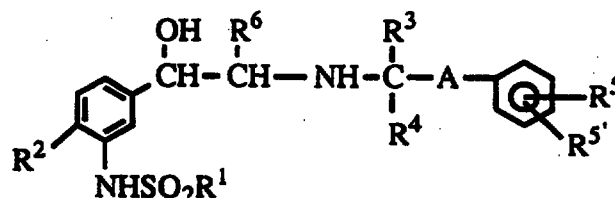


Abstract**CATECHOLAMINE SURROGATES USEFUL AS β_3 AGONISTS**

Compounds of the formula

I

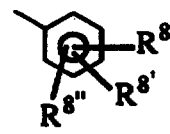


or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof wherein:

A is a bond, $-(CH_2)_n-$ or $-CH(B)-$, where n is an integer of 1 to 3 and B is $-CN$, $-CON(R^9)R^9$ or $-CO_2R^7$;

R^1 is lower alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl;

R^2 is hydrogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, $-CH_2OH$, cyano, $-C(O)OR^7$, $-CO_2H$, $-CONH_2$, tetrazole, $-CH_2NH_2$ or halogen;



R^3 is hydrogen, alkyl, heterocycle or

R^4 is hydrogen, alkyl or B;

R^5 , R^5' , R^8 , R^8' or R^8'' are independently hydrogen, alkoxy, lower alkyl, halogen, $-OH$, $-CN$, $-(CH_2)_nNR^6COR^7$, $-CON(R^6)R^6$, $-CON(R^6)OR^6$, $-CO_2R^6$, $-SR^7$, $-SOR^7$, $-SO_2R^7$, $-N(R^6)SO_2R^1$, $-N(R^6)R^6$, $-NR^6COR^7$, $-OCH_2CON(R^6)R^6$, $-OCH_2CO_2R^7$ or aryl; or R^5 and R^5' or R^8 and R^8' may together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an aryl or heterocycle;

R^6 and R^6 are independently hydrogen or lower alkyl; and

R^7 is lower alkyl;

R^9 is hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl; or R^9 and R^9 may together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocycle; with the proviso that when A is a bond or $-(CH_2)_n$ and R^3 is hydrogen or unsubstituted alkyl, then R^4 is B or substituted alkyl. These compounds are β_3 adrenergic receptor agonists and are useful, therefore for example, in the treatment of diabetes, obesity and gastrointestinal diseases.