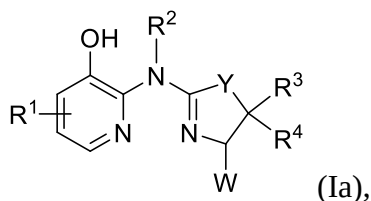


CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula (Ia), or a salt, enantiomer, diastereoisomer, or tautomer thereof:



wherein:

Y is S;

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₁-C₆ alkenyl, C₁-C₆ alkynyl, aryl, and arylalkyl, wherein the aryl or arylalkyl group is independently optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkyl, -OH, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, amino, acetamido, and nitro;

R² is selected from the group consisting of H, -C(=O)H, -C(=O)-R, and -CH₂-OR;

R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of H and C₁-C₆ alkyl, or R³ and R⁴ can combine to form a C₁-C₆ alkylene;

W is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₁-C₆ hydroxyalkyl, -CHO, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NRR, cyano, hydroxy, and aryl, wherein the aryl group is optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkyl, -OH, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, amino, acetamido, and nitro; and

each occurrence of R is independently H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, or C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein R² is H.
3. The compound of claim 1, wherein W is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₆ hydroxyalkyl, -CHO, -C(=O)OR, and -C(=O)NRR.
4. The compound of claim 3, wherein R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of H and C₁-C₆ alkyl.

5. A compound selected from the group consisting of:
(*R*)-2-(3-Hydroxy-pyridin-2-ylamino)-5,5-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid;
(*S*)-2-(3-Hydroxy-pyridin-2-ylamino)-5,5-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid;
(*R*)-2-((3-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)amino)-4,5-dihydrothiazole-4-carboxylic acid; and
(*S*)-2-((3-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)amino)-4,5-dihydrothiazole-4-carboxylic acid.
6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 5 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.