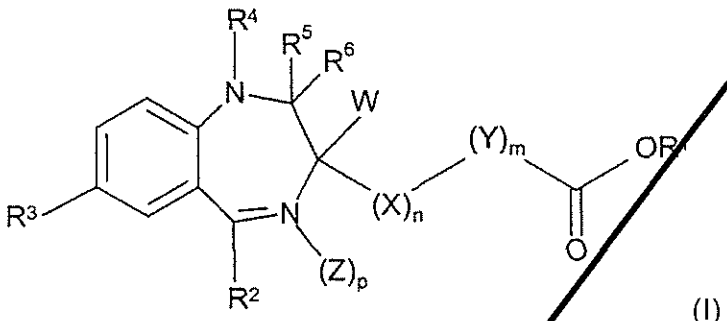
CLAIMS

1. A lyophilized or spray-dried composition comprising at least one benzodiazepine according to formula (I)



(I)

with
W is H;
X is CH_2; n is 1;
Y is CH_2; m is 1;
Z is O;
R^1 is CH_3, CH_2CH_3, $CH_2CH_2CH_3$, $CH(CH_3)_2$ or $CH_2CH(CH_3)_2$;
R^2 is 2-fluorophenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl;
R^3 is Cl or Br;
R^4, R^5 and R^6 form the group-CR^8=U-V= wherein R^8 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl, U is N or CR^9 wherein R^9 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy, V is N or CH and p is zero,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the composition

comprises at least one pharmaceutically acceptable hygroscopic excipient, wherein the hygroscopic excipient is a carbohydrate selected from the group consisting of disaccharides and dextran and optionally the composition is at least in part amorphous.

2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the benzodiazepine according to formula (I) is methyl 3-[(4S)-8-bromo-1-methyl-6-(pyridin-2-yl)-4H-imidazo[1,2-a][1,4]benzodiazepin-4-yl]propanoate (remimazolam).

3. A composition according to claim 2, wherein in the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the benzodiazepine is formulated in cationic form and the counter ion is benzene sulfonate (besylate).

4. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the dextran possesses a molecular weight of less than 150 kD.

5. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the disaccharide is selected from the group consisting of lactose, maltose, sucrose and trehalose.

6. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the composition comprises a mixture of a first hygroscopic excipient and a second hygroscopic excipient.

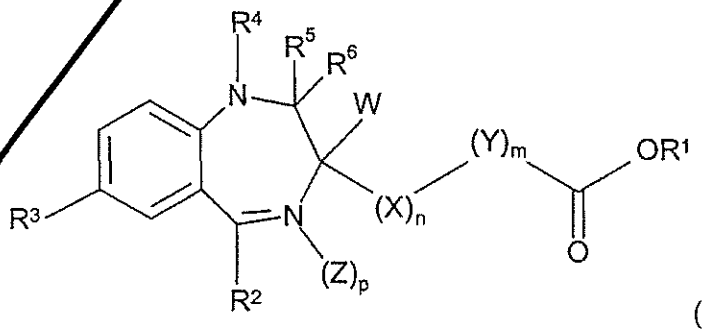
7. A composition according to claim 6, wherein the composition comprises a mixture of a disaccharide and dextran, preferably a mixture of lactose and dextran.

8. A composition according to claim 7, wherein the wt% ratio between lactose and dextran is from 1:1.0 to 1:10, preferably from 1:1.2 to 1:5, and more preferably is 1:1.5 or 1:4.

9. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the wt% ratio between the total amount of hygroscopic excipients and the total amount of benzodiazepines or salts thereof, calculated for the base, in the composition is from 20:1 to 1:1, preferably from 12:1 to 3:1, most preferably from 9:1 to 3:1.

10. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, which is a pharmaceutical formulation.

11. A stable lyophilized or stable spray-dried composition comprising at least one benzodiazepine according to formula (I)



(I)

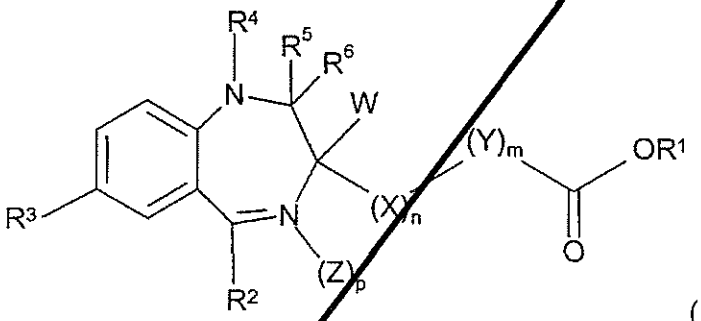
with
W is H;
X is CH_2; n is 1;
Y is CH_2; m is 1;
Z is O;
R^1 is CH_3, CH_2CH_3, $CH_2CH_2CH_3$, $CH(CH_3)_2$ or $CH_2CH(CH_3)_2$;

R^2 is 2-fluorohenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl;
R^3 is Cl or Br;
R^4, R^5 and R^6 form the group-CR^8=U-V= wherein R^8 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl, U is N or CR^9 wherein R^9 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy, V is N or CH and p is zero,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the composition

comprises at least one pharmaceutically acceptable hygroscopic excipient, wherein the hygroscopic excipient is an oligosaccharide and optionally the composition is at least in part amorphous.

12. A composition comprising at least one benzodiazepine according to formula (I)



(I)

with
W is H;
X is CH_2; n is 1;
Y is CH_2; m is 1;
Z is O;
R^1 is CH_3, CH_2CH_3, $CH_2CH_2CH_3$, $CH(CH_3)_2$ or $CH_2CH(CH_3)_2$;
R^2 is 2-fluorohenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl;
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R^4, R^5 and R^6 form the group-CR^8=U-V= wherein R^8 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl, U is N or CR^9 wherein R^9 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy, V is N or CH and p is zero,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the composition

comprises at least one pharmaceutically acceptable hygroscopic excipient, wherein the hygroscopic excipient is an oligosaccharide and optionally the composition is at least in part amorphous and

upon lyophilization or spray-drying yields a stable lyophilized or stable freeze-dried composition.

13. The composition according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the stable composition is a composition in which less than 1% of the carboxylic ester moiety of the benzodiazepine is hydrolysed during storage for 13 weeks at storage conditions of 40°C and 75% relative humidity.

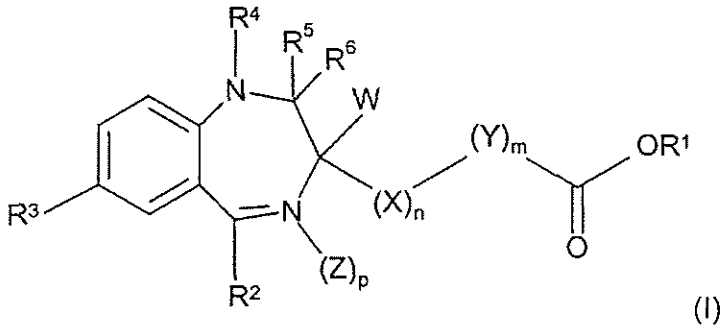
14. The composition according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the hygroscopic excipient is a substance which at 25°C and 1013.25 hPa reversibly binds water molecules.

15. Use of a mixture of at least one disaccharide and at least one dextran for preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising a benzodiazepine with a carboxylic acid ester moiety as referred to in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in particular remimazolam.

16. Method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising the steps of
    a) providing a solution comprising a benzodiazepine as referred to in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in particular remimazolam;
    b) adding at least one hygroscopic excipient, which is a carbohydrate selected from the group consisting of disaccharides and dextran or a mixture thereof with at least another hygroscopic excipient;
    c) drying the solution from step b) by lyophilization or spray-drying.

CLAIMS

1. A lyophilized or spray-dried composition comprising at least one benzodiazepine according to formula (I)



(I)

with
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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the composition
comprises at least one pharmaceutically acceptable hygroscopic excipient, wherein the hygroscopic excipient is a carbohydrate selected from the group consisting of disaccharides and dextran and optionally the composition is at least in part amorphous.

2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the benzodiazepine according to formula (I) is methyl 3-[(4S)-8-bromo-1-methyl-6-(pyridin-2-yl)-4H-imidazo[1,2-a][1,4]benzodiazepin-4-yl]propanoate (remimazolam).

3. A composition according to claim 2, wherein in the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the benzodiazepine is formulated in cationic form and the counter ion is benzene sulfonate (besylate).

4. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the dextran possesses a molecular weight of less than 150 kD.

5. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the disaccharide is selected from the group consisting of lactose, maltose, sucrose and trehalose.

6. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the composition comprises a mixture of a first hygroscopic excipient and a second hygroscopic excipient.

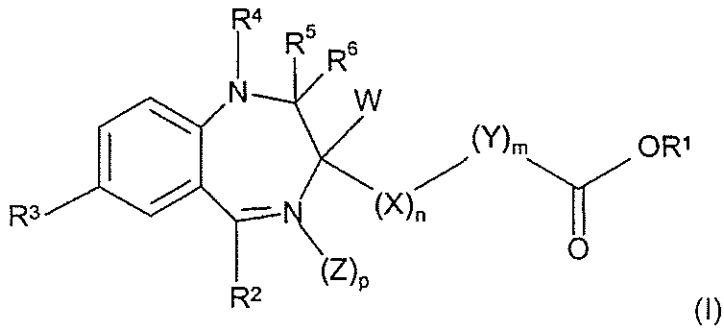
7. A composition according to claim 6, wherein the composition comprises a mixture of a disaccharide and dextran, preferably a mixture of lactose and dextran.

8. A composition according to claim 7, wherein the wt% ratio between lactose and dextran is from 1:1.0 to 1:10, preferably from 1:1.2 to 1:5, and more preferably is 1:1.5 or 1:4.

9. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the wt% ratio between the total amount of hygroscopic excipients and the total amount of benzodiazepines or salts thereof, calculated for the base, in the composition is from 20:1 to 1:1, preferably from 12:1 to 3:1, most preferably from 9:1 to 3:1.

10. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, which is a pharmaceutical formulation.

11. A lyophilized or spray-dried composition comprising at least one benzodiazepine according to formula (I)



(I)

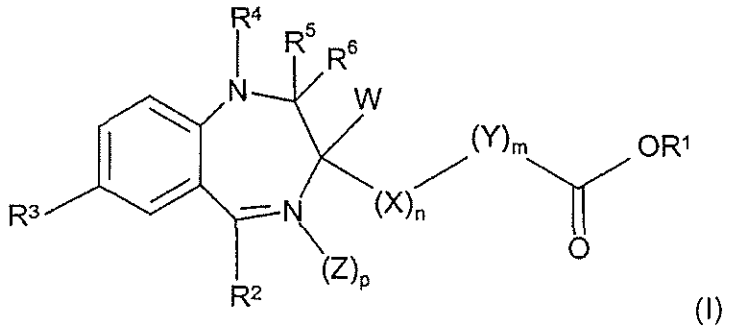
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R^1 is CH_3, CH_2CH_3, $CH_2CH_2CH_3$, $CH(CH_3)_2$ or $CH_2CH(CH_3)_2$;
R^2 is 2-fluorohenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl;
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R^4, R^5 and R^6 form the group-CR^8=U-V= wherein R^8 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl, U is N or CR^9 wherein R^9 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy, V is N or CH and p is zero,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the composition

comprises at least one pharmaceutically acceptable hygroscopic excipient, wherein the hygroscopic excipient is an oligosaccharide and optionally the composition is at least in part amorphous.

12. A stable lyophilized or stable spray-dried composition comprising at least one benzodiazepine according to formula (I)



(I)

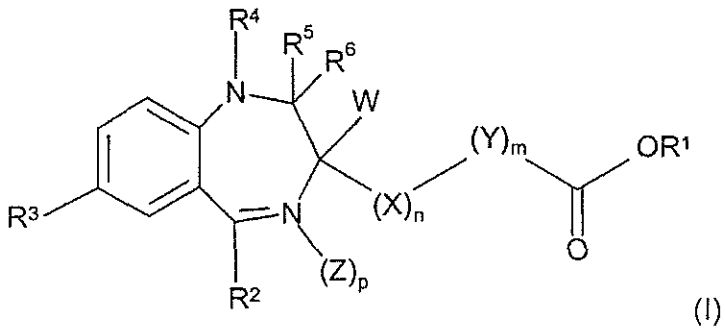
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R^2 is 2-fluorohenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl;
R^3 is Cl or Br;
R^4, R^5 and R^6 form the group-CR^8=U-V= wherein R^8 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl, U is N or CR^9 wherein R^9 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy, V is N or CH and p is zero,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the composition

comprises at least one pharmaceutically acceptable hygroscopic excipient, wherein the hygroscopic excipient is an oligosaccharide and optionally the composition is at least in part amorphous, and wherein

the stable composition is a composition in which less than 1% of the carboxylic ester moiety of the benzodiazepine is hydrolysed during storage for 13 weeks at storage conditions of 40°C and 75% relative humidity.

13. A composition comprising at least one benzodiazepine according to formula (I)



(I)

with
W is H;
X is CH_2; n is 1;
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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the composition
comprises at least one pharmaceutically acceptable hygroscopic excipient, wherein the hygroscopic excipient is an oligosaccharide and optionally the composition is at least in part amorphous and
upon lyophilization or spray-drying yields a stable lyophilized or stable spray-dried composition, wherein the stable composition is a composition in which less than 1% of the carboxylic ester moiety of the benzodiazepine is hydrolysed during storage for 13 weeks at storage conditions of 40°C and 75% relative humidity.

14. Use of a mixture of at least one disaccharide and at least one dextran for preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising a benzodiazepine with a carboxylic acid ester moiety as referred to in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in particular remimazolam.

15. Method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising the steps of
a) providing a solution comprising a benzodiazepine as referred to in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in particular remimazolam;

b) adding at least one hygroscopic excipient, which is a carbohydrate selected from the group consisting of disaccharides and dextran or a mixture thereof with at least another hygroscopic excipient;

c) drying the solution from step b) by lyophilization or spray-drying.