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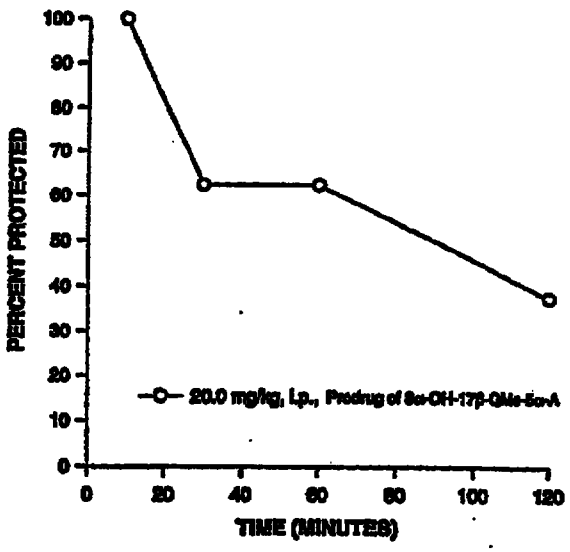
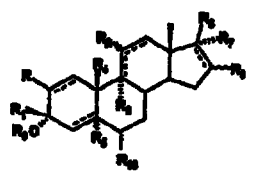
(54) Title: NEUROACTIVE STEROIDS OF THE ANDROSTANE AND PREGNANE SERIES

(57) Abstract

The invention relates to 3α-hydroxy, 17-(un)substituted derivatives of the androstane series and 3α-hydroxy, 21-substituted derivatives of the pregnane series. These derivatives are capable of acting at a recently identified site on the GRC, thereby modulating brain excitability in a manner that will alleviate stress, anxiety, insomnia, mood disorders that are amenable to GRC-active agents (such as depression) and seizure activity. The steroid derivatives of this invention are those having general structural formula (I), wherein R, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8, R_9 and R_{10} are further defined herein and the dotted lines are single or double bonds. The structure includes androstanes pregnanes (R_4 = methyl), 19-norandrostanes, and norpregnanes (R_4 = H).





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