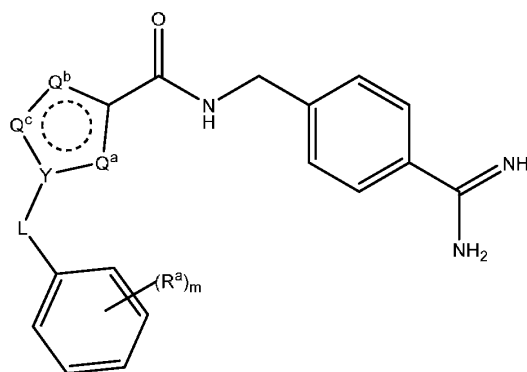


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A process for preparing a compound of Formula I



(Formula I), or a salt thereof,

wherein the subscript m is an integer of from 0 to 3;

each R^a is independently selected from the group consisting of (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_4) haloalkyl, halogen, $-OH$, $-OR^1$, $-SH$, $-SR^1$, $-S(O)R^1$, $-S(O)_2R^1$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(O)NHR^1$, $-C(O)N(R^1)_2$, $-C(O)R^1$, $-C(O)H$, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2R^1$, $-NO_2$, $-NH_2$, $-NHR^1$, $-N(R^1)_2$, wherein each R^1 is independently (C_1-C_8) alkyl;

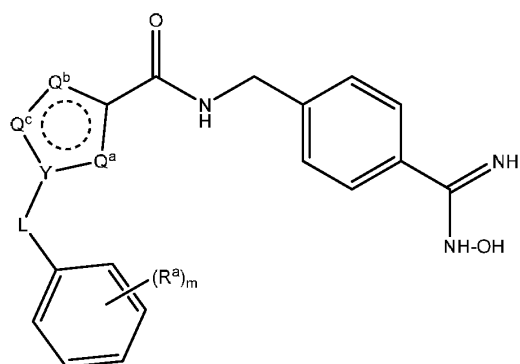
L is a linking group selected from the group consisting of a bond or CH_2 ;

Q^a , Q^b , and Q^c are each members independently selected from the group consisting of N, S, O and $C(R^q)$ wherein each R^q is independently selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-8} alkyl, halo and phenyl, and the ring having Q^a , Q^b , Q^c and Y as ring vertices is a five-membered ring having two double bonds; and

Y is selected from the group consisting of C and N;

the method comprising:

- (a) subjecting a compound of Formula II to reducing conditions, to provide the compound of Formula I as a crude product, wherein the compound of Formula II is:

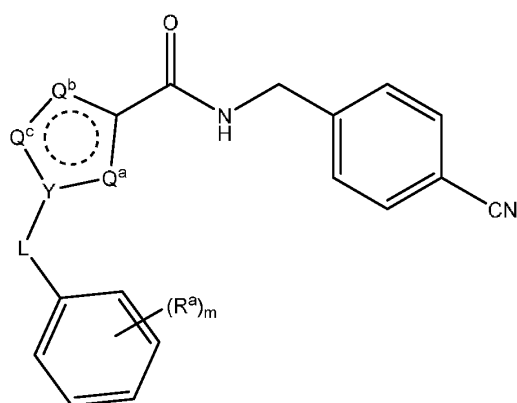


(Formula II).

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- 1 2. The process of claim 1, wherein the reducing conditions comprise Raney
2 nickel and H₂.
- 1 3. The process of claim 2, wherein the reducing conditions comprise Raney
2 nickel at about 10 to about 40 mol%, and H₂ at about 2 to about 20 kg/cm³.
- 1 4. The process of claim 3, wherein the reducing conditions comprise Raney
2 nickel at about 20 mol%, and H₂ at about 10 kg/cm³.
- 1 5. The process of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the reducing conditions
2 further comprise acetic acid as a solvent, and heating at a temperature of about 30°C to about
3 70°C.
- 1 6. The process of claim 5, wherein the temperature is about 50°C to about
2 65°C.
- 1 7. The process of claim 5 or 6, wherein the heating is performed for about 15
2 minutes to 2 hours.
- 1 8. The process of any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein the heating is performed
2 for about 30 minutes.
- 1 9. The process of any one of claims 2 to 6, further comprising:
2 (b) forming a slurry (water at a temperature of about 25°C
3 to about 70°C to provide a nickel-depleted product.

- 1 **10.** The process of claim **9**, wherein the temperature is about 50°C to about
2 60°C.
- 1 **11.** The process of claim **10**, wherein the slurry is stirred for about one hour.
- 1 **12.** The process of claim **9** or **10**, further comprising:
2 (c) heating the nickel-depleted product in a solvent to remove further nickel.
- 1 **13.** The process of claim **12**, wherein the solvent comprises a mixture of
2 ethanol and acetic acid.
- 1 **14.** The process of claim **12**, wherein the solvent comprises a mixture of
2 methanol, dimethyl glyoxime, and methyl-t-butyl ether.
- 1 **15.** The process of any one of claims **1** to **14**, wherein the compound of
2 Formula II is obtained by combining a compound of Formula III with hydroxylamine or a salt
3 thereof under basic conditions, wherein the compound of Formula III is:



(Formula III),

5 to provide the compound of Formula II.

- 1 **16.** The process of claim **15**, wherein the basic conditions comprise
2 triethylamine and ethanol.

1 17. The process of claim 16, wherein the basic conditions further comprise
2 heating at a temperature of about 50°C to about 75°C.

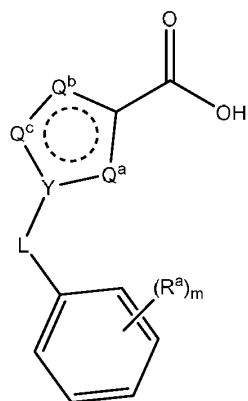
1 **18.** The process of claim 17, wherein the basic conditions comprise heating at
2 a temperature of about 60°C to about 65°C.

1 **19.** The process of claim **17** or **18**, wherein the heating is performed for about
2 3 hours to about 12 hours.

1 20. The process of any one of claims **17** to **19**, wherein the heating is
2 performed for about 7 hours.

1 **21.** The process of any one of claims **15** to **18**, wherein about 3 equivalents of
2 hydroxylamine and triethylamine are used per equivalent of compound of Formula III.

3 **22.** The process of any one of claims **15** to **21**, wherein the compound of
4 Formula III is obtained by reacting a compound of Formula IV with 4-(aminomethyl)benzonitrile
5 hydrochloride under aprotic conditions, wherein the compound of Formula IV is:



(Formula IV).

1 **23.** The process of claim **22**, wherein the aprotic conditions comprise
2 triethylamine in dichloromethane.

1 **24.** The process of claim **22** or **23**, wherein the aprotic conditions further
2 comprise 1-propanephosphonic anhydride in ethyl acetate (T3P®).

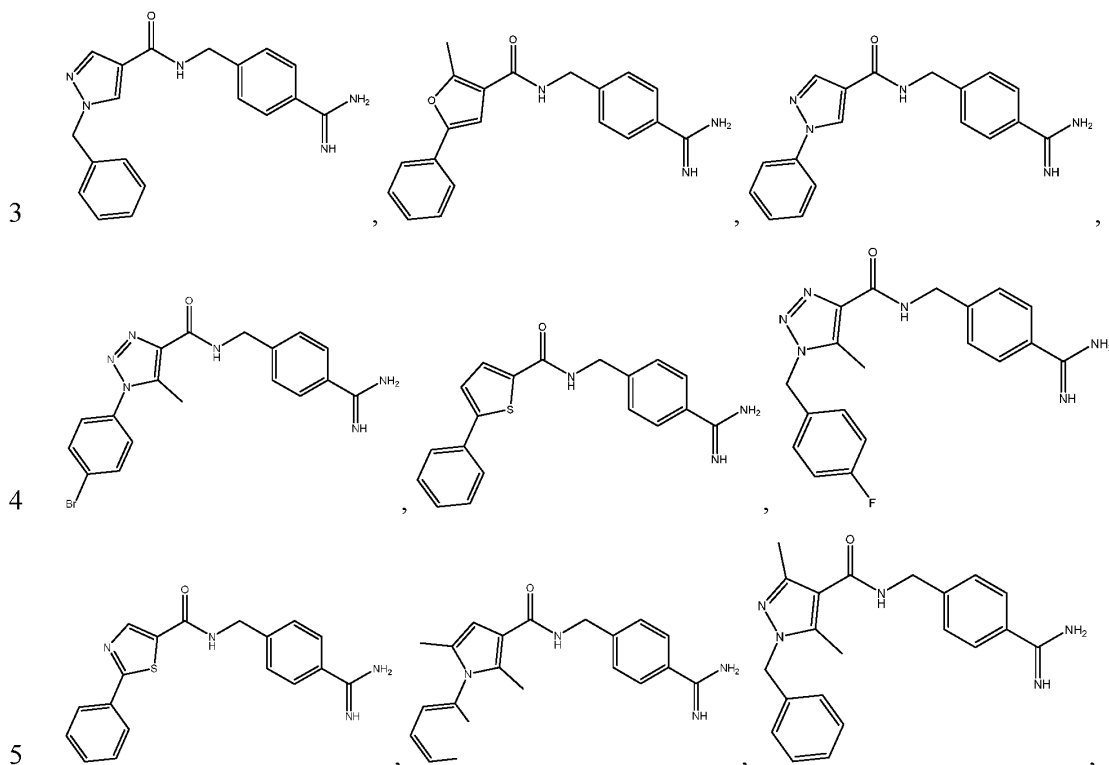
1 **25.** The process of and one of claims **22-24**, wherein the aprotic conditions
2 comprise incubating the compound of Formula IV with 4-(aminomethyl)benzonitrile
3 hydrochloride and 1-propanephosphonic anhydride at a temperature of about 5°C to about 39°C.

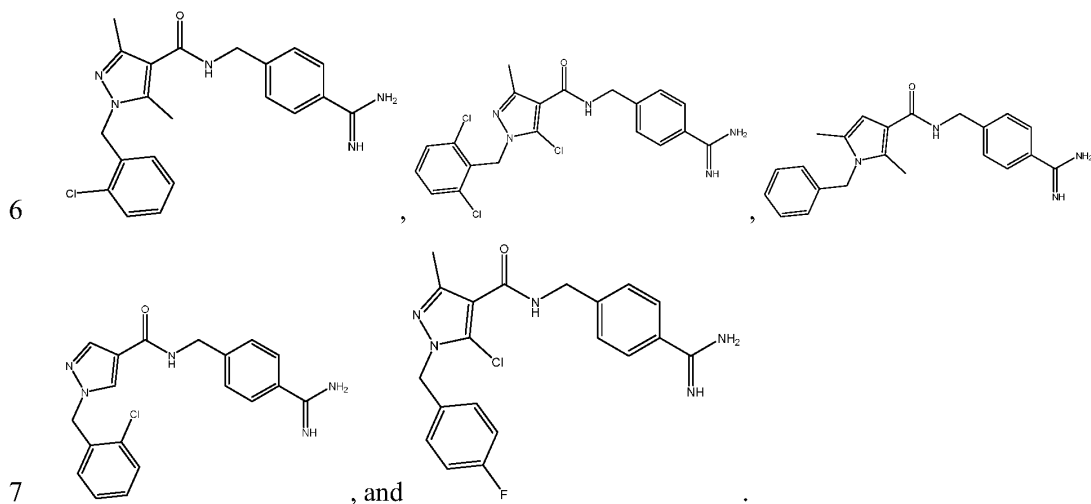
1 **26.** The process of claim **25**, wherein the temperature is about 20°C to about
2 30°C.

1 **27.** The process of claim **25** or **26**, wherein the aprotic condition further
2 comprises stirring for 1 to 6 hours.

1 **28.** The process of any one of claims **25** to **27**, wherein the aprotic condition
2 further comprises stirring for 3 hours.

1 **29.** The process of claim **1**, wherein the compound of Formula I is selected
2 from the group consisting of:





1 **30.** The process of any one of claims **1** to **26**, wherein the compound of
 2 Formula I is 1-benzyl-N-(4-carbamimidoylbenzyl)-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxamide or a salt thereof.

1 **31.** The process of claim **30**, wherein the compound of Formula I is 1-benzyl-
 2 N-(4-carbamimidoylbenzyl)-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxamide acetate.