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HETEROCYCLYLINDAZOLE AND -AZAINDAZOLE COMPOUNDS AS 5-HYDROXYTRYPTAMINE-6 LIGANDS

This invention relates to heterocyclylindazole and -azaindazole compounds useful as 5-hydroxytryptamine-6 ligands, to processes for preparing them, to pharmaceutical compositions containing them and to methods of treatment using them.



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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A number of central nervous system disorders such as anxiety, depression, motor disorders, etc., are believed to involve a disturbance of the neurotransmitter 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) or serotonin. Serotonin is localized in the central and peripheral nervous systems and is known to affect many types of conditions including psychiatric disorders, motor activity, feeding behavior, sexual activity, and neuroendocrine regulation among others. The effects of serotonin are regulated by the various 5-HT receptor subtypes. Known 5-HT receptors include 5-HT1, 5-HT2, 5-HT3, 5-HT4, 5-HT5, 5-HT6 and 5-HT7 subtypes.

The recently identified human 5-hydroxytryptamine-6 (5-HT6) receptor subtype has been cloned, and the extensive

distribution of its mRNA has been reported. Highest levels of 5-HT6 receptor mRNA have been observed in the olfactory tubercle, the striatum, nucleus accumbens, dentate gyrus and CA1, CA2 and CA3 regions of the hippocampus. Northern blots have revealed that 5-HT6 receptor mRNA appears to be exclusively present in the brain, with little evidence for its presence in peripheral tissues.

The high affinity of a number of antipsychotic agents for the 5-HT6 receptor, in addition to its mRNA localization in striatum, olfactory tubercle and nucleus accumbens suggests that some of the clinical actions of these compounds may be mediated through this receptor. Compounds which interact with, stimulate or inhibit the 5-HT6 receptor are commonly referred to as 5-HT6 ligands. These 5-HT6 receptor ligands are believed to be of potential use in the treatment of a variety of central nervous system disorders such as anxiety, depression, epilepsy, obsessive-compulsive disorders, migraine, cognitive disorders, sleep disorders, feeding disorders, panic attacks, disorders relating to withdrawl from drug abuse, schizophrenia, or the like or in the treatment of certain gastrointestinal disorders such as irritable bowel syndrome.

Therefore, it is an object of this invention to provide compounds which are useful as therapeutic agents in the treatment of a variety of central nervous system disorders related to or affected by the 5-HT6 receptor.

It is another object of this invention to provide therapeutic methods and pharmaceutical compositions useful for the treatment of central nervous system disorders related to or affected by the 5-HT6 receptor.

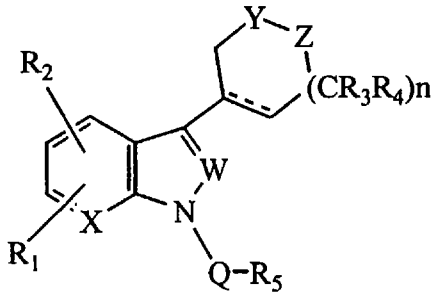
It is a feature of this invention that the compounds provided may also be used to further study and elucidate the 5-HT6 receptor.

These and other objects and features of the invention will become more apparent by the detailed description set forth hereinbelow.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a compound of formula I

wherein



(I)

Q is SO_2, CO, $CONR_{24}$, $CSNR_{25}$ or CH_2;

W is N or CR_6;

X is N or CR_7;

Y is NR_8 or CR_9R_{10};

n is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

Z is NR_{11} or $CR_{12}R_{13}$ with the proviso that when n is 1, Q is SO_2, CO or CH_2, and W is CR_6 then Z must be $CR_{12}R_{13}$ and with the further provisos that when Y is NR_8 then Z must be $CR_{12}R_{13}$ and at least one of Y and Z must be NR_8 or NR_{11};

R_1, R_2 and R_7 are each independently H, halogen, CN, OCO_2R_{14}, CO_2R_{15}, $CONR_{29}R_{30}$, $CNR_{16}NR_{17}R_{18}$, SO_mR_{19}, $NR_{20}R_{21}$, OR_{22}, COR_{23} or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-

C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_3, R_4, R_9, R_{10}, R_{12} and R_{13} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl group;

R_5 is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

m is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

R_6 is H, halogen, or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_8 and R_{11} are each independently H, $CNR_{26}NR_{27}R_{28}$ or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_{14}, R_{15}, R_{22} and R_{23} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_{16}, R_{17}, R_{18}, R_{20}, R_{21}, R_{26}, R_{27}, R_{28}, R_{29} and R_{30} are each independently H or C_1-C_4alkyl;

R_{19} is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_{24} and R_{25} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group; and

---- represents a single bond or a double bond; or

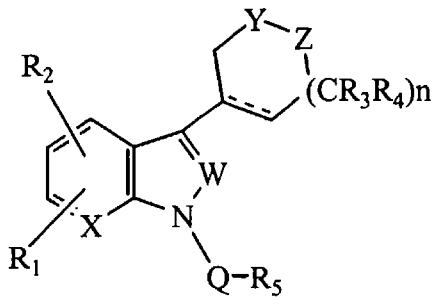
the stereoisomers thereof or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

The present invention further provides methods and compositions useful for the treatment of central nervous system disorders affected by or related to the 5-HT6 receptor.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The 5-hydroxytryptamine-6 (5-HT6) receptor is one of the most recent receptors to be identified by molecular cloning. Its ability to bind a wide range of therapeutic compounds used in psychiatry, coupled with its intriguing distribution in the brain has stimulated significant interest in new compounds which are capable of interacting with or affecting said receptor. At present, there are no known fully selective agonists. Significant efforts are being made to understand the possible role of the 5-HT6 receptor in psychiatry, cognitive dysfunction, motor function and control, memory, mood and the like. To that end, compounds which demonstrate a binding affinity for the 5-HT6 receptor are earnestly sought both as an aid in the study of the 5-HT6 receptor and as potential therapeutic agents in the treatment of central nervous system disorders.

Surprisingly, it has now been found that heterocyclylindazole or-azaindazole compounds of formula I demonstrate affinity for the 5-HT6 receptor along with significant receptor sub-type selectivity. Advantageously, said formula I compounds are effective therapeutic agents for the treatment of central nervous system (CNS) disorders associated with or affected by the 5-HT6 receptor. Accordingly, the present invention provides heterocyclylindazole or -azaindazole compounds of formula I



(I)

wherein

Q is SO_2, CO, $CONR_{24}$, $CSNR_{25}$ or CH_2;

W is N or CR_6;

X is N or CR_7;

Y is NR_8 or CR_9R_{10};

n is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

Z is NR_{11} or $CR_{12}R_{13}$ with the proviso that when n is 1, Q is SO_2, CO or CH_2, and W is CR_6 then Z must be $CR_{12}R_{13}$ and with the further provisos that when Y is NR_8 then Z must be $CR_{12}R_{13}$ and at least one of Y and Z must be NR_8 or NR_{11};

R_1, R_2 and R_7 are each independently H, halogen, CN, OCO_2R_{14}, CO_2R_{15}, $CONR_{29}R_{30}$, $CNR_{16}NR_{17}R_{18}$, SO_mR_{19}, $NR_{20}R_{21}$, OR_{22}, COR_{23} or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_3, R_4, R_9, R_{10}, R_{12} and R_{13} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl group;

R_5 is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

m is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

R_6 is H, halogen, or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_8 and R_{11} are each independently H, $CNR_{26}NR_{27}R_{28}$ or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_{14}, R_{15}, R_{22} and R_{23} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_{16}, R_{17}, R_{18}, R_{20}, R_{21}, R_{26}, R_{27}, R_{28}, R_{29} and R_{30} are each independently H or C_1-C_4alkyl;

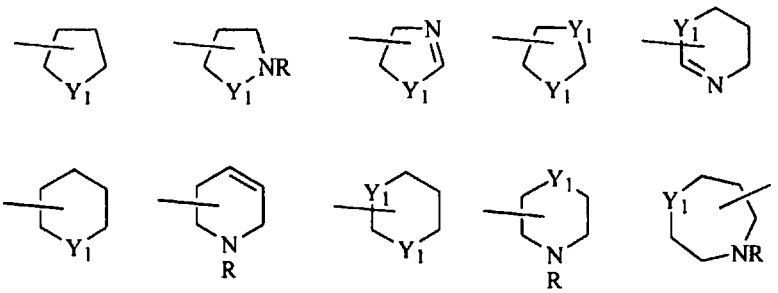
R_{19} is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_{24} and R_{25} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group; and

---- represents a single bond or a double bond; or

the stereoisomers thereof or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

As used in the specification and claims, the term halogen designates Br, Cl, I or F; the term aryl designates phenyl or naphthyl; and the term cycloheteroalkyl designates a 5- to 7-membered monocyclic ring system containing 1 or 2 heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur and optionally containing one double bond. Exemplary of the cycloheteroalkyl ring systems included in the term as designated herein are the following rings wherein Y_1 is NR, O or S and R is H or an optional substituent as described hereinbelow.



For example the term cycloheteroalkyl includes radicals derived from rings such as piperidine, morpholine, piperazine and pyrrolidine.

Similarly, as used in the specification and claims, the term heteroaryl designates a 5- to 12-membered mono-, bi- or tri-cyclic aromatic ring system containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O or S. Such heteroaryl ring systems include pyrrolyl, azolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, furyl, thienyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, indolinyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, benzisoxazolyl, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridinyl, imidazo[2,1-b]thiazolyl benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazolyl and the like. The term haloalkyl designates a C_nH_{2n+1} group having from one to 2n+1 halogen atoms which may be the same or different; and the term haloalkoxy designates an OC_nH_{2n+1} group having from one to 2n+1 halogen atoms which may be the same or different.

In the specification and claims, when the terms C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, C_1-C_6alkanoyl, aryl or heteroaryl are designated as being optionally substituted, the substituent groups which are optionally present may be one or more of those customarily employed in the development of pharmaceutical compounds or the modification of such compounds to influence their structure/activity, persistence, absorption, stability or other beneficial property. Specific examples of such substituents include halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, thiocyanato, cyanato, hydroxyl, alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, amino, alkylamino,

dialkylamino, formyl, alkoxycarbonyl, carboxyl, alkanoyl, alkylthio, alkylsuphinyl, alkylsulphonyl, carbamoyl, alkylamido, phenyl, phenoxy, benzyl, benzyloxy, cycloheteroalkyl, heteroaryl or cycloalkyl groups, preferably halogen atoms or lower alkyl groups. Typically, up to 3 substituents may be present. When any of the foregoing substituents represents or contains an alkyl substituent group, this may be linear or branched and may contain up to 12, preferably up to 6, more preferably up to 4 carbon atoms such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, and n- and t-butyl.

Pharmaceutically acceptable salts may be any acid addition salt formed by a compound of formula I and a pharmaceutically acceptable acid such as phosphoric, sulfuric, hydrochloric, hydrobromic, citric, maleic, mandelic, malonic, succinic, fumaric, acetic, lactic, nitric, sulfonic, p-toluene sulfonic, methane sulfonic acid or the like.

Compounds of the invention include esters, carbamates or other conventional prodrug forms, which in general, are functional derivatives of the compounds of the invention and which are readily converted to the inventive active moiety *in vivo*. Correspondingly, the method of the invention embraces the treatment of the various conditions described hereinabove with a compound of formula I or with a compound which is not specifically disclosed but which, upon administration, converts to a compound of formula I *in vivo*. Also included are metabolites of the compounds of the present invention defined as active species produced upon introduction of these compounds into a biological system.

Compounds of the invention may exist as one or more stereoisomers. The various stereoisomers include enantiomers, diastereomers, atropisomers and geometric isomers. One skilled in the art will appreciate that one stereoisomer may be more active or may exhibit beneficial effects when enriched relative to the other stereoisomer(s) or when separated from the other stereoisomer(s). Additionally, the skilled artisan knows how to separate, enrich or selectively prepare said stereoisomers. Accordingly, the present invention comprises compounds of Formula I, the stereoisomers thereof and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. The compounds of the invention may be present as a mixture of stereoisomers, individual stereoisomers, or as an optically active form.

Examples of R_1 and R_2 are independently hydrogen, halogen (such as fluorine, chlorine) C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy (eg methoxy), hydroxy, and cyano; for example where substitution is in the 5- and/or 6- position.

Examples of n are 0, 1 or 2. Examples of R_3 and R_4 when present are independently hydrogen and (C_1-C_6)alkyl.

Examples of Y are NR_8 and CR_9R_{10} where R_8, R_9 and R_{10} are each selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl and C_1-C_6alkyl substituted by for example aryl; e.g., Y may be $-CH_2-$, -NH-, -NMe-, -N(Bz)- and $-N(CH_2CH_2$phenyl)-.

Examples of Z are NR_{11} and $CR_{12}R_{13}$ where R_{11}, R_{12} and R_{13} are each selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl and C_1-C_6alkyl substituted by for example aryl; e.g., Y may be $-CH_2-$, -NH-, -NMe-, -N(Bz)- and $-N(CH_2CH_2$phenyl)-.

Q may be for example SO_2, C=O or CH_2.

Examples of R_5 are aryl e.g., phenyl or naphthyl, or heteroaryl e.g., thienyl (such as thien-2-yl), thiazolyl (e.g.,thiazol-2-yl), benzothienyl (such as benzo[b]thien-2 or 4-yl); quinolyl (such as quinolin-8-yl); imidazo[1,2-a]pyridinyl, imidazo[2,1-b]thiazolyl and benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazolyl; said aryl and heteroaryl groups being unsubstituted or optionally substituted by one or more (e.g., 1 to 3) substituents the same or different as described herein. Such substituents include nitro, cyano, thiocyanato, cyanato, hydroxyl, alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, formyl, (C_1-C_6alkoxy)carbonyl, carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkanoyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, (C_1-C_6)alkylsulphinyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-sulphonyl, carbamoyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylamido, phenyl, phenoxy, benzyl, benzyloxy, heteroaryl and cycloheteroalkyl or (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl groups. Such optionally substituted groups for R_8 are also examples of aryl or heteroaryl for each of R_1, R_2, R_6, R_7, R_8, R_{11}, R_{14}, R_{15}, R_{19}, R_{22}, R_{23}, R_{24} and R_{25}.

Examples of W are CR_6 wherein R_6 is for example hydrogen or (C_1-C_6)alkyl or W is N.

Examples of X are CR_7 wherein R_7 is for example hydrogen or (C_1-C_6)alkyl or X is N.

When X is N, W may be for example CR_7. When X is CR_7, W may be for example N or CR_6.

Preferred compounds of the invention are those compounds of formula I wherein n is 1 and Y is NR_8. Also preferred are those compounds of formula I wherein n is 0. Further preferred compounds of the invention are those compounds of formula I wherein Q is SO_2 or CO and R_5 is an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl group. Another group of preferred compounds is those compounds of formula I wherein ---- represents a single bond.

More preferred compounds of the invention are those compounds of formula I wherein n is 0; Q is SO_2; X is CR_7; and Z is NR_{11}. Another group of more preferred inventive compounds are those formula I compounds wherein n is 1; Q is SO_2; Y is NR_8; X is CR_7; and R_5 is an optionally substituted aryl group. Further more preferred compounds of the invention are those compounds of formula I wherein n is 0; Q is SO_2; W is CR_6; X is CR_7; Z is NR_{11}; R_5 is an optionally substituted aryl group; and ---- represents a single bond.

Among the preferred compounds of the invention are:
1-(phenylsulfonyl)-3-(piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;
1-(4-nitrophenyl)-3-(piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;
1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;
1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl-3-(piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(4-chlorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(naphth-2-ylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(4-aminophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(3,4-dichlorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-[(4,5-dichlorothien-2-yl)sulfonyl]-3-(1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(2-bromophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(4-iodophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(2-iodophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(4-aminophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-benzylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

3-(1-benzylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1-(4-methylphenylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

3-(1-benzylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1-(3,4-dichlorophenyl-sulfonyl)-1H-indole;

3-(1-benzylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1-(2-bromophenylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

5-[3-(1-benzylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-indole-1-sulfonyl]-4-methyl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

3-(1-benzylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1-[(5-bromothien-2-yl)sulfonyl]-1H-indole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methylazepan-4-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methylazepan-4-yl)-1H-indole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-5-fluoro-3-(1-methylazepan-4-yl)-1H-indole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1H-indole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1H-indole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-phenylsulfonyl-5-fluoro-3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1H-indole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-5-fluoro-3-(1-methyl-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(benzo[b]thioen-4-ylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(3-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-(2,5-dichlorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

8-[3-(1-methyl-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)indole-1-sulfonyl]-quinoline;

1-phenylsulfonyl-5-chloro-3-(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;

5-methoxy-3-(1-methyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)-1-(naphth-1-yl-sulfonyl)-1H-indazole;

3-(1-methylazepan-4-yl)-1-(naphth-1-yl-sulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-(1-methylazepan-4-yl)-1-(naphth-1-yl-sulfonyl)-1H-indole;

1-(benzo[b]thien-4-ylsulfonyl)-5-fluoro-3-(1-methylazepan-4-yl)-1H-indole;

8-[3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-indole-1-sulfonyl]-quinoline;

3-(1-methyl-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

8-[3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-1-sulfonyl]-quinoline;

8-[5-fluoro-3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-indole-1-sulfonyl]-quinoline;

5-fluoro-3-(1-methyl-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

1-(benzo[b]thien-4-ylsulfonyl)-3-(1-benzyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(3-fluoro-phenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-phenethyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-(2,5-dichlorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-ethyl-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-(1-methyl-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-1-(naphth-2-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

5-chloro-1-(3-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-3-piperidin-4-yl-1H-indazole;

5-methoxy-1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-3-(1,2,2-trimethyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-pyridin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-3-(1-phenethyl-azepan-4-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-azepan-4-yl-1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

3-azepan-4-yl-1-(3-chloro-5-methyl-benzo[b]thien-2-ylsulfonyl)-5-fluoro-1H-indole;

8-[3-(1-phenethyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-indole-1-sulfonyl]-quinoline;

3-[1-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl]-1-(naphth-2-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

1-(2,3-dichlorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-]pyridine;

1-[(3-chloro-5-methoxyphenylsulfonyl)]-3-(2,2-dimethyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-5-fluoro-1H-indole;

3-azepan-4-yl-5-fluoro-1-(naphth-2-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

1-benzenesulfonyl-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(4-isopropyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(5-chloro-thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3,4-difluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(4-trifluoromethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(4-methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(4-trifluoromethy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3-chloro-4-methyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(2-chloro-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(2-naphthylenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(5-chloro-3-methyl-benzo[b]thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(2,6-dichloro-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole-5-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine;

2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole;

1-(4-isopropyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(5-chloro-thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(3-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(3,4-difluoro -benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(4-trifluoromethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(3-chloro-4-methyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(2-chloro-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(2-naphthylenesulfonyl)-3- piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(5-chloro-3-methyl-benzo[b]thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

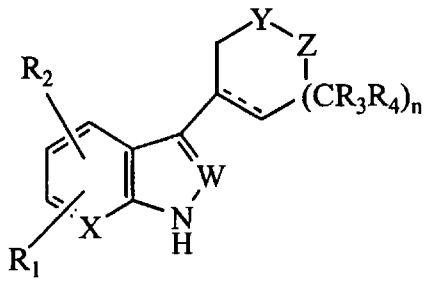
2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-1-sulfonyl)-imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine;

2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-1-sulfonyl)-benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole;

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

This invention also provides processes for preparing compounds of formula (I) which processes comprise one of the following:

a) reacting a compound of formula



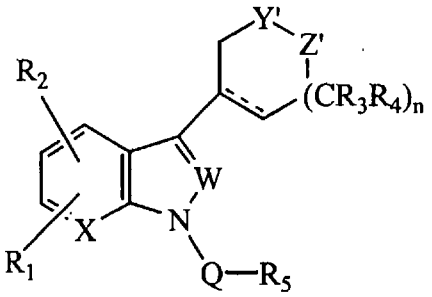
wherein W, X, Y, Z, R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are as defined herein, with an appropriate sulphonylating, acylating, carbamoylating, thiocarbamoylating or alkylating agent containing the group:

R_5-Q-

where R_8 is as defined above and Q is SO_2, CO, $CONR_{24}$, $CSNR_{25}$ or CH_2 ; said reactants protected on reactive sites and/or on reactive substituent groups as required, and removing any protecting groups to give a corresponding compound of formula (I);

or

b) removing a protecting group from a compound of formula



wherein Q, W, X, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are as defined herein and one of Y' and Z' is N-G where G is a protecting group and the other is CR_9R_{10} or $CR_{12}R_{13}$ as appropriate to give a compound of formula (I) wherein Y or Z is NH;

or

c) alkylating a compound of formula (I) as defined in above wherein R_8 or R_{11} is hydrogen with an alkylating agent of formula R_8-L or R_{11}-L wherein L is a leaving group, such as halogen, and R_8 and R_{11} are each as defined in herein excepting hydrogen, to give a corresponding compound of formula (I);

or

d) converting a compound of formula (I) having a reactive substituent group to a different compound of formula I;

or

e) converting a basic compound of formula (I) to an acid addition salt or vice versa.

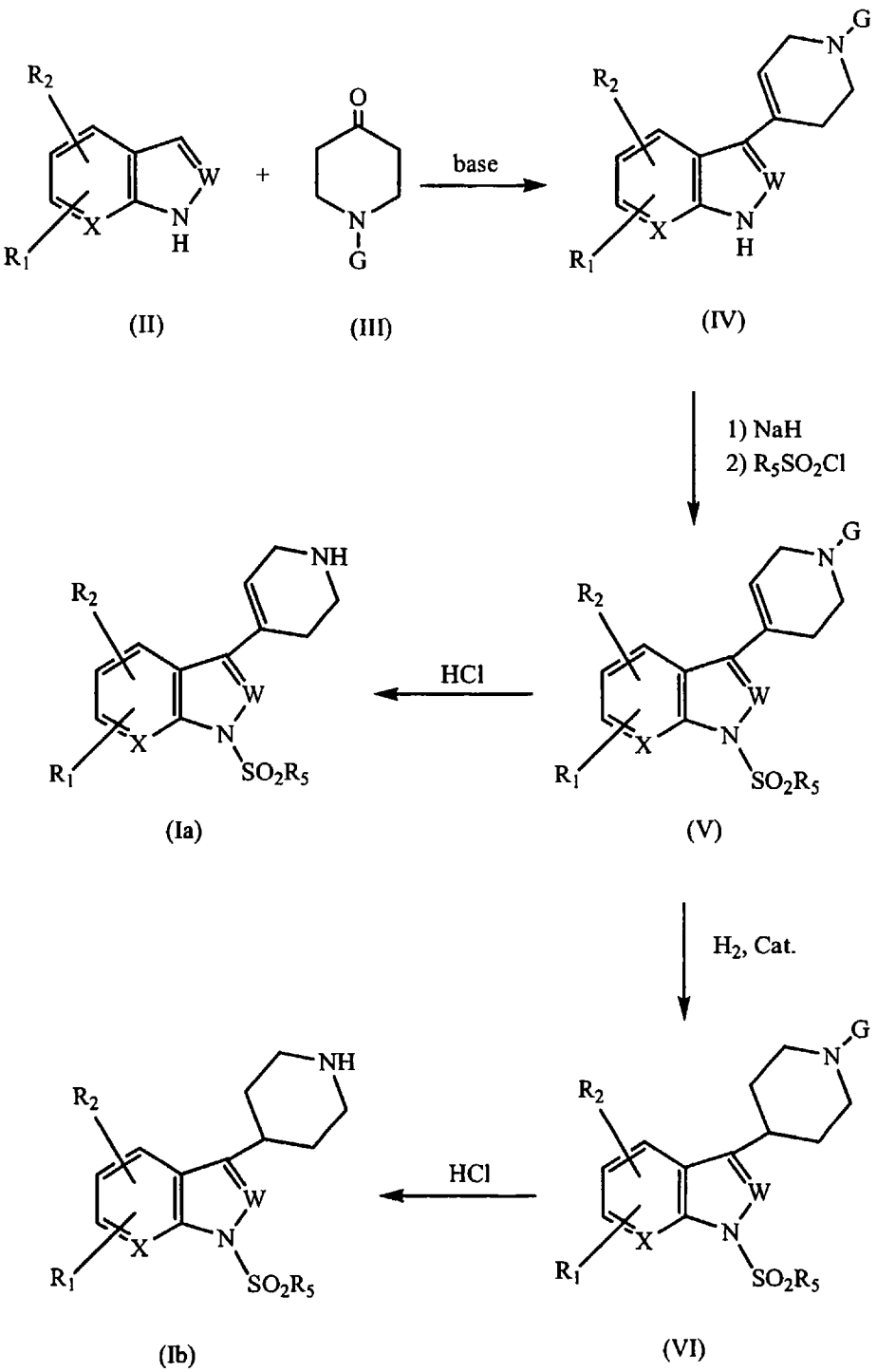
or

f) isolating an isomer of a compound of formula (I) from a mixture of isomers.

Methods for carrying out the reactions described above are well known to those skilled in the art and/or are illustrated herein. In any of the reactions described herein reactive substituent groups or sites in the molecule may be protected prior to reaction by use of appropriate protecting groups inert to the reaction conditions and removed after the reaction.

In detail, compounds of the invention may conveniently be prepared using conventional synthetic methods and, if required, standard separation or isolation techniques. For example, compounds of formula I wherein n is 1; Q is SO_2; Y is CH_2; Z is NH; and ---- represents a double bond (Ia) may be prepared by reacting a compound of formula II with a protected 4- piperidone compound of formula III, such as 1-t-butoxycarbonyl-4-piperidone, in the presence of a base to give the protected tetrahydropyridinyl compound of formula IV; sulfonating said formula IV compound to give the protected 1-sulfonyl derivative of formula V; and deprotecting the formula V compound to give the desired formula Ia product. Alternatively, the formula V compound may be reduced to give the formula VI protected piperidin-4-yl derivative and deprotection of the formula VI compound affords the compound of formula I wherein n is 1; Q is SO_2; Y is CH_2, Z is NH; and ---- represents a single bond (1b). The reaction schemes are shown in flow diagram I wherein G represents a protecting group.

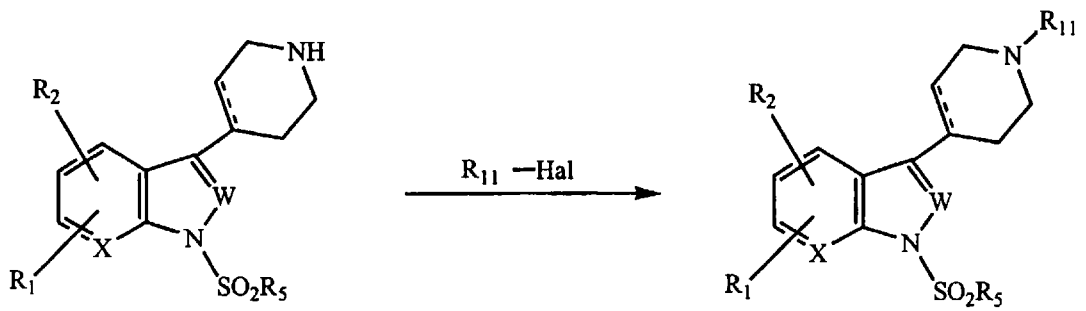
FLOW DIAGRAM I



Commonly used protecting groups include t-butylcarboxylate, benzyl, acetyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, or any conventional group known to protect a basic nitrogen in standard synthetic procedures.

The corresponding compounds of formula I wherein Z is NR_{11} and R_{11} is other than H may be prepared by alkylating the formula Ia or Ib compound with an alkylating agent R_{11}-Hal, wherein Hal is Cl, Br or I. The reaction is illustrated in flow diagram II.

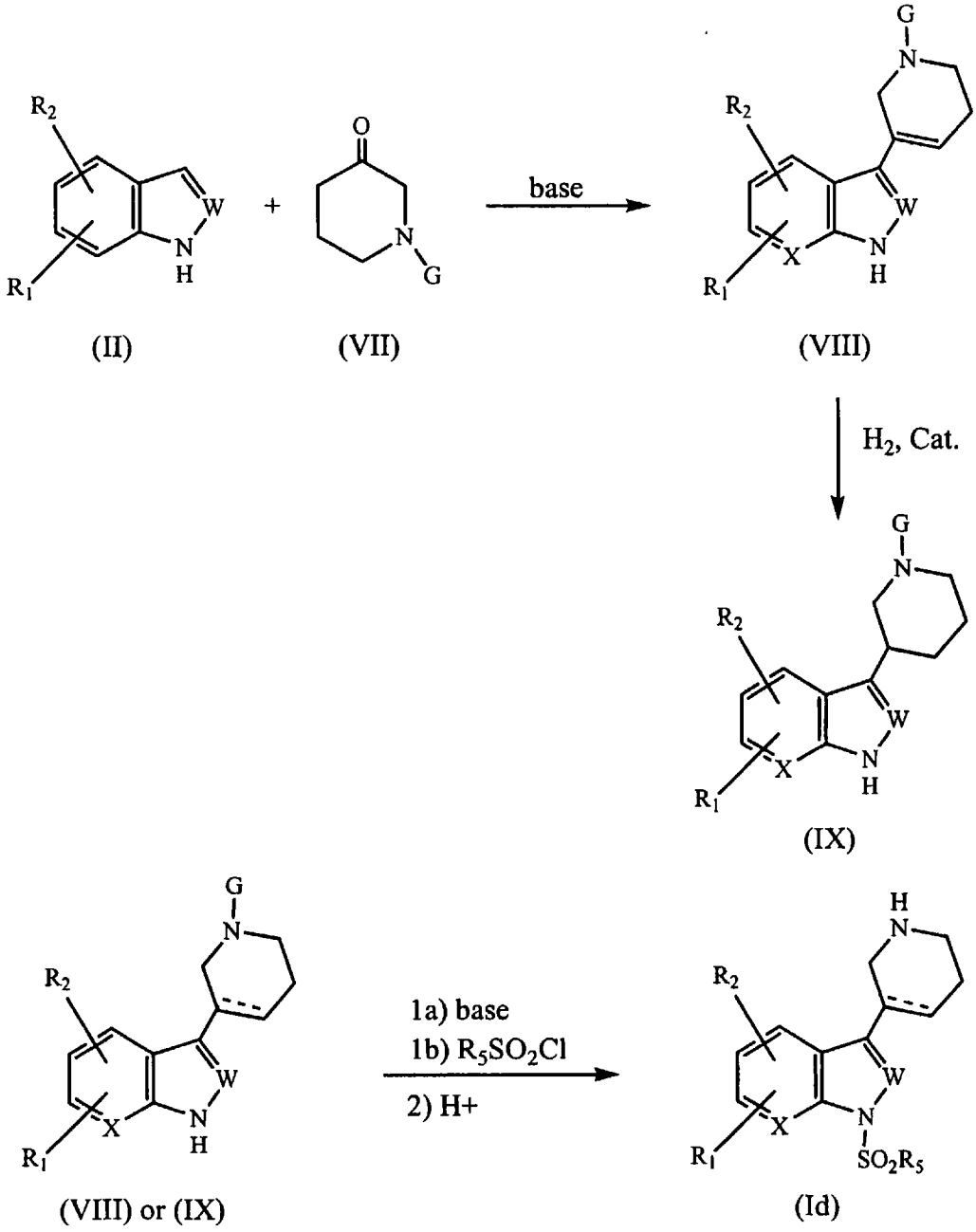
FLOW DIAGRAM II



(Ia) or (Ib) (Ic)

Similarly, commpounds of formula I wherein n is 1; Q is SO_2; Y is NH and Z is CH_2 (Id) may be prepared by reacting a formula II compound with a protected 3-piperidone of formula VII in the presence of a base to give the protected tetrahydropyridinyl compound of formula VIII; reducing said formula VIII compound via catalytic hydrogenation to give the compound of formula IX; sulfonating the formula VIII or IX compound to give the corresponding protected 1-sulfonyl derivative and deprotecting said derivative to give the desired product of formula Id. The reaction sequence is shown in flow diagram III wherein G represents a protecting group.

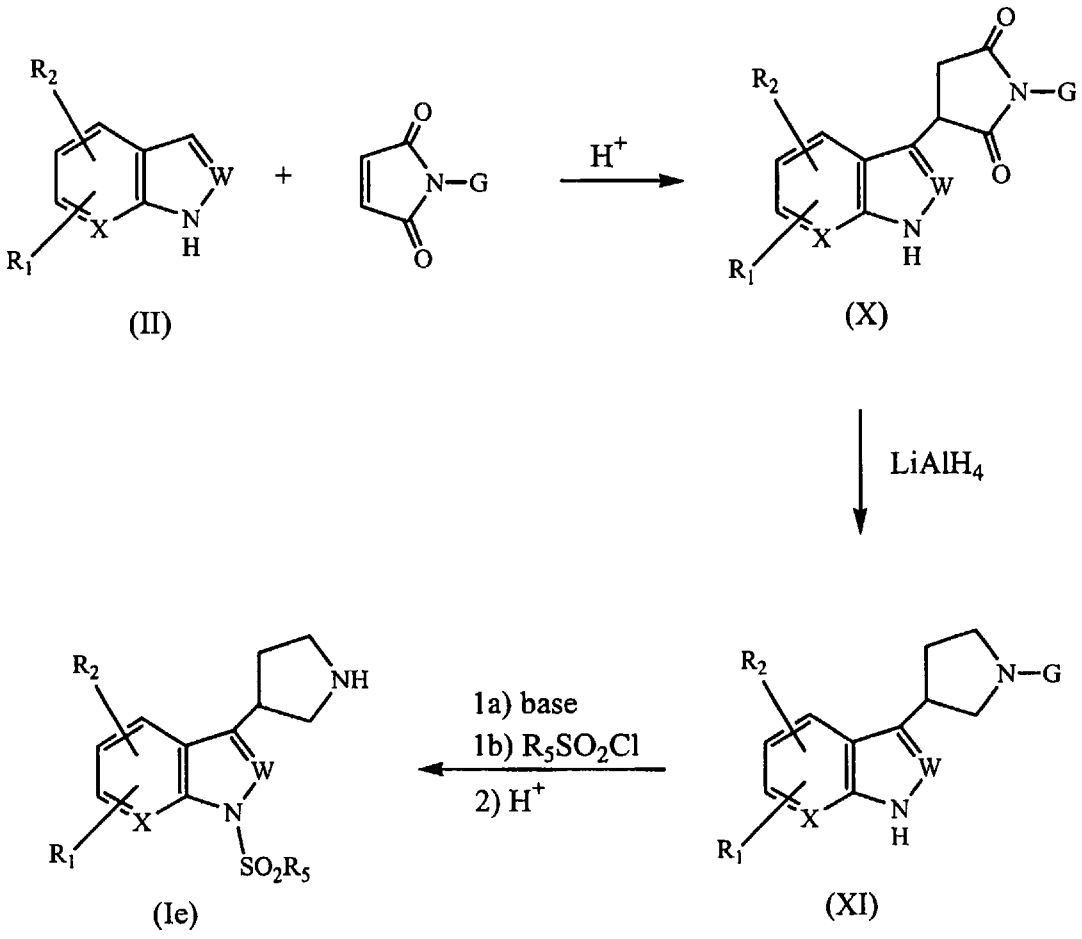
FLOW DIAGRAM III



Compounds of formula I wherein n is 0, Q is SO_2; Y is CH_2; Z is NH and ---- represents a single bond (Ie) may be prepared by reacting a compound of formula II with a protected maleimide in the presence of an acid to give the compound of formula X; reducing the formula X compound with

$LiAlH_4$ to give the 3-pyrrolidinyl compound of formula XI and sulfonating and deprotecting as described hereinabove to give the desired product of formula Ie. The reactions are shown in flow diagram IV wherein G represents a protecting group.

FLOW DIAGRAM IV



Utilizing the reactions shown in flow diagrams I, II, and III hereinabove and employing the appropriate pyrrolidone or homopiperidone affords compounds of formula I wherein n is 0 or 2 and Q is SO_2. Compounds of formula Id or Ie may be alkylated as shown in flow diagram III to give the corresponding formula I products wherein R_8 or R_{11} is

other than H. Compounds of formula I wherein Q is CO, $CONR_{24}$ or CH_2 may be prepared by reacting the protected intermediate of formula IV, VIII, IX or XI with the appropriate carbonyl halide, carbamoyl halide or alkyl halide, respectively. These and other literature procedures may be utilized to prepare the formula I compounds of the invention.

Advantageously, the inventive compound of formula I may be utilized in the treatment of central nervous system disorders relating to or affected by the 5-HT6 receptor such as motor, mood, psychiatric, cognitive, neurodegenerative, or the like disorders. In particular, CNS disorders such as anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, eating disorders, disorders related to alcohol or drug withdrawl, sexual dysfunction, attention deficit, memory loss or the like. Accordingly, the present invention provides a method for the treatment of a disorder of the central nervous system (CNS) related to or affected by the 5-HT6 receptor in a patient in need thereof which comprises providing said patient with a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I as described hereinabove. The compounds may be provided via oral or parenteral administration or in any common manner known to be an effective administration of a therapeutic agent to a patient in need thereof.

The therapeutically effective amount provided in the treatment of a specific CNS disorder may vary according to the specific condition(s) being treated, the size, age and response pattern of the patient, the severity of the disorder, the judgment of the attending physician and the like. In general, effective amounts for daily oral administration may be about 0.01 to 1,000 mg/kg, preferably about 0.5 to 500 mg/kg and effective amounts for parenteral administration may be about 0.1 to 100 mg/kg, preferably about 0.5 to 50 mg/kg.

In actual practice, the compounds of the invention are administered in a solid or liquid form, either neat or in combination with one or more conventional pharmaceutical carriers or excipients. Accordingly, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an effective amount of a compound of formula I as described hereinabove.

Solid carriers suitable for use in the composition of the invention include one or more substances which may also act as flavoring agents, lubricants, solubilizers, suspending agents, fillers, glidants, compression aides, binders, tablet-disintegrating agents or encapsulating materials. In powders, the carrier may be a finely divided solid which is in admixture with a finely divided compound of formula I. In tablets, the formula I compound may be mixed with a carrier having the necessary compression properties in suitable proportions and compacted in the shape and size desired. Said powders and tablets may contain up to 99% by weight of the formula I compound. Solid carriers suitable for use in the composition of the invention include calcium phosphate, magnesium stearate, talc, sugars, lactose, dextrin, starch, gelatin, cellulose, methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidine, low melting waxes and ion exchange resins.

Any pharmaceutically acceptable liquid carrier suitable for preparing solutions, suspensions, emulsions, syrups and elixirs may be employed in the composition of the invention. Compounds of formula I may be dissolved or suspended in a pharmaceutically acceptable liquid carrier such as water, an organic solvent, or a pharmaceutically acceptable oil or fat, or a mixture thereof. Said liquid composition may contain other suitable pharmaceutical additives such as solubilizers, emulsifiers, buffers, preservatives, sweeteners, flavoring agents, suspending agents, thickening

agents, coloring agents, viscosity regulators, stabilizers, osmo-regulators, or the like. Examples of liquid carriers suitable for oral and parenteral administration include water (particularly containing additives as above, e.g., cellulose derivatives, preferably sodium carboxymethyl cellulose solution), alcohols (including monohydric alcohols and polyhydric alcohols, e.g., glycols) or their derivatives, or oils (e.g., fractionated coconut oil and arachis oil). For parenteral administration the carrier may also be an oily ester such as ethyl oleate or isopropyl myristate.

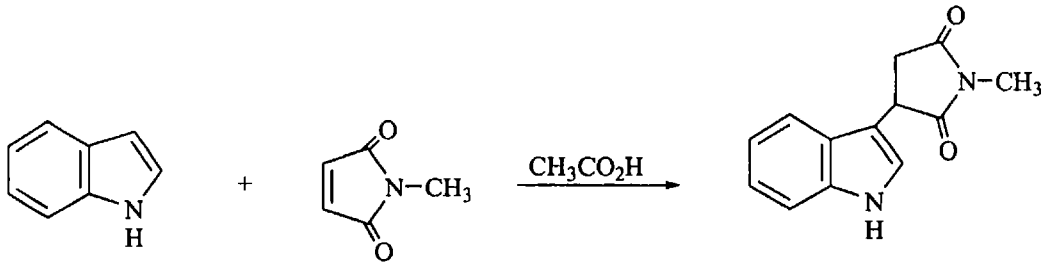
Compositions of the invention which are sterile solutions or suspensions are suitable for intramuscular, intraperitoneal or subcutaneous injection. Sterile solutions may also be administered intravenously. Inventive compositions suitable for oral administration may be in either liquid or solid composition form.

For a more clear understanding, and in order to illustrate the invention more clearly, specific examples thereof are set forth hereinbelow. The following examples are merely illustrative and are not to be understood as limiting the scope and underlying principles of the invention in any way.

Unless otherwise stated, all parts are parts by weight. The terms HPLC and NMR designate high performance liquid chromatography and nuclear magnetic resonance, respectively.

EXAMPLE 1

Preparation of 3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione



A mixture of indole (3.14g) and N-methylmaleimide (6.2g, 3 equiv.) in acetic acid is heated at 105°C for 16 hr, cooled to room temperature, held for 16 hr and filtered. The filtercake is washed with acetic acid and dried to afford the title product, 5.5g, identified by HPLC and mass spectral analyses.

EXAMPLE 2

Preparation of 3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole

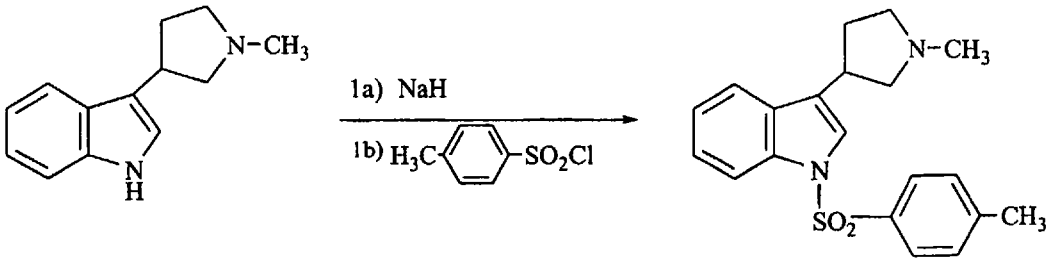


A solution of 3-(1-H-indol-3-yl)-1-methyl-pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (1.4g) in tetrahydrofuran is treated with $LiAlH_4$ (12 mL, 1.0M solution, 2 equiv), stirred at 50°C for 8 hr, cooled to room temperature, quenched with water and 15%

aqueous NaOH and filtered. The filtrate is dried over $MgSO_4$ and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the title product as an oil, 1.1 g, identified by HPLC and mass spectral analyses.

EXAMPLE 3

Preparation of 3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1-[4-(methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-1H-indole



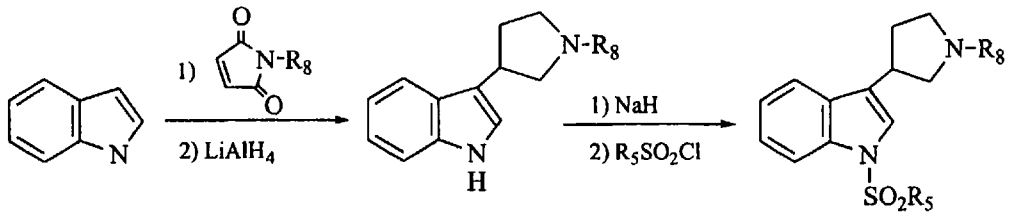
A solution of 3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole (50.1 mg, 0.25 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran is treated sequentially with NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 0.75 mmol) and 4-methylphenylsulfonyl chloride (47 mg, 0.25 mmol), stirred for 12 hr and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a residue. Purification of the residue by HPLC affords the title product as a solid, characterized by HPLC and mass spectral analyses, [M+H] 355.15, LCMS[1] retention time 1.82 min.

---

[1]LCMS conditions: HP1100 MSD system; Waters Xterra C18, 2 mm x 50 mm ID, 5 uM column; 10 uL injectin; Solvent A: 0.02% TFA/water; Solvent B:0.02% TFA/acetonitrile; Gradient: Time 0: 95% A; 0.3 min: 95% A; 5 min: 10% A, Flow rate 1 mL/min; Detection: 254 nm DAD.

EXAMPLES 4-27

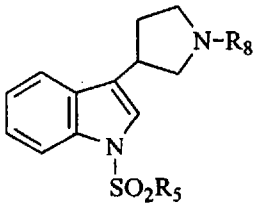
Preparation of 1-(Arylsulfonyl)-3-(N-substituted-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-Indole



Using essentially the same procedures described in Examples 3, 4 and 5 and employing the appropriate maleimide and suitable arylsulfonyl chloride the compounds shown in Table II are prepared and identified by HPLC and mass spectral analyses. (LCMS[1])

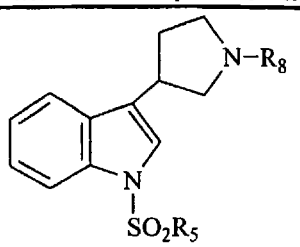
[1]LCMS conditions: HP1100 MSD system; Waters Xterra C18, 2 mm x 50 mm ID, 5 uM column; 10 uL injectin; Solvent A: 0.02% TFA/water; Solvent B:0.02% TFA/acetonitrile; Gradient: Time 0: 95% A; 0.3 min: 95% A; 5 min: 10% A, Flow rate 1 mL/min; Detection: 254 nm DAD.

Table II



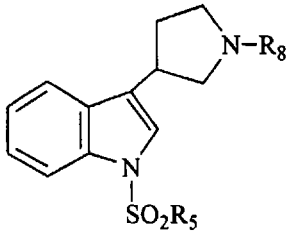
Ex. No.	R_8	R5	M+H	LCMS (min)
4	methyl	4-fluorophenyl	359	1.78
5	methyl	4-methoxyphenyl	371	1.82

Table II (cont'd)



Ex. No.	R_8	R5	M+H	LCMS (min)
6	methyl	4-chlorophenyl	375	1.90
7	methyl	5-chlorothien-2-yl	381	1.94
8	methyl	2-naphthyl	391	2.05
9	methyl	4-anilinyl	356	1.58
10	methyl	3,4-dimethoxyphenyl	401	1.74
11	methyl	3,4-dichlorophenyl	409	2.07
12	methyl	4,5-dichlorothien-2-yl	415	2.14
13	methyl	2-bromophenyl	419	1.84
14	methyl	2-amino-4-methylthiazol-5-yl	377	1.53
15	methyl	5-chloro-3-methyl-1-benzothien-2-yl	445	2.28
16	methyl	4-iodophenyl	467	1.88
17	methyl	2-iodophenyl	467	2.00
18	benzyl	4-methylphenyl	431	2.17
19	benzyl	4-methoxyphenyl	447	2.14
20	benzyl	4-aminophenyl	432	1.68
21	benzyl	3,4-dichlorophenyl	487	2.40
22	benzyl	2-bromophenyl	495	2.15
23	benzyl	2-amino-4-methylthiazol-5-yl	453	1.60
24	benzyl	5-bromothien-2-yl	501	2.30

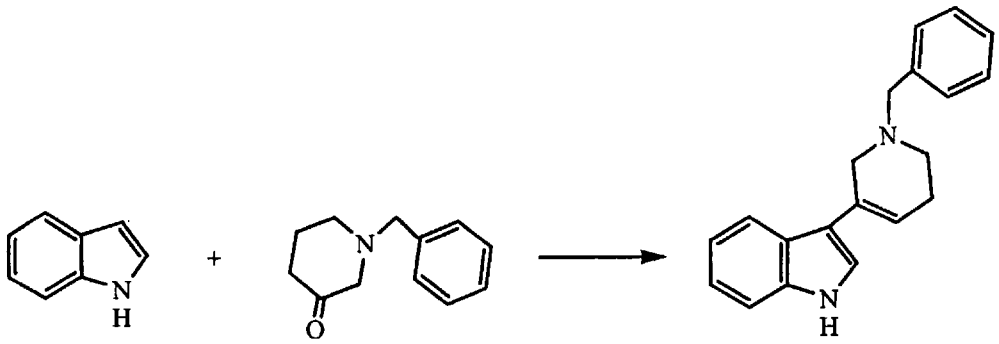
Table II (cont'd)



Ex. No.	R_8	R5	M+H	LCMS (min)
26	benzyl	4-iodophenyl	543	2.21
27	benzyl	2-iodophenyl	543	2.34

EXAMPLE 28

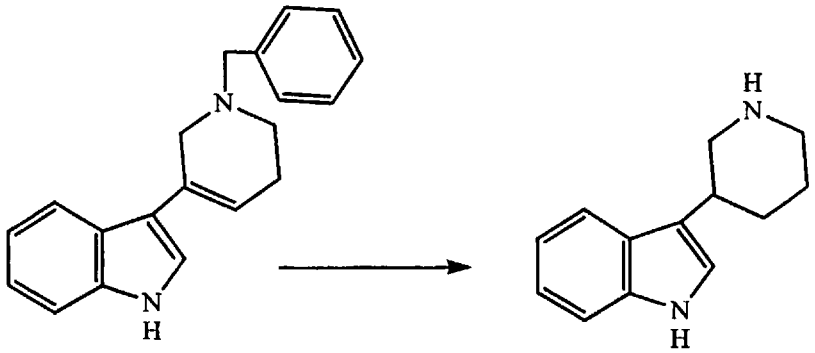
Preparation of 3-(1-Benzyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydro-pyridin-3-yl)-1H-indole



A mixture of indole (2 g, 17 mmol) and 1-benzyl-piperidin-3-one hydrochloride hydrate (7.7 g, 34 mmol) and 2N KOH/isopropanol is heated at 80°C for 14 hours, cooled to room temperature, poured over ice/water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The extracts are combined, washed with water, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the title product, identified by HPLC and mass spectral analyses.

EXAMPLE 29

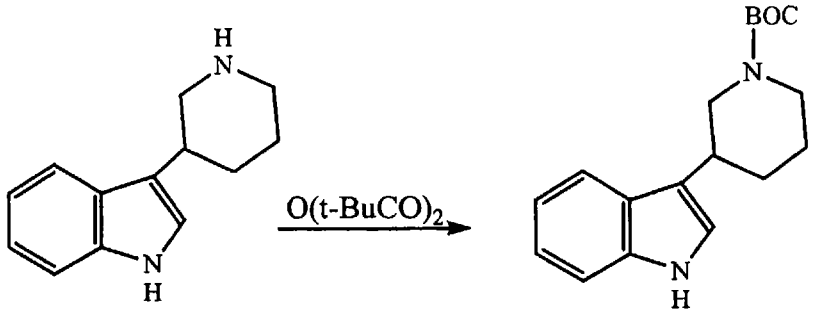
Preparation of 3-Piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole



A mixture of the 3-(1-benzyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydro-pyridin-3-yl)-1H-indole obtained in Example 28 and 10% palladium on carbon in a mixture of formic acid and methanol is stirred at room temperature for 3 days and filtered through celite. The celite is washed with methanol. The filtrates are combined and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the title product, identified by HPLC and mass spectral analyses.

EXAMPLE 30

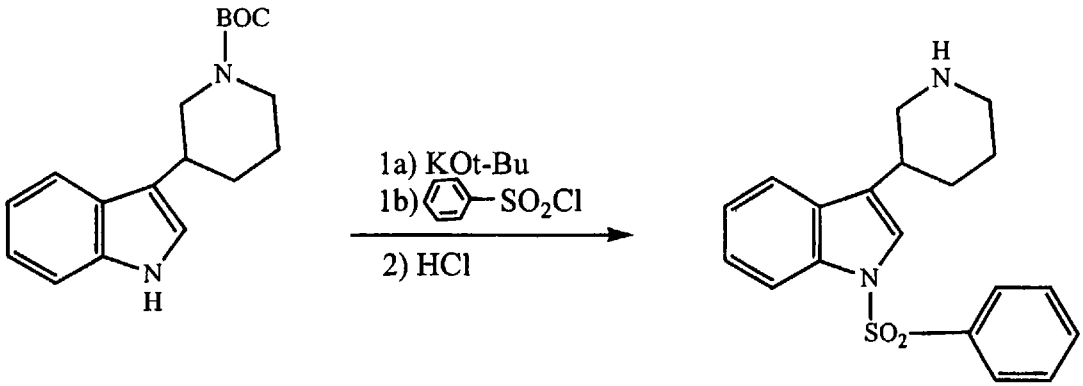
Preparation of 3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester



A solution of the 3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole obtained in Example 29 in acetone/water (1:1) at 0°C is treated with di-*tert*-dicarbonate (4.1 g, 18.7 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (11.75 g, 85 mmol), stirred for 2 hours while warming to room temperature, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resultant aqueous mixture is extracted with ethyl acetate. The extracts are combined, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resultant residue is purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 1% NH_4OH in MeOH:$CHCl_3$, 0:100 to 10:90 as eluent) to afford the title product, 1.25 g, identified by HPLC and mass spectral analyses.

EXAMPLE 31

Preparation of 1-Benzenesulfonyl-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole



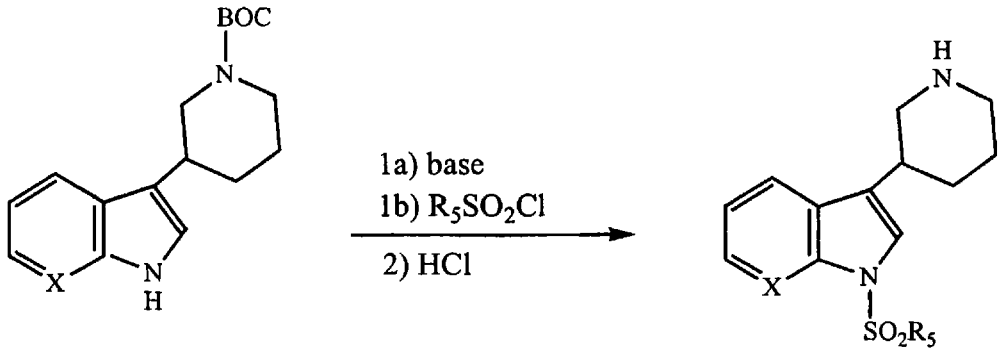
A solution of 3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (75 mg, 0.25 mmol) and phenylsulfonyl chloride (50 mg, 0.27 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (THF) at room temperature is treated with potassium *tert*-butoxide (0.275 mL, 1 M solution in THF, 0.275 mmol), shaken at room temperature for 16 hours, treated with HCl (4 N in dioxane, 0.5 mL), shaken for 2 hours and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a residue. Purification of the residue by HPLC[1] affords the title product, characterized by HPLC and mass spectral analyses [M+H] 341.45, LCMS[2] retention time 1.67 min.

[1]HPLC conditions: Gilson Preparative HPLC system; YMC Pro C18, 20 mm x 50 mm ID, 5uM column; 2 mL injection; Solvent A: 0.02% TFA/water; Solvent B:0.02% TFA/acetonitrile; Gradient: Time 0: 95% A; 2 min: 95% A; 14 min: 10% A, 15 min: 10% A, 16 min: 95% A; Flow rate 22.5 mL/min; Detection: 254 nm DAD.

[2]LCMS conditions: HP1100 MSD system; Waters Xterra C18, 2 mm x 50 mm ID, 5 uM column; 10 uL injectin; Solvent A: 0.02% TFA/water; Solvent B:0.02% TFA/acetonitrile; Gradient: Time 0: 95% A; 0.3 min: 95% A; 5 min: 10% A, Flow rate 1 mL/min; Detection: 254 nm DAD.

EXAMPLES 32-57

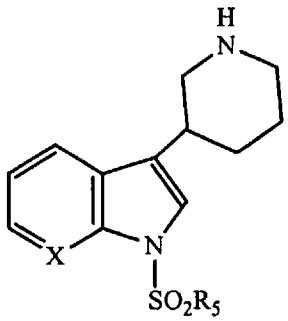
Preparation of 1-Arylsulfonyl-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole



Using essentially the same procedures described in Examples 28-31 and employing the appropriate indole or azaindole substrate and a suitable arylsulfonyl chloride the compounds shown in Table III are prepared and identified by HPLC and mass spectral analyses. (LCMS[1])

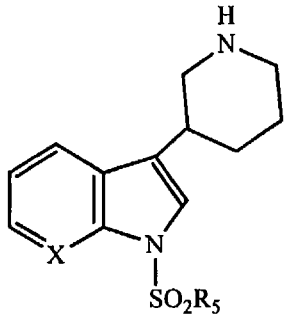
[1]LCMS conditions: HP1100 MSD system; Waters Xterra C18, 2 mm x 50 mm ID, 5 uM column; 10 uL injectin; Solvent A: 0.02% TFA/water; Solvent B:0.02% TFA/acetonitrile; Gradient: Time 0: 95% A; 0.3 min: 95% A; 3 min: 10% A, Flow rate 1 mL/min; Detection: 254 nm DAD.

Table III



Ex. No.	R5	X	M+H	LCMS (min)
32	4-isopropylphenyl	CH	384	1.95
33	5-chlorothien-2-yl	CH	382	1.83
34	3-chlorophenyl	CH	376	1.90
35	3,4-difluorophenyl	CH	377	1.79
36	4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl	CH	425	1.94
37	4-methoxyphenyl	CH	371	1.76
38	4-trifluoromethylphenyl	CH	409	1.94
39	3-chloro-4-methylphenyl	CH	390	1.96
40	2-chloro-4-trifluorophenyl	CH	444	2.02
41	2-naphthyl	CH	392	1.94
42	5-chloro-3-methylbenzo[B]-thiene-2-yl	CH	446	2.15
43	2,6-dichloro-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-5-yl	CH	456	1.90
44	2-Chloro-imidazo[1,2-a]pyrid-3-yl	CH	416	1.72
45	2-Chloro-benzo[d]imidazo-[2,1-b]thiazol-3-yl	CH	472	1.92
46	4-isopropylphenyl	N	385	1.95
47	5-chlorothien-2-yl	N	383	1.63
48	3-chlorophenyl	N	377	1.65

Table III (cont'd)



Ex. No.	R5	X	M+H	LCMS (min)
49	3,4-difluorophenyl	N	378	1.62
50	4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl	N	426	1.94
51	4-trifluoromethylphenyl	N	410	1.86
52	3-chloro-4-methylphenyl	N	391	1.84
53	2-chloro-4-trifluorophenyl	N	445	1.99
54	2-naphthyl	N	393	1.82
55	2,6-dichloro-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-5-yl	N	447	2.13
56	2-Chloro-imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrid-3-yl	N	417	1.63
57	2-Chloro-benzo[d]-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-yl	N	473	1.88

EXAMPLE 58

Comparative Evaluation of 5-HT6 Binding Affinity of Test Compounds

The affinity of test compounds for the serotonin 5-HT6 receptor is evaluated in the following manner. Cultured Hela cells expressing human cloned 5-HT6 receptors are harvested and centrifuged at low speed (1,000 x g) for 10.0 min to remove the culture media. The harvested cells are suspended in half volume of fresh physiological phosphate buffered saline solution and recentrifuged at the same speed. This operation is repeated. The collected cells are then homogenized in ten volumes of 50 mM Tris.HCl (pH 7.4) and 0.5 mM EDTA. The homogenate is centrifuged at 40,000 x g for 30.0 min and the precipitate is collected. The obtained pellet is resuspended in 10 volumes of Tris.HCl buffer and recentrifuged at the same speed. The final pellet is suspended in a small volume of Tris.HCl buffer and the tissue protein content is determined in aliquots of 10-25 μl volumes. Bovine Serum Albumin is used as the standard in the protein determination according to the method described in Lowry et al., J. Biol. Chem., 193:265 (1951). The volume of the suspended cell membranes is adjusted to give a tissue protein concentration of 1.0 mg/ml of suspension. The prepared membrane suspension (10 times concentrated) is aliquoted in 1.0 ml volumes and stored at -70° C until used in subsequent binding experiments.

Binding experiments are performed in a 96 well microtiter plate format, in a total volume of 200 μl. To each well is added the following mixture: 80.0 μl of

incubation buffer made in 50 mM Tris.HCl buffer (pH 7.4) containing 10.0 mM $MgCl_2$ and 0.5 mM EDTA and 20 µl of [^{3}H]-LSD (S.A., 86.0 Ci/mmol, available from Amersham Life Science), 3.0 nM. The dissociation constant, K_D of the [^{3}H]LSD at the human serotonin 5-HT6 receptor is 2.9 nM, as determined by saturation binding with increasing concentrations of [^{3}H]LSD. The reaction is initiated by the final addition of 100.0 µl of tissue suspension. Nonspecific binding is measured in the presence of 10.0 µM methiothepin. The test compounds are added in 20.0 µl volume.

The reaction is allowed to proceed in the dark for 120 min at room temperature, at which time, the bound ligand-receptor complex is filtered off on a 96 well unifilter with a Packard Filtermate® 196 Harvester. The bound complex caught on the filter disk is allowed to air dry and the radioactivity is measured in a Packard TopCount® equipped with six photomultiplier detectors, after the addition of 40.0µl Microscint®-20 scintillant to each shallow well. The unifilter plate is heat-sealed and counted in a PackardTopCount® with a tritium efficiency of 31.0%.

Specific binding to the 5-HT6 receptor is defined as the total radioactivity bound less the amount bound in the presence of 10.0µM unlabeled methiothepin. Binding in the presence of varying concentrations of test compound is expressed as a percentage of specific binding in the absence of test compound. The results are plotted as log % bound versus log concentration of test compound. Nonlinear regression analysis of data points with a computer assisted program Prism® yielded both the IC_{50} and the K_i values of test compounds with 95% confidence limits. A linear

regression line of data points is plotted, from which the IC_{50} value is determined and the K_i value is determined based upon the following equation:

$$K_i = IC_{50} / (1 + L/K_D)$$

where L is the concentration of the radioactive ligand used and K_D is the dissociation constant of the ligand for the receptor, both expressed in nM.

Using this assay, the following Ki values are determined and compared to those values obtained by representative compounds known to demonstrate binding to the 5-HT6 receptor. The data are shown in Table IV, below.

Table IV

Test Compound (Ex. No.)	5-HT6 Binding Ki (nM)
4	2
6	1
8	3
9	1
10	5
11	3
12	4
13	1
16	1
17	2
18	8
20	1
21	15
22	14
23	3
24	9

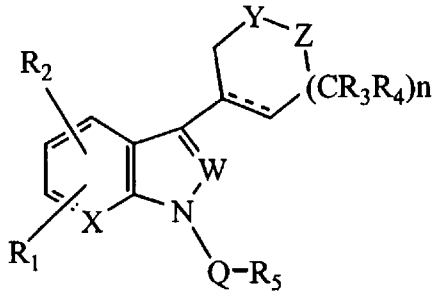
Table IV (cont'd)

Test Compound (Ex. No.)	5-HT6 Binding Ki (nM)
31	2
32	5
33	3
34	2
35	7
37	10
38	10
39	6
41	8
47	7
48	6
Clozapine	6.0
Loxapine	41.4
Methiothepin	8.3
Bromocriptine	23.0
Mianserin	44.2
Olzanzepine	19.5

As can be seen from the data in Table II, the compounds of the invention demonstrate a high affinity for the 5-HT6 receptor.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. The present invention provides a compound of formula I



(I)

wherein

Q is SO_2, CO, $CONR_{24}$, $CSNR_{25}$ or CH_2;

W is N or CR_6;

X is N or CR_7;

Y is NR_8 or CR_9R_{10};

n is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

Z is NR_{11} or $CR_{12}R_{13}$ with the proviso that when n is 1, Q is SO_2, CO or CH_2 and W is CR_6 then Z must be $CR_{12}R_{13}$ and with the further provisos that when Y is NR_8 then Z must be $CR_{12}R_{13}$ and at least one of Y and Z must be NR_8 or NR_{11};

R_1, R_2 and R_7 are each independently H, halogen, CN, OCO_2R_{14}, CO_2R_{15}, $CONR_{29}R_{30}$, $CNR_{16}NR_{17}R_{18}$, SO_mR_{19}, $NR_{20}R_{21}$, OR_{22}, COR_{23} or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_3, R_4, R_9, R_{10}, R_{12} and R_{13} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl group;

R_5 is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

m is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

R_6 is H, halogen, or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_8 and R_{11} are each independently H, $CNR_{26}NR_{27}R_{28}$ or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_{14}, R_{15}, R_{22} and R_{23} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_{16}, R_{17}, R_{18}, R_{20}, R_{21}, R_{26}, R_{27}, R_{28}, R_{29} and R_{30} are each independently H or C_1-C_4alkyl;

R_{19} is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_{24} and R_{25} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group; and

---- represents a single bond or a double bond; or

the stereoisomers thereof or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, hydroxy and cyano

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R_3 and R_4 when present are independently hydrogen and (C_1-C_6)alkyl.

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein Y is NR_8 or CR_9R_{10} where R_8, R_9 and R_{10} are each selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl and C_1-C_6alkyl substituted by aryl.

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein Z is NR_{11} or $CR_{12}R_{13}$ where R_{11}, R_{12} and R_{13} are each selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl and C_1-C_6alkyl substituted by aryl.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein Q is SO_2.

7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein R_5 is aryl or heteroaryl

8. A compound according to claim 7 wherein R_5 is a group selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, benzothienyl; quinolyl; imidazo[1,2-a]pyridinyl, imidazo[2,1-b]thiazolyl and benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazolyl; said groups being unsubstituted or optionally substituted by one to three substituents the same or selected from nitro, cyano, thiocyanato, cyanato, hydroxyl, alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, formyl, (C_1-C_6alkoxy)carbonyl, carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkanoyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, (C_1-C_6)alkylsulphinyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-sulphonyl, carbamoyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylamido, phenyl, phenoxy, benzyl, benzyloxy, heteroaryl and cycloheteroalkyl or (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl groups

9. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein W is CR_6 wherein R_6 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6)alkyl or W is N.

10. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein X is CR_7 wherein R_7 is hydrogen.

11. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein ---- represents a single bond.

12. The compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

1-(phenylsulfonyl)-3-(piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-(4-nitrophenyl)-3-(piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl-3-(piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(4-chlorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(naphth-2-ylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(4-aminophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(3,4-dichlorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-[(4,5-dichlorothien-2-yl)sulfonyl]-3-(1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(2-bromophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(4-iodophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(2-iodophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(4-aminophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-benzylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indole;

3-(1-benzylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1-(4-methylphenylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

3-(1-benzylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1-(3,4-dichlorophenyl-sulfonyl)-1H-indole;

3-(1-benzylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1-(2-bromophenylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

5-[3-(1-benzylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-indole-1-sulfonyl]-4-methyl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

3-(1-benzylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1-[(5-bromothien-2-yl)sulfonyl]-1H-indole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-1H-indole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methylazepan-4-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methylazepan-4-yl)-1H-indole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-5-fluoro-3-(1-methylazepan-4-yl)-1H-indole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1H-indole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1H-indole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-phenylsulfonyl-5-fluoro-3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1H-indole;

1-phenylsulfonyl-5-fluoro-3-(1-methyl-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(benzo[b]thioen-4-ylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(3-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-(2,5-dichlorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

8-[3-(1-methyl-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)indole-1-sulfonyl]-quinoline;

1-phenylsulfonyl-5-chloro-3-(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;

5-methoxy-3-(1-methyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)-1-(naphth-1-yl-sulfonyl)-1H-indazole;

3-(1-methylazepan-4-yl)-1-(naphth-1-yl-sulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-(1-methylazepan-4-yl)-1-(naphth-1-yl-sulfonyl)-1H-indole;

1-(benzo[b]thien-4-ylsulfonyl)-5-fluoro-3-(1-methylazepan-4-yl)-1H-indole;

8-[3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-indole-1-sulfonyl]-quinoline;

3-(1-methyl-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

8-[3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-1-sulfonyl]-quinoline;

8-[5-fluoro-3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-indole-1-sulfonyl]-quinoline;

5-fluoro-3-(1-methyl-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

1-(benzo[b]thien-4-ylsulfonyl)-3-(1-benzyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(3-fluoro-phenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-phenethyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-(2,5-dichlorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-ethyl-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-(1-methyl-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-1-(naphth-2-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

5-chloro-1-(3-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-3-piperidin-4-yl-1H-indazole;

5-methoxy-1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-3-(1,2,2-trimethyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-pyridin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;

1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-3-(1-phenethyl-azepan-4-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-azepan-4-yl-1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

3-azepan-4-yl-1-(3-chloro-5-methyl-benzo[b]thien-2-ylsulfonyl)-5-fluoro-1H-indole;

8-[3-(1-phenethyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-indole-1-sulfonyl]-quinoline;

3-[1-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl]-1-(naphth-2-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;

1-(2,3-dichlorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-]pyridine;

1-[(3-chloro-5-methoxyphenylsulfonyl)]-3-(2,2-dimethyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-5-fluoro-1H-indole;

3-azepan-4-yl-5-fluoro-1-(naphth-2-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;
1-Benzenesulfonyl-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;
1-(4-isopropyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;
1-(5-chloro-thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;
1-(3-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;
1-(3,4-difluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;
1-(4-trifluoromethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;
1-(4-methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;
1-(4-trifluoromethy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;
1-(3-chloro-4-methyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;
1-(2-chloro-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;
1-(2-naphthylenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;
1-(5-chloro-3-methyl-benzo[b]thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;
1-(2,6-dichloro-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole-5-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;
2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine;
2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole;
1-(4-isopropyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
1-(5-chloro-thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
1-(3-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(3,4-difluoro -benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(4-trifluoromethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(3-chloro-4-methyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(2-chloro-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(2-naphthylenesulfonyl)-3- piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(5-chloro-3-methyl-benzo[b]thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-1-sulfonyl)-imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine;

2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-1-sulfonyl)-benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole;

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

13. A method for the treatment of a disorder of the central nervous system related to or affected by the 5-HT6 receptor in a patient in need thereof which comprises providing said patient with a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I or the stereoisomers thereof or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof as defined in any one of claims 1 to 12.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein said disorder is a mood disorder, a motor disorder, or a cognitive disorder.

15. A method according to claim 13 wherein said disorder is schizophrenia.

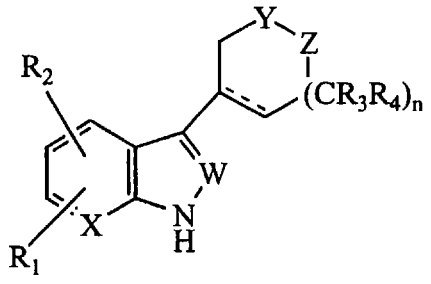
16. A method according to claim 13 wherein said disorder is anxiety or depression.

17. A method according to claim 13 wherein said disorder is memory loss or attention deficit disorder.

18. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of formula I or a stereoisomer thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12.

19. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 which process comprises one of the following:

a) reacting a compound of formula



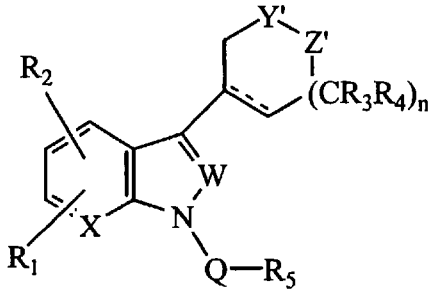
wherein W, X, Y, Z, R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are as defined herein, with an appropriate sulphonylating, acylating, carbamoylating, thiocarbamoylating or alkylating agent containing the group:

$$R_5\text{-}Q\text{-}$$

where R_8 is as defined above and Q is SO_2, CO, $CONR_{24}$, $CSNR_{25}$ or CH_2 ; said reactants protected on reactive sites and/or on reactive substituent groups as required, and removing any protecting groups to give a corresponding compound of formula (I);

or

b) removing a protecting group from a compound of formula



wherein Q, W, X, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are as defined herein and one of Y' and Z' is N-G where G is a protecting group and the other is CR_9R_{10} or $CR_{12}R_{13}$ as appropriate to give a compound of formula (I) wherein Y or Z is NH;

or

c) alkylating a compound of formula (I) as defined in above wherein R_8 or R_{11} is hydrogen with an alkylating agent of formula R_8-L or R_{11}-L wherein L is a leaving group, such as halogen, and R_8 and R_{11} are each as defined in herein

excepting hydrogen, to give a corresponding compound of formula (I);

or

d) converting a compound of formula (I) having a reactive substituent group to a different compound of formula I;

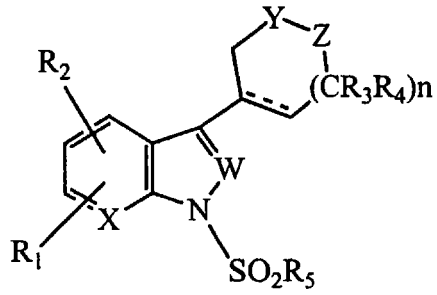
or

e) converting a basic compound of formula (I) to an acid addition salt or vice versa.

or

f) isolating an isomer of a compound of formula (I) from a mixture of isomers.

20. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula If



(If)

wherein

W is N or CR_6;

X is N or CR_7;

Y is NR_8 or CR_9R_{10};

n is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

Z is NR_{11} or $CR_{12}R_{13}$ with the proviso that when n is 1 and W is CR_6 then Z must be $CR_{12}R_{13}$ and with the further provisos that when Y is NR_8 then Z must be $CR_{12}R_{13}$ and at least one of Y and Z must be NR_8 or NR_{11};

R_1, R_2 and R_7 are each independently H, halogen, CN, OCO_2R_{14}, CO_2R_{15}, $CONR_{29}R_{30}$, $CONR_{29}R_{30}$, $CNR_{16}NR_{17}R_{18}$, SO_mR_{19}, $NR_{20}R_{21}$, OR_{22}, COR_{23} or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_3, R_4, R_9, R_{10}, R_{12} and R_{13} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl group;

R_5 is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

m is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

R_6 is H, halogen, or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_8 and R_{11} are each independently H, $CNR_{26}NR_{27}R_{28}$ or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

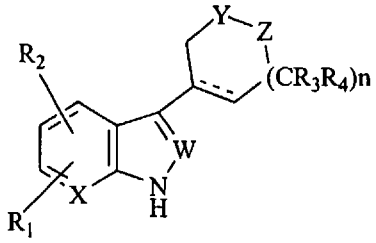
R_{14}, R_{15}, R_{22} and R_{23} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_{16}, R_{17}, R_{18}, R_{20}, R_{21}, R_{26}, R_{27}, R_{28}, R_{29} and R_{30} are each independently H or C_1-C_4alkyl;

R_{19} is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group; and

---- represents a single bond or a double bond

which process comprises reacting a compound of formula IVa



(IVa)

wherein W, X, Y, Z, n, R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are as defined above with a sulfonyl chloride, R_5SO_2Cl, wherein R_5 is defined above in the presence of a base.