H_5N_3$, $R_2 = COCF_3$).

A solution of **10** ($R_8 = Br$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 1.9 g, 4.19 mmol), KOAc (1.23g, 12.6 mmol) and bispinacolatoboron (1.17 g, 4.61 mmol) in DMF (60 mL) was degassed by bubbling nitrogen through for 15 minutes. PdCl₂(dppf)₂ ([1,1' Bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene]dichloropalladium(II); 103 mg, 0.13 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at 80°C. The reaction was quenched with H₂O and the product was extracted into ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica (Heptane : Ethyl acetate = 85 : 15) to afford **10** ($R_8 = C_6H_{12}BO_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 1.06 g, 51 %). Data : (m/z) = 501 (M+H)⁺.

To a stirred solution of **10** ($R_8 = C_6H_{12}BO_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 1.12g, 2.24 mmol) in a mixture of dioxane (42 mL) and H₂O (7 mL) PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (47 mg, 0.067 mmol), K₃PO₄·7H₂O (910 mg, 2.69 mmol), AsPh₃ (47 mg, 0.154 mmol) and 4,6-dichloropyrimidine (918 mg, 6.16 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at 100°C. The reaction was quenched with a saturated NaHCO₃ solution in H₂O and the product was extracted into ethyl acetate, washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica affording (**10** : $R_8 = C_4H_2N_2Cl$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 0.64g, 63 %). Data : (m/z) = 487 (M+H)⁺.

To a stirred solution of **10** ($R_8 = C_4H_2N_2Cl$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 614 mg, 1.26 mmol) in THF (50 mL) and ammonia (22 mL), zinc (2.17g 33.2 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 hours under reflux. The reaction was quenched with a saturated NaHCO₃ solution in H₂O and filtered over decalite. The product was extracted into ethyl acetate, washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica affording rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_4H_3N_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 485 mg, 85 %). Data : (m/z) = 453 (M+H)⁺.

Example 41, rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-2-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COCF_3$).

- 5 To a stirred solution of **10** $R_8 = C_6H_{12}BO_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 50 mg, 0.10 mmol) in a mixture of dioxane (3 mL) and H_2O (0.5 mL) $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (6 mg, 8.55 μmol), $K_3PO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$ (40 mg, 0.12 mmol), $AsPh_3$ (6 mg, 19.6 μmol) and 2-bromopyridine (26.3 μl , 0.28 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at 100°C. The reaction was quenched with a saturated $NaHCO_3$ solution in H_2O and the product
- 10 was extracted into ethyl acetate, washed with brine, dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica followed by preparative HPLC to afford pure rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-2-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide. (**10** : $R_8 = C_5H_4N$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 8
- 15 mg, 18 %). Data : $(m/z) = 452 (M+H)^+$.

Example 42, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_4H_3N_2$, $R_2 = COC_3H_3N_2S$).

- 20 This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **10** ($R_8 = C_4H_3N_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_4H_3N_2$, $R_2 = COC_3H_3N_2S$; 20 mg, 62 %). Data : $(m/z) = 483 (M+H)^+$.

25

Example 43, rel-2,2-chloro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_4H_3N_2$, $R_2 = COCHCl_2$).

- This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from
- 30 **10** ($R_8 = C_4H_3N_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$) to afford rel-2,2-chloro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_4H_3N_2$, $R_2 = COCHCl_2$; 17 mg, 53 %). Data : $(m/z) = 468 (M+H)^+$.

- 30 -

Example 44, *rel*-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]methanesulfonamide (**10** : $R_3 = C_4H_5N_2$, $R_2 = COSO_2CH_3$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from
 5 **10** ($R_3 = C_4H_5N_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$) to afford *rel*-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]methanesulfonamide (**10** : $R_3 = C_4H_5N_2$, $R_2 = COSO_2CH_3$; 22 mg, 72 %). Data : (m/z) = 435 (M+H)⁺.

10 **Example 45**, *rel*-2-chloro-2,2-difluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_3 = C_4H_5N_2$, $R_2 = COCClF_2$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from
 15 **10** ($R_3 = C_4H_5N_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$) to afford *rel*-2-chloro-2,2-difluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_3 = C_4H_5N_2$, $R_2 = COCClF_2$; 23 mg, 70 %). Data : (m/z) = 469 (M+H)⁺.

Example 46, *rel*-5-amino-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-1,2,5-oxadiazole-4-carboxamide
 20 (**10** : $R_3 = C_4H_5N_2$, $R_2 = COCH_2N_3O$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 6, from
 10 **10** ($R_3 = C_4H_5N_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$) to afford *rel*-5-amino-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-1,2,5-oxadiazole-4-carboxamide
 25 (**10** : $R_3 = C_4H_5N_2$, $R_2 = COCH_2N_3O$; 22 mg, 68 %). Data : (m/z) = 468 (M+H)⁺.

Example 47, *rel*-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,4S,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-4,10-dimethyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_2 = COCF_3$, $R_4 = CH_3$).
 30

To a stirred solution of **9** ($R_4 = CH_3$; 34 mg, 0.12 mmol) (prepared in an analogous manner as described above in Example 1); in MeOH (5 mL), triethylamine (81 μ L, 0.58 mmol) and ethyltrifluoroacetate (69 μ L, 0.58 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was heated to 50°C and held for 5 hours. The reaction mixture was

concentrated under reduced pressure then purified by column chromatography on silica to afford rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,4S,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-4,10-dimethyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$, $R_4 = \text{CH}_3$). (24 mg, 53 %). Data : $(m/z) = 389 \text{ (M+H)}^+$.

5

Example 48, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-N'-methyl-N'-methoxyurea

(**10**, $R_3 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 = \text{CON}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}(\text{CH}_3)$)

To a stirred solution of **9** ($R_3 = \text{CN}$; 75 mg, 0.248 mmol) in ethyl acetate (4 mL), a
 10 catalytic amount of activated carbon and trichloromethylchloroformate (35 mL, 0.298 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux temperature. After 5 hours the reaction mixture was filtered over decalite and concentrated under reduced pressure to give **9** ($R_3 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 = \text{CNO}$).

To a stirred solution of isocyanate **9** ($R_3 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 = \text{CNO}$) in ethyl acetate (10 mL)
 15 Et_3N (173 mL, 1.25 mmol) and N,O-dimethylhydroxylamine.HCl (121 mg 1.25 mmol) were added and the reaction was stirred overnight at 50°C. Then reaction was quenched with a saturated NaHCO_3 solution in H_2O and the product was extracted into ethyl acetate. The organics were washed with H_2O , a saturated NaCl solution in H_2O , dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was
 20 purified by column chromatography on silica, followed by preparative HPLC. Freeze-drying from acetonitrile/ H_2O afforded rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-N'-methyl-N'-methoxyurea (**10**, $R_3 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 = \text{CON}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}(\text{CH}_3)$; 30 mg, 31%). Data : $(m/z) = 391 \text{ (M+H)}^+$.

25 **Example 49**, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2-hydroxyacetamide (**10** : $R_3 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 =$
 ~~$\text{CON}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}(\text{CH}_3)$~~ COCH_2OH).

A stirred solution of **9** ($R_3 = \text{CN}$; 25 mg, 0.0825 mmol) and triethylamine (14 mL, 0.099 mmol) in DCM (2 mL) was cooled to 0 °C. Acetoxyacetylchloride (11 mL,
 30 0.099 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The reaction was quenched with a saturated NaHCO_3 solution in H_2O and the product was extracted into DCM. The organics were dried and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica to give **10** ($R_3 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 = \text{COCH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$; 30 mg, 90 %). Data : $(m/z) = 404 \text{ (M+H)}^+$.

To a stirred solution of **10** ($R_8 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 = \text{COCH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$; 30 mg, 0.075 mmol) in MeOH (3 mL) KOH (42 mg, 0.75 mmol) in H_2O (1.5 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 minutes. The reaction mixture was poured into H_2O and the product was extracted into ethyl acetate. The organics were washed with H_2O and brine, dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica, followed by preparative HPLC. Freeze-drying from acetonitrile/ H_2O afforded rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2-hydroxyacetamide (**10**, $R_8 = \text{CN}$, $R_2 = \text{COCH}_2\text{OH}$; 7.5 mg, 28%).

10 Data : (m/z) = 362 (M+H)⁺.

Example 50, rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-2-[(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)amino]-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-N-phenyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{CONH}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)$, $R_2 = \text{CON}(\text{CH}_3)_2$).

15 This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 3, from **10** ($R_8 = \text{CONH}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$) to afford rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-2-[(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)amino]-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-N-phenyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{CONH}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)$, $R_2 = \text{CON}(\text{CH}_3)_2$; 7.4 mg, 30%). Data : (m/z) = 469 (M+H)⁺.

20

Example 51, rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-[4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl]-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{NO}$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$).

To a stirred solution of **10** ($R_8 = \text{COOH}$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$; 200 mg, 0.48 mmol) in DCM (4 mL) and DMF (one drop), oxalylchloride (65 mL, 0.72 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour at room temperature and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude acid chloride was dissolved in DCM (1 mL) and added to a solution of amino ethanol (60 mL, 0.96 mmol) and Et_3N (130 mL, 0.96 mmol) in DCM (3 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour at room temperature, then quenched with a saturated NaHCO_3 solution in H_2O and the product was extracted into ethyl acetate. The organics were washed with a saturated NaCl solution in H_2O , dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica to give (**10** : $R_8 = \text{C}(\text{O})\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$; 152 mg, 69%).

25

30

To a stirred solution of **10** ($R_8 = C(O)NHCH_2CH_2OH$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 150 mg, 0.325 mmol) in DCM (5 mL), $SOCl_2$ (90 mL, 0.65 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with a saturated $NaHCO_3$ solution in H_2O and the product was extracted into DCM. The organics were washed with a saturated $NaCl$ solution in H_2O , dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica to give rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-[4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl]-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = C_3H_4NO$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 60 mg, 42%). Data : $(m/z) = 444 (M+H)^+$.

10

Example 52, rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-nitrodibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = NO_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$).

A solution of **10** ($R_8 = H$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 76 mg, 0.2 mmol) in DCM (1.5 mL) was cooled to $0^\circ C$ and fuming nitric acid (21 μL , 0.5 mmol) was added in portions. The ice/water bath was removed and the reaction mixture turned red. After 10min the reaction was quenched with aqueous $NaHCO_3$, extracted with DCM, dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica (Heptane : Ethyl acetate = 7:3) followed by preparative HPLC. Freeze-drying from acetonitrile/ H_2O afforded rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-nitrodibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10**, $R_8 = NO_2$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 6 mg, 7%. Data : $(m/z) = 420 (M+H)^+$.

Example 53, rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-formyl-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10** : $R_8 = CHO$, $R_2 = COCF_3$).

Oxalyl chloride (0.594 mL, 6.8 mmol) was added drop wise to a stirred solution of N,N-dimethylformamide (3.5 mL) at $0^\circ C$. The reaction mixture was stirred for 25 min at $0^\circ C$ and a white precipitate was formed. A solution of **10** ($R_8 = H$, $R_2 = COCF_3$; 510 mg, 1.36 mmol) in N,N-dimethylformamide (2.5 mL) was then added to the reaction mixture and heated to $70^\circ C$. After 1.5 h the reaction mixture was cooled, quenched with aqueous $NaHCO_3$ and the product was extracted into ethyl acetate, dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica (Heptane : Ethyl acetate = 7:3) followed by preparative HPLC. Freeze-drying from acetonitrile/ H_2O afforded rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-

[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-formyl-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide (**10**, $R_8 = \text{CHO}$, $R_2 = \text{COCF}_3$; 164 mg, 30%). Data : $(m/z) = 403(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$.

- 5 **Example 54**, rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-8-[1-(hydroxyimino)ethyl]-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide (**10** : $R_8 = \text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{NOH}$, $R_2 = \text{COC}_3\text{H}_3\text{N}_2\text{S}$).

This compound was prepared, in an analogous manner as described in Example 13, from **10** ($R_8 = \text{COCH}_3$, $R_2 = \text{COC}_3\text{H}_3\text{N}_2\text{S}$) to afford rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-8-[1-(hydroxyimino)ethyl]-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide (**10**: $R_8 = \text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{NOH}$, $R_2 = \text{COC}_3\text{H}_3\text{N}_2\text{S}$; 170 mg, 49%). Data: $(m/z) = 462(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$.

Example 55, Glucocorticoid receptor binding activity.

- 15 The affinity of compounds was tested using a Glucocorticoid Receptor Competitor Assay kit (PanVera[®]). Components of the kit were thawed from - 80°C on ice (Fluormone GS1, recombinant human-GR (GR)) or at room temperature (GR screening buffer, stabilising peptide and DTT). 10mM test compounds were manually diluted to 20μM then serially diluted to a final concentration range of 10μM to 0.1nM using the
- 20 BioMek 2000 (Beckman-Coulter) into a black walled 384 wellled plate (Matrix technologies). In the following order: fluormone GS1 (1nM final concentration) is added to all wells excluding the buffer control wells, GR (4nM final concentration) is added to all wells except minimum and buffer control wells, cortisol (10μM final concentration) is added to fluormone GS1 control wells only, buffer is added to all
- 25 wells to a final volume of 40μl. The plate is covered and incubated at room temperature with agitation for 90 minutes. Readings were taken using the Analyst (LJL) in fluorescence polarisation reading mode. The MilliP ratio is calculated from cps readings obtained in parallel and perpendicular mode. The percent effect of the bound ligand is calculated at each concentration and the dose response curves plotted
- 30 allowing the EC_{50} to be calculated. This is compared to the known standard (11β,17β)-11-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-17-hydroxy-17-(1-propynyl)estra-4,9-dien-3-one (CAS No. 189035-07-2), $\text{EC}_{50} = 10^{-8} \text{ M}$). All compounds exemplified have binding activities $< 2 \times 10^{-8} \text{ M}$.

- 35 -

Example 56, Functional responses *in vitro*

To quantify the ability of compounds to inhibit inflammatory gene expression *in vitro*, responses of compounds were evaluated in the human cell line U2OS that was stably transfected with human recombinant GR DNA. U2OS cells were stimulated with TNF α and IFN γ which leads to the secretion of MCP-1 in the supernatant. Secretion of MCP-1 was quantified indirectly by the use of two anti-human-MCP-1 antibodies, one labeled with the fluorescent donor Europium, the second one labeled with the fluorescent acceptor Allophycocyanin (APC). Secretion of MCP-1 in supernatant is quantified by measuring the emission wavelength of APC (665 nm) when Europium is excited at 340 nm. The ability of compounds (prednisolone or compounds according to formula I) to inhibit MCP-1 expression was quantified and EC₅₀ values were calculated. All compounds exemplified were tested in this assay and have shown potent *in vitro* anti-inflammatory properties of $< 2 \times 10^{-8}$ M.

15

§ 7

Example 56 Anti-inflammatory activity *in vivo*.

The potency of compounds to inhibit inflammation can be quantified in a model in which mice are treated with lipopolysaccharide (LPS). Anti-inflammatory effects can be quantified as inhibition of LPS-induced TNF α (S.R. Hyde & R.E. McCallum, Infection & Immunity, 60; 976-982 (1992)). Mice are treated i.p. with 0.5 mg/kg LPS. Compounds according to formula I are dosed systemically by oral administration at 1 hour before the induction with LPS. 1½ hours after LPS induction, serum is collected and mice are sacrificed. TNF α levels in serum are quantified using a commercially available Elisa-kit according to the descriptions of the supplier. A selection (examples 3, 5, 12, 16, 19, 20, 26, 38, 39, 42, 54) of compounds exemplified were tested in this model. All tested compounds show anti-inflammatory activity in the model with an ED₅₀ < 10 mg/kg).

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§ 8

Example 51, Anti-arthritis activity *in vivo*

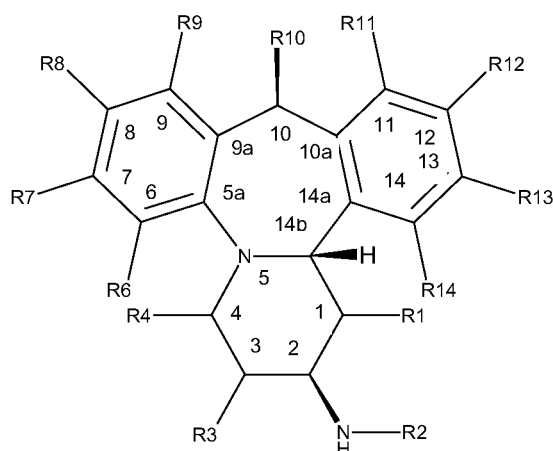
The ability of compounds to inhibit arthritis can be tested in a Collagen type II-Induced Arthritis model in mice (D.E. Trentham et al. J Exp Med 146; 857-868 (1977)). In this model male Dbu/1 mice are immunized and boosted (after 3 weeks) with Collagen. Arthritis is scored as swelling of paws. Mice that develop arthritis are orally treated for 3 weeks either with prednisolone or compounds according to formula I (the therapeutic

30

model). In the model, further development of arthritis is scored as paw swelling 3 times a week. After 3 weeks, mice are sacrificed. Potency of compounds to inhibit arthritis is quantified as the ability to inhibit paw swelling. A selection (examples 5, 12, 19, 20, 39, 54) of compounds exemplified were tested in this model. All tested
5 compounds show anti-arthritic activity in the model with an ED₅₀ < 10 mg/kg).

Claims

1. A compound according to general formula I :



Formula I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

- 5 wherein the R groups have the following meanings:

-R₁ is -H or -(1-4C)alkyl;

-R₂ is -C(O)R₁₅ or -SO₂R₁₅;

-R₃ is -H, -(1-4C) alkyl or -OR₁₆;

-R₄ is -H, -(1-4C)alkyl or -OR₁₆;

- 10 -R₆ is -H or -C(R₁₆)NOR₁₆;

-R₇ is -H, -halogen, -cyano;

-(1-6C) alkyl, -(2-6C)alkenyl or -(2-6C)alkynyl, all optionally substituted with amino, -hydroxyl or -halogen;

-R₈ is -H, -cyano, -halogen, -nitro;

- 15 -(1-6C) alkyl, -(2-6C)alkenyl, -(2-6C)alkynyl or -O(1-6C)alkyl, all optionally substituted with -amino, -hydroxyl or -halogen;

-(hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -cyano, -halogen, -(1-4C)alkyl, -(1-4C)alkoxy, -(1-4C)alkoxy(1-4C)alkyl or -(hetero)aryl;

-C(R₁₆)NOR₁₆, -C(O)N(R₁₇)₂, -C(O)R₁₈, -C(O)OR₁₉, -NHC(O)R₂₀, or -

- 20 NHS(O)₂R₂₁;

-R₉ is -H, -halogen, -cyano, or -(1-4C)alkyl, optionally substituted with -halogen;

-R₁₀ is -H or -(1-4C)alkyl;

-R₁₁ is -H;

-R₁₂ is -H, -cyano or -(1-4C)alkyl;

- 38 -

- R₁₃ is -H, -(1-4C)alkyl, -halogen or -formyl;
 -R₁₄ is -H, -halogen, -cyano, -(1-4C)alkyl or -(hetero)aryl;
 -R₁₅ is -H;
 -(1-6C)alkyl, -(2-6C)alkenyl, -(2-6C)alkynyl, -O(2-6C)alkyl, -O(2-6C)alkenyl or
 5 -O(2-6C)alkynyl, all optionally substituted with one or more -OH, -halogen, -
 cyano or -(hetero)aryl;
 -(hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -(1-4C)alkyl, -halogen or -NH₂;
 -NH₂, -(di)(1-4C)alkylamino, -(1-4C)alkylthio(1-4C)alkyl, -(1-4C)alkoxy(1-
 4C)alkyl or -NR₁₆OR₁₆;
 10 -R₁₆ is -H, -(1-6C)alkyl, -(2-6C)alkenyl or -(2-6C)alkynyl;
 -R₁₇ is -H;
 -(1-6C)alkyl, optionally substituted with -halogen, -(1-4C)alkoxy or -
 (hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -halogen, -(1-4C)alkyl or -(1-4C)alkoxy;
 -(3-6C)cycloalkyl or -(hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -halogen, -(1-
 15 4C)alkyl or -(1-4C)alkoxy;
 -R₁₈ is -H, -NH₂ or -(1-4C)alkyl, optionally substituted with -OH, -halogen, -
 cyano or -S(1-4C)alkyl;
 -R₁₉ is -H or -(1-6C)alkyl, optionally substituted with -OH or -halogen; and
 -R₂₀ is -H;
 20 -(1-6C)alkyl or -(2-6C)alkenyl, both optionally substituted by -halogen, -O(1-
 6C)alkyl, -(hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -(1-4C)alkyl or halogen;
 -(3-6C)cycloalkyl, -(1-6C)alkoxy, -(1-6C)alkenyloxy; or
 -(hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -(1-4C)alkyl; -NH₂, -NH(1-6C)alkyl or
 -NH(hetero)aryl;
 25 -R₂₁ is -H or -(1-6C)alkyl.
2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein -R₃, -R₆, -R₇, -R₉, -R₁₂, -R₁₃, -R₁₄ ~~and~~
~~-R₁₅~~ are -H and -R₄ and -R₁₆ are -H or -(1-4C)alkyl.
 3. A compound according to claims 1 or 2 wherein -R₁ is -H;
 -R₈ is -H, -cyano or -halogen;
 30 -(hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -(1-4C)alkyl;
 -C(R₁₆)NOR₁₆, -C(O)N(R₁₇)₂, -C(O)R₁₈ or -C(O)OR₁₉;
 -R₁₀ is -(1-4C)alkyl;

-R₁₅ is -(1-6C)alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more -halogen or -
(hetero)aryl;

-(hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -(1-4C)alkyl or -NH₂; or

-(di)(1-4C)alkylamino;

5 -R₁₇ is -(hetero)aryl, optionally substituted with -(1-4C)alkoxy;

-R₁₈ is -(1-4C)alkyl and

-R₁₉ is -(1-6C)alkyl.

4. A compound selected from the group of

- 10 rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-bromo-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide;
rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide;
rel-2,2-dichloro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
15 rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide
rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide;
20 rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2,2-difluoroacetamide;
rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]methanesulfonamide;
rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]ethanesulfonamide;
25 rel-N'-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-N,N-dimethylaminosulfamide;
rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-3,5-dimethylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;
30 rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-acetyl-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide;

- rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-acetyl-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide;
- rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-8-[1-(hydroxyimino)ethyl]-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
- rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
- rel-2,2-dichloro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
- rel-2-chloro-2,2-difluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
- rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
- rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]isoxazole-5-carboxamide;
- rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-5-methyl-isoxazole-3-carboxamide;
- rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide;
- rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2-thiophenacetamide;
- rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]methanesulfonamide;
- rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]ethanesulfonamide;
- rel-N'-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-N,N-dimethylaminosulfamide;
- rel-2,2-difluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
- rel-4-amino-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyridin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-1,2,5-oxadiazole-3-carboxamide;

- rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-2-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-2-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide;
5 rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrazin-2-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
methyl rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetylamino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxylate;
10 ethyl rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetylamino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxylate;
propyl rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetylamino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxylate;
rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-N-phenyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetylamino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide;
15 rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-N-(pyridin-4-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetylamino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide;
rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-N-(2-methoxypyrimidin-5-yl)-10-methyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetylamino)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide;
20 rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-N-(2-methoxyphenyl)-10-methyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetylamino)-dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide;
rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
25 rel-2-chloro-2,2-difluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide;
30 rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-

- (pyridin-2-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide;
- 5 rel-2,2-chloro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]methanesulfonamide;
rel-2-chloro-2,2-difluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
- 10 rel-5-amino-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-(pyrimidin-4-yl)dibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-1,2,5-oxadiazole-4-carboxamide;
rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,4S,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-4,10-dimethyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
- 15 rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-N'-methyl-N'-methoxyurea;
rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-cyano-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-2-hydroxyacetamide;
- 20 rel-(2R,10R,14bR)-2-[(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)amino]-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-N-phenyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepine-8-carboxamide;
rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-[4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl]-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyl-8-nitrodibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide;
- 25 rel-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-8-formyl-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]acetamide; or
rel-N-[(2R,10R,14bR)-1,2,3,4,10,14b-hexahydro-8-[1-(hydroxyimino)ethyl]-10-methyldibenzo[c,f]pyrido[1,2-a]azepin-2-yl]-4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-5-carboxamide.
- 30

5. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of formula I according to any of claims 1 to 4 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.
6. The compound of anyone of claims 1-4 for use in therapy.
- 5 7. Use of a compound of formula I according to any of claims 1 to 4 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for rheumatology, hematology, pulmonology, dermatology, gastro-enterology, endocrinology, neurology or nephrology.