

## HETEROCYCLIC GABA-B MODULATORS

Field of the invention

The present invention relates to novel compounds having a positive allosteric GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor (GBR) modulator effect, methods for the preparation of said compounds and their use for the inhibition of transient lower esophageal sphincter relaxations, for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease, as well as for the treatment of functional gastrointestinal disorders and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

Background of the invention

The lower esophageal sphincter (LES) is prone to relaxing intermittently. As a consequence, fluid from the stomach can pass into the esophagus since the mechanical barrier is temporarily lost at such times, an event hereinafter referred to as "reflux".

Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) is the most prevalent upper gastrointestinal tract disease. Current pharmacotherapy aims at reducing gastric acid secretion, or at neutralizing acid in the esophagus. The major mechanism behind reflux has been considered to depend on a hypotonic lower esophageal sphincter. However, recent research (e.g. *Holloway & Dent (1990) Gastroenterol. Clin. N. Amer. 19, pp. 517-535*) has shown that most reflux episodes occur during transient lower esophageal sphincter relaxations (TLESR), i.e. relaxations not triggered by swallows. It has also been shown that gastric acid secretion usually is normal in patients with GERD.

Consequently, there is a need for a therapy that reduces the incidence of TLESR and thereby prevents reflux.

GABA<sub>B</sub>-receptor agonists have been shown to inhibit TLESR, which is disclosed in WO 98/11885 A1.

*GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonists*

GABA (4-aminobutanoic acid) is an endogenous neurotransmitter in the central and peripheral nervous systems. Receptors for GABA have traditionally been divided into GABA<sub>A</sub> and GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor subtypes. GABA<sub>B</sub> receptors belong to the superfamily of G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs).

The most studied GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist baclofen (4-amino-3-(*p*-chlorophenyl)butanoic acid; disclosed in CH 449046) is useful as an antispastic agent. EP 356128 A2 describes the use of the GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist (3-aminopropyl)methylphosphinic acid for use in therapy, in particular in the treatment of central nervous system disorders.

EP 463969 A1 and FR 2722192 A1 disclose 4-aminobutanoic acid derivatives having different heterocyclic substituents at the 3-carbon of the butyl chain. EP 181833 A1 discloses substituted 3-aminopropylphosphinic acids having high affinities towards GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor sites. EP 399949 A1 discloses derivatives of (3-aminopropyl)methylphosphinic acid, which are described as potent GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonists. Still other (3-aminopropyl)methylphosphinic acids and (3-aminopropyl)phosphinic acids have been disclosed in WO 01/41743 A1 and WO 01/42252 A1, respectively. Structure-activity relationships of several phosphinic acid analogues with respect to their affinities to the GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor are discussed in *J. Med. Chem.* (1995), 38, 3297-3312. Sulphinic acid analogues and their GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor activities are described in *Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett.* (1998), 8, 3059-3064. For a more general review on GABA<sub>B</sub> ligands, see *Curr. Med. Chem.-Central Nervous System Agents* (2001), 1, 27-42.

*Positive allosteric modulation of GABA<sub>B</sub> receptors*

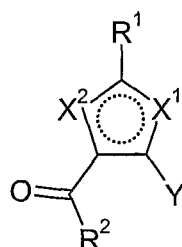
2,6-Di-*tert*-butyl-4-(3-hydroxy-2,2-dimethylpropyl)phenol (CGP7930) and 3-(3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-dimethylpropanal (disclosed in US 5,304,685) have been described to exert positive allosteric modulation of native and recombinant GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor activity (*Society for Neuroscience, 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, New Orleans, La., Nov. 4-9, 2000: Positive Allosteric Modulation of Native and Recombinant GABA<sub>B</sub> Receptor Activity*, S. Urwyler et al.; *Molecular Pharmacol.* (2001), 60, 963-971).

N,N-Dicyclopentyl-2-methylsulfanyl-5-nitro-pyrimidine-4,6-diamine has been described to exert positive allosteric modulation of the GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor (The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, 307 (2003), 322-330).

- 5 For a recent review on allosteric modulation of GPCRs, see: *Expert Opin. Ther. Patents* (2001), 11, 1889-1904.

### Outline of the invention

The present invention relates to a compound of the general formula (I)



(I)

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wherein

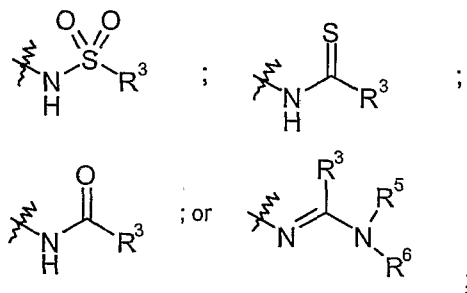
- R<sup>1</sup>** represents NR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy; optionally substituted by one or more of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid, CONR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, NR<sup>6</sup>COR<sup>7</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or
- R<sup>1</sup>** represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid, CONR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, NR<sup>6</sup>COR<sup>7</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein any aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining R<sup>1</sup> may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy, wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;
- R<sup>2</sup>** represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy, optionally substituted by one or more of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid, CONR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, NR<sup>6</sup>COR<sup>7</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$R^2$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

5  $R^2$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

10  $R^2$  represents amino, optionally mono- or disubstituted with  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl;

Y represents



15  $R^3$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $COR^8$ , nitrile,  $SO_2NR^6R^7$ ,  $SO_2R^9$ ,  $NR^6SO_2R^7$ ,  $NR^6C=ONR^7$  or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

20  $R^3$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $SO_2NR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6SO_2R^7$ ,  $SO_2R^{10}$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $R^3$  may be further substituted by one or more  
25 of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, wherein said  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

$R^4$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, keto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$R^4$  each and independently represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

$R^5$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$R^5$  each and independently represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

or  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  together form a ring consisting of from 3 to 7 atoms selected from C, N and O, wherein said ring is optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, keto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

$R^6$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy;

$R^7$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy;

**R**<sup>8</sup> each and independently represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, optionally substituted by aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy;

**R**<sup>9</sup> represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy;

**R**<sup>10</sup> represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl;

**X**<sup>1</sup> represents S, O or N;

**X**<sup>2</sup> represents S, O or N;

with the proviso that **X**<sup>1</sup> and **X**<sup>2</sup> represent different atoms and with the further proviso that **X**<sup>1</sup> is not S when **X**<sup>2</sup> is O and **X**<sup>1</sup> is not O when **X**<sup>2</sup> is S;

wherein each of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and cycloalkyl may independently have one or more carbon atom(s) substituted for O, N or S; wherein none of the O, N or S is in a position adjacent to any other O, N or S;

wherein each of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy and cycloalkyl may independently have one or more carbon atom(s) substituted by fluoro;

as well as pharmaceutically and pharmacologically acceptable salts thereof, and enantiomers of the compound of formula (I) and salts thereof;

with the exceptions of:

5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[(4-methylbenzoyl)amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2,6-difluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;

4-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[(1-oxohexyl)amino]-2-(phenylmethyl)-, ethyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-chloro-6-fluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-ethyl-, ethyl ester;

5-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-chloro-6-fluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;

4-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 2-benzyl-5-hexanamido-, ethyl ester hydrochloride;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-chloro-6-methoxybenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-5-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2,6-difluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-ethyl-, ethyl ester;

5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-bromobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;

4-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-5-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-(benzoylamino)-2-phenyl-, ethyl ester;

Oxazolium, 4-benzoyl-3-butyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[(trifluoroacetyl)amino]-;

Oxazolium, 4-(2-bromobenzoyl)-3-butyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[(trifluoroacetyl)amino]-;

Oxazolium, 4-benzoyl-3-butyl-2-phenyl-5-[(trifluoroacetyl)amino]-;

5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[(4-methylbenzoyl)amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;

5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;

5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[[[(2-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[2-butyl-4-[[[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[[[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-methyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

5 4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[[[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-phenyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[[[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-(1-methylethyl)-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

10 4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[[[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-propyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[[[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-ethyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[[[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

15 4-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-5-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-5-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;

20 5-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxamide, 5-[(aminocarbonyl)amino]-2-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-;

4-Thiazolecarboxamide, 5-(acetyl-amino)-2-methyl-;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2,6-difluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;

25 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-bromobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-chloro-6-methoxybenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;

30 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-chloro-6-fluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-ethyl-, ethyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2,6-difluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-ethyl-, ethyl ester;

- 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-chloro-6-fluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxamide, 5-(acetylamino)-N,N,2-trimethyl-;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-(benzoylamino)-2-phenyl-, ethyl ester;
- 5 4-Oxazolecarboxamide, 5-(benzoylamino)-2-phenyl-;
- Acetamide, N-(5-benzoyl-2-phenyl-4-thiazolyl)-;
- Acetamide, N-[5-benzoyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-thiazolyl]-;
- Benzamide, N-(5-benzoyl-2-phenyl-4-thiazolyl)-;
- Benzamide, N-[5-benzoyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-thiazolyl]-;
- 10 Benzamide, N-[5-benzoyl-2-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]-4-thiazolyl]-;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxamide, N-benzoyl-5-(benzoylamino)-2-phenyl-;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxamide, 5-(benzoylamino)-2-phenyl-;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxamide, N-(4-methylbenzoyl)-5-[(4-methylbenzoyl)amino]-2-(4-methylphenyl)-;
- 15 4-Oxazolecarboxamide, 5-acetamido-2-methyl-;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxamide, 5-acetamido-N-acetyl-2-methyl-;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxamide, 5-acetamido-N,2-dimethyl-;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxamide, 5-(acetylamino)-N,N,2-trimethyl-;
- 4-Thiazolecarboxamide, 5-acetamido-N,2-dimethyl-;
- 20 4-Thiazolecarboxamide, 5-(acetylamino)-2-methyl-;
- 4-Thiazolecarboxamide, 5-acetamido-N,2-dimethyl-;
- 4-Thiazolecarboxamide, 5-acetamido-N,N,2-trimethyl-;
- 5-Thiazolecarbamic acid, 4-carbamoyl-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;
- 4-Thiazolecarboxamide, 5-(acetylamino)-2-methyl-;
- 25 4-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 2-benzyl-5-hexanamido-, ethyl ester hydrochloride;
- 4-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[(1-oxohexyl)amino]-2-(phenylmethyl)-, ethylester;
- Acetamide, 2-amino-N-[5-benzoyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-thiazolyl]-;
- Carbamic acid, [4-[(methylamino)carbonyl]-2-[(phenylmethyl)thio]-5-thiazolyl]-, ethyl ester;
- 30 Carbamic acid, [4-[[[(phenylmethyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-[(phenylmethyl)thio]-5-thiazolyl]-, ethyl ester;

4-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[(ethoxycarbonyl)amino]-2-[(phenylmethyl)thio]-, ethyl ester;

Benzamide, N-[5-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-2-[(4-nitrophenyl)amino]-4-thiazolyl]-;

4-Thiazolecarboxamide, 2-(ethylthio)-5-[phenylacetyl]amino]-;

5 Carbamic acid, [4-(aminocarbonyl)-2-[(phenylmethyl)thio]-5-thiazolyl]-, ethyl ester;

Carbamic acid, [2-[[5-benzoyl-2-(1-piperidiny)-4-thiazolyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl]-, phenylmethyl ester;

Carbamic acid, [2-[[5-benzoyl-2-(4-morpholinyl)-4-thiazolyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl]-, phenylmethyl ester;

10 Carbamic acid, [2-[[5-benzoyl-2-(dimethylamino)-4-thiazolyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl]-, phenylmethyl ester;

Carbamic acid, [2-[[5-benzoyl-2-(dimethylamino)-4-thiazolyl]amino]-1-methyl-2-oxoethyl]-, phenylmethyl ester;

15 Carbamic acid, [2-[[5-benzoyl-2-(dimethylamino)-4-thiazolyl]amino]-2-oxo-1-(phenylmethyl)ethyl]-, phenylmethyl ester;

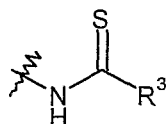
Carbamic acid, [2-[[5-benzoyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-thiazolyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl]-, phenylmethyl ester;

2H-Isoindole-2-acetamide, N-[5-benzoyl-2-(4-morpholinyl)-4-thiazolyl]-1,3-dihydro-1,3-dioxo-;

20 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-acetamido-2-(1-naphtylamino)-, ethyl ester; and

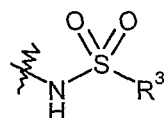
4-Thiazolecarboxamide, 2-(phenylmethyl)-5-[2-(phenyl-1-thioxoethyl)amino]-.

In one embodiment of the present invention, Y represents

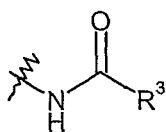


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In another embodiment of the present invention, wherein Y represents



In yet another embodiment of the present invention, Y represents



In a further embodiment of the present invention,  $R^1$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_5$  alkyl.

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In a yet further embodiment of the present invention,  $R^1$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl.

According to one embodiment of the present invention,  $R^2$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy, optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups.

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According to another embodiment of the present invention,  $R^2$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy.

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According to yet another embodiment of the present invention,  $R^2$  represents ethoxy.

According to a further embodiment of the present invention,  $R^2$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups.

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According to yet a further embodiment of the present invention,  $R^2$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups.

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In another embodiment of the present invention,  $R^3$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_7$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_7$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_7$  alkynyl or  $C_3$ - $C_7$  cycloalkyl, optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $R^3$  may be further substituted by one or more

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of halogen(s), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy, wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, **R**<sup>3</sup> represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy or by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining **R**<sup>3</sup> may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy.

In a further embodiment of the present invention, **R**<sup>3</sup> represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, substituted by one or more of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy or by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups.

In yet a further embodiment of the present invention, **R**<sup>3</sup> represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, substituted by one or more of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy and by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups.

In a further embodiment of the present invention, **R**<sup>3</sup> represents aryl or heteroaryl, optionally substituted by one or more of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid, CONR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, NR<sup>6</sup>COR<sup>7</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining **R**<sup>3</sup> may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, **R**<sup>4</sup> represents C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl.

According to a further embodiment of the present invention, **R**<sup>4</sup> represents methyl.

According to yet a further embodiment of the present invention, **R**<sup>5</sup> represents C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl.

According to yet a further embodiment of the present invention, **R**<sup>5</sup> represents methyl.

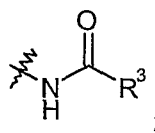
According to yet a further embodiment of the present invention, **R**<sup>4</sup> and **R**<sup>5</sup> form a ring consisting of 5 or 6 atoms selected from C, O and N.

According to one embodiment of the present invention,

$R^1$  represents  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl; optionally substituted by one  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy; or  $R^1$  represents aryl;

$R^2$  represents  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy;

5 Y represents



$R^3$  represents  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy, or one or two aryl; or  $R^3$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl, halogen(s),  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $SO_2R^{10}$ , or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups,

10 wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $R^3$  may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1-C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, wherein said  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

$R^8$  represents  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl;

$R^{10}$  represents  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl;

15  $X^1$  represents S or O;

$X^2$  represents N;

wherein each of alkyl one or more carbon atom(s) substituted for O, wherein none of the O is in a position adjacent to any other O;

wherein each of alkyl groups may have one or more carbon atom(s) substituted by fluoro.

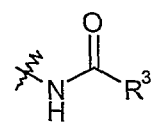
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According to one embodiment of the present invention,

$R^1$  represents  $C_1-C_5$  alkyl; optionally substituted by one  $C_1-C_4$  alkoxy; or  $R^1$  represents aryl;

$R^2$  represents  $C_1-C_4$  alkoxy;

25 Y represents



$R^3$  represents  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1-C_4$  alkoxy, or one or two aryl; or  $R^3$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, halogen(s), CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>10</sup>, or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining R<sup>3</sup> may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy, wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

5 R<sup>8</sup> represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>10</sup> represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

X<sup>1</sup> represents S or O;

X<sup>2</sup> represents N;

10 wherein each of alkyl one or more carbon atom(s) substituted for O, wherein none of the O is in a position adjacent to any other O;

wherein each of alkyl groups may have one or more carbon atom(s) substituted by fluoro.

In another embodiment of the present invention, said invention is related to a compound selected from

15 Ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-isopropyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-isopropyl-5-[(2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-cyclopentyl-5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

20 Ethyl 2-cyclopentyl-5-[(2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-isopropyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-isopropyl-5-[(2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 5-[(4-*tert*-butylbenzoyl)amino]-2-isopropyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

25 Ethyl 2-phenyl-5-[(2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-cyclopentyl-5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-(methoxymethyl)-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

30 Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-[(3-phenylpropanoyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-[(3,3,3-trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenylpropanoyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1-benzofuran-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-ethyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 5-({[1-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl]carbonyl}amino)-2-ethyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

5 Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-{{[(1-phenyl-5-propyl-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)carbonyl]amino}-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 5-[(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)amino]-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 5-({[3-chloro-4-(isopropylsulfonyl)-2-thienyl]carbonyl}amino)-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

10 Ethyl 5-[(diphenylacetyl)amino]-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-[(3,3,3-trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenylpropanoyl)amino]-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

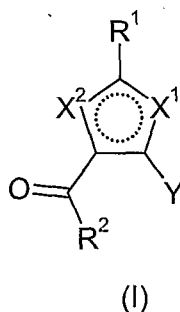
Ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1-benzofuran-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

15 Ethyl 5-({[1-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl]carbonyl}amino)-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-{{[(6-phenoxy-pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino}-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;  
and

20 Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-{{[(1-phenyl-5-propyl-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)carbonyl]amino}-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate.

The present invention also relates to a compound of the general formula (I)



wherein

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**R<sup>1</sup>** represents NR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy; optionally substituted by one or more of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy,

halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$\text{R}^1$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_2$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkenyl,  $\text{C}_2$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkynyl,  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkoxy,  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein any aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $\text{R}^1$  may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkoxy or  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  thioalkoxy, wherein said  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

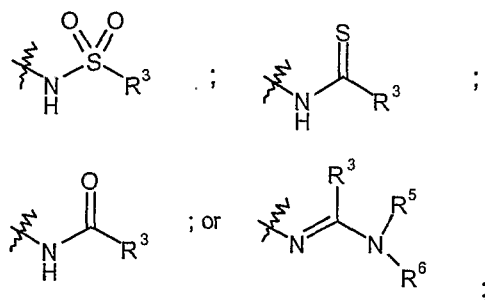
$\text{R}^2$  represents  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkoxy, optionally substituted by one or more of  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  thioalkoxy,  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$\text{R}^2$  represents  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkyl;  $\text{C}_2$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkenyl;  $\text{C}_2$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkoxy,  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  thioalkoxy,  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$\text{R}^2$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_2$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkenyl,  $\text{C}_2$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkynyl,  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkoxy,  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$\text{R}^2$  represents amino, optionally mono- or disubstituted with  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_2$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkenyl,  $\text{C}_2$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkynyl or  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl;

$\text{Y}$  represents



$R^3$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $COR^8$ , nitrile,  $SO_2NR^6R^7$ ,  $SO_2R^9$ ,  $NR^6SO_2R^7$ ,  $NR^6C=ONR^7$  or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$R^3$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $SO_2NR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6SO_2R^7$ ,  $SO_2R^{10}$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $R^3$  may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, wherein said  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

$R^4$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, keto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$R^4$  each and independently represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

$R^5$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$R^5$  each and independently represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

or  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  together form a ring consisting of from 3 to 7 atoms selected from C, N and O, wherein said ring is optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, keto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or  
5 one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

$R^6$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy;

10  $R^7$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy;

15  $R^8$  each and independently represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, optionally substituted by aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy;

20  $R^9$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy;

$R^{10}$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;

25  $X^1$  represents S, O or N;

$X^2$  represents S, O or N;

with the proviso that  $X^1$  and  $X^2$  represent different atoms and with the further proviso that  
30  $X^1$  is not S when  $X^2$  is O and  $X^1$  is not O when  $X^2$  is S;

wherein each of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and cycloalkyl may independently have one or more carbon atom(s) substituted for O, N or S; wherein none of the O, N or S is in a position adjacent to any other O, N or S;

- 5 wherein each of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy and cycloalkyl may independently have one or more carbon atom(s) substituted by fluoro;

as well as pharmaceutically and pharmacologically acceptable salts thereof, and enantiomers of the compound of formula (I) and salts thereof;

10

with the exceptions of:

5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[(4-methylbenzoyl)amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;

15

5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;

5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[[[(2-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[2-butyl-4-[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

20

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-methyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-phenyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

25

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-(1-methylethyl)-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-propyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-ethyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

30

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

4-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-5-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-5-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;

5 5-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxamide, 5-[(aminocarbonyl)amino]-2-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-;

Benzamide, N-[5-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-2-[(4-nitrophenyl)amino]-4-thiazolyl]-; and

4-Thiazolecarboxamide, 2-(ethylthio)-5-[phenylacetyl]amino]-;

10 as well as pharmaceutically and pharmacologically acceptable salts thereof, and enantiomers of the compound of formula (I) and salts thereof, for use in therapy.

The compounds of formula (I) above are useful as positive allosteric GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor modulators as well as agonists.

15

The molecular weight of compounds of formula (I) above is generally within the range of from 300 g/mol to 700 g/mol.

20 It is to be understood that the present invention also relates to any and all tautomeric forms of the compounds of formula (I).

The general terms used in the definition of formula (I) have the following meanings:

25 C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl is a straight or branched alkyl group, having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, for example methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, secondary butyl, tertiary butyl, pentyl, isopentyl, hexyl or heptyl. The alkyl groups may contain one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, i.e. one or more of the carbon atoms may be substituted for such a heteroatom. Examples of such groups are methyl-ethylether, methyl-ethylamine and methyl-thiomethyl. The alkyl group may form part of a ring. One or more  
30 of the hydrogen atoms of the alkyl group may be substituted for a fluorine atom.

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl is a straight or branched alkyl group, having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, for example methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, secondary butyl, tertiary butyl, pentyl, isopentyl, or hexyl. The alkyl groups may contain one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, i.e. one or more of the carbon atoms may be substituted for such a heteroatom. Examples of such groups are methyl-ethylether, methyl-ethylamine and methyl-thiomethyl. The alkyl group may form part of a ring. One or more of the hydrogen atoms of the alkyl group may be substituted for a fluorine atom.

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl is a straight or branched alkyl group, having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, for example methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, secondary butyl, tertiary butyl, pentyl or isopentyl. The alkyl groups may contain one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, i.e. one or more of the carbon atoms may be substituted for such a heteroatom. Examples of such groups are methyl-ethylether, methyl-ethylamine and methyl-thiomethyl. The alkyl group may form part of a ring. One or more of the hydrogen atoms of the alkyl group may be substituted for a fluorine atom.

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl is a straight or branched alkyl group, having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, for example methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, secondary butyl or tertiary butyl. The alkyl groups may contain one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, i.e. one or more of the carbon atoms may be substituted for such a heteroatom. Examples of such groups are methyl-ethylether, methyl-ethylamine and methyl-thiomethyl. The alkyl group may form part of a ring. One or more of the hydrogen atoms of the alkyl group may be substituted for a fluorine atom.

C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkenyl is a straight or branched alkenyl group, having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, for example vinyl, isopropenyl and 1-butenyl. The alkenyl groups may contain one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, i.e. one or more of the carbon atoms may be substituted for such a heteroatom. One or more of the hydrogen atoms of the alkenyl group may be substituted for a fluorine atom.

C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkynyl is a straight or branched alkynyl group, having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, for example ethynyl, 2-propynyl and but-2-ynyl. The alkynyl groups may contain one or more

heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, i.e. one or more of the carbon atoms may be substituted for such a heteroatom. One or more of the hydrogen atoms of the alkynyl group may be substituted for a fluorine atom.

5 C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl is a cyclic alkyl, having 3 to 10 carbon atoms such as cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl. The cycloalkyl may also be unsaturated. The cycloalkyl groups may have one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, i.e. one or more of the carbon atoms may be substituted for such a heteroatom. One or more of the hydrogen atoms of the cycloalkyl group may be substituted for a fluorine atom.

10 C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy is an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, for example methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, n-butoxy, isopropoxy, isobutoxy, secondary butoxy, tertiary butoxy, pentoxy, hexoxy or a heptoxy group. The alkoxy may be cyclic, partially unsaturated or unsaturated, such as in propenoxy or cyclopentoxy. The alkoxy may be aromatic, such as  
15 in benzyloxy or phenoxy.

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy is an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, for example methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, n-butoxy, isopropoxy, isobutoxy, secondary butoxy or tertiary butoxy. The alkoxy may be cyclic, partially unsaturated or unsaturated, such as in propenoxy or  
20 cyclopentoxy. The alkoxy may be aromatic, such as in benzyloxy or phenoxy.

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy is a thioalkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, for example thiomethoxy, thioethoxy, n-thiopropoxy, n-thiobutoxy, thioisopropoxy, thioisobutoxy, secondary thiobutoxy, tertiary thiobutoxy, thiopentoxy, thiohexoxy or thioheptoxy group.  
25 The thioalkoxy may be unsaturated, such as in thiopropenoxy or aromatic, such as in thiobenzyloxy or thiophenoxy.

The term "aryl" is herein defined as an aromatic ring having from 6 to 14 carbon atoms including both single rings and polycyclic compounds, such as phenyl, benzyl or naphthyl.

30 Polycyclic rings are saturated, partially unsaturated or saturated.

The term "heteroaryl" is herein defined as an aromatic ring having 3 to 14 carbon atoms, including both single rings and polycyclic compounds in which one or several of the ring atoms is either oxygen, nitrogen or sulphur, such as furanyl, thiophenyl or imidazopyridine. Polycyclic rings are saturated, partially unsaturated or saturated.

5

Halogen(s) as used herein is selected from chlorine, fluorine, bromine or iodine.

The term "keto" is defined herein as a divalent oxygen atom double bonded to a carbon atom. Carbon atoms are present adjacent to the carbon atom to which the divalent oxygen is bonded.

10

When the compounds of formula (I) have at least one asymmetric carbon atom, they can exist in several stereochemical forms. The present invention includes the mixture of isomers as well as the individual stereoisomers. The present invention further includes geometrical isomers, rotational isomers, enantiomers, racemates and diastereomers.

15

Where applicable, the compounds of formula (I) may be used in neutral form, e.g. as a carboxylic acid, or in the form of a salt, preferably a pharmaceutically acceptable salt such as the sodium, potassium, ammonium, calcium or magnesium salt of the compound at issue.

20

The compounds of formula (I) are useful as positive allosteric GBR (GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor) modulators. A positive allosteric modulator of the GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor is defined as a compound which makes the GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor more sensitive to GABA and GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonists by binding to the GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor protein at a site different from that used by the endogenous ligand. The positive allosteric GBR modulator acts synergistically with an agonist and increases potency and/or intrinsic efficacy of the GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist. It has also been shown that positive allosteric modulators acting at the GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor can produce an agonistic effect. Therefore, compounds of formula (I) can be effective as full or partial agonists.

25

30

A further aspect of the invention is a compound of the formula (I) for use in therapy.

As a consequence of the GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor becoming more sensitive to GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonists upon the administration of a positive allosteric modulator, an increased inhibition of transient lower esophageal sphincter relaxations (TLESR) for a GABA<sub>B</sub> agonist is  
5 observed. Consequently, the present invention is directed to the use of a positive allosteric GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor modulator according to formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the preparation of a medicament for the inhibition of transient lower esophageal sphincter relaxations (TLESRs).

10 A further aspect of the invention is the use of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention of reflux.

Still a further aspect of the invention is the use of a compound of formula (I), optionally in  
15 combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

Effective management of regurgitation in infants would be an important way of preventing, as well as curing lung disease due to aspiration of regurgitated gastric contents, and for  
20 managing failure to thrive, *inter alia* due to excessive loss of ingested nutrient. Thus, a further aspect of the invention is the use of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of lung disease.

25 Another aspect of the invention is the use of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the management of failure to thrive.

Another aspect of the invention is the use of a compound of formula (I), optionally in  
30 combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of asthma, such as reflux-related asthma.

A further aspect of the invention is the use of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of laryngitis or chronic laryngitis.

5 A further aspect of the present invention is a method for the inhibition of transient lower esophageal sphincter relaxations (TLESRs), whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to subject in need of such inhibition.

10 Another aspect of the invention is a method for the prevention of reflux, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such prevention.

15 Still a further aspect of the invention is a method for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

20 Another aspect of the present invention is a method for the treatment or prevention of regurgitation, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

25 Yet another aspect of the invention is a method for the treatment or prevention of regurgitation in infants, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

30 Still a further aspect of the invention is a method for the treatment, prevention or inhibition of lung disease, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a

compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment. The lung disease to be treated may *inter alia* be due to aspiration of regurgitated gastric contents.

5 Still a further aspect of the invention is a method for the management of failure to thrive, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

10 A further aspect of the invention is a method for the treatment or prevention of asthma, such as reflux-related asthma, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

15 A further aspect of the invention is a method for the treatment or prevention of laryngitis or chronic laryngitis, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

20 A further embodiment is the use of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a functional gastrointestinal disorder (FGD). Another aspect of the invention is a method for the treatment of a functional gastrointestinal disorder, whereby an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is  
25 administered to a subject suffering from said condition.

A further embodiment is the use of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of functional dyspepsia. Another aspect of the invention is a method for the treatment of  
30 functional dyspepsia, whereby an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject suffering from said condition.

Functional dyspepsia refers to pain or discomfort centered in the upper abdomen. Discomfort may be characterized by or combined with upper abdominal fullness, early satiety, bloating or nausea. Etiologically, patients with functional dyspepsia can be divided  
5 into two groups:

- 1- Those with an identifiable pathophysiological or microbiologic abnormality of uncertain clinical relevance (e.g. *Helicobacter pylori* gastritis, histological duodenitis, gallstones, visceral hypersensitivity, gastroduodenal dysmotility)
- 2- Patients with no identifiable explanation for the symptoms.

10 Functional dyspepsia can be diagnosed according to the following:

At least 12 weeks, which need not be consecutive within the preceding 12 months of

- 1- Persistent or recurrent dyspepsia (pain or discomfort centered in the upper abdomen) and
- 15 2- No evidence of organic disease (including at upper endoscopy) that is likely to explain the symptoms and
- 3- No evidence that dyspepsia is exclusively relieved by defecation or associated with the onset of a change in stool frequency or form.

20 Functional dyspepsia can be divided into subsets based on distinctive symptom patterns, such as ulcer-like dyspepsia, dysmotility-like dyspepsia and unspecified (non-specific) dyspepsia.

Currently existing therapy of functional dyspepsia is largely empirical and directed  
25 towards relief of prominent symptoms. The most commonly used therapies still include antidepressants.

A further aspect of the invention is the use of a compound according to formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a  
30 medicament for the treatment or prevention of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), such as constipation predominant IBS, diarrhea predominant IBS or alternating bowel movement predominant IBS.

A further aspect of the invention is a method for the treatment or prevention of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

IBS is herein defined as a chronic functional disorder with specific symptoms that include continuous or recurrent abdominal pain and discomfort accompanied by altered bowel function, often with abdominal bloating and abdominal distension. It is generally divided into 3 subgroups according to the predominant bowel pattern:

- 1- diarrhea predominant
- 2- constipation predominant
- 3- alternating bowel movements.

Abdominal pain or discomfort is the hallmark of IBS and is present in the three subgroups. IBS symptoms have been categorized according to the Rome criteria and subsequently modified to the Rome II criteria. This conformity in describing the symptoms of IBS has helped to achieve consensus in designing and evaluating IBS clinical studies.

The Rome II diagnostic criteria are:

- 1- Presence of abdominal pain or discomfort for at least 12 weeks (not necessarily consecutively) out of the preceding year
- 2- Two or more of the following symptoms:
  - a) Relief with defecation
  - b) Onset associated with change in stool frequency
  - c) Onset associated with change in stool consistency

A further aspect of the invention is the use of a compound according to formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention CNS disorders, such as anxiety.

A further aspect of the invention is a method for the treatment or prevention of CNS disorders, such as anxiety, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective

amount of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

A further aspect of the invention is the use of a compound according to formula (I),  
5 optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of depression.

A further aspect of the invention is a method for the treatment or prevention of depression, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of  
10 formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

A further aspect of the invention is the use of a compound according to formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a  
15 medicament for the treatment or prevention of dependency, such as alcohol or nicotine dependency.

A further aspect of the invention is a method for the treatment or prevention of dependency, such as alcohol dependency, whereby a pharmaceutically and  
20 pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

For the purpose of this invention, the term "agonist" should be understood as including  
25 full agonists as well as partial agonists, whereby a "partial agonist" should be understood as a compound capable of partially, but not fully, activating GABA<sub>B</sub> receptors.

The wording "TLESR", transient lower esophageal sphincter relaxations, is herein defined in accordance with *Mittal, R.K., Holloway, R.H., Penagini, R., Blackshaw, L.A., Dent, J.,*  
30 *1995; Transient lower esophageal sphincter relaxation. Gastroenterology 109, pp. 601-610.*

The wording "reflux" is defined as fluid from the stomach being able to pass into the esophagus, since the mechanical barrier is temporarily lost at such times.

The wording "GERD", gastroesophageal reflux disease, is defined in accordance with *van Heerwarden, M.A., Smout A.J.P.M., 2000; Diagnosis of reflux disease. Baillière's Clin. Gastroenterol. 14, pp. 759-774.*

Functional gastrointestinal disorders, such as functional dyspepsia, can be defined in accordance with *Thompson WG, Longstreth GF, Drossman DA, Heaton KW, Irvine EJ, Mueller-Lissner SA. C. Functional Bowel Disorders and Functional Abdominal Pain. In: Drossman DA, Talley NJ, Thompson WG, Whitehead WE, Coraziarri E, eds. Rome II: Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders: Diagnosis, Pathophysiology and Treatment. 2 ed. McLean, VA: Degnon Associates, Inc.; 2000:351-432 and Drossman DA, Corazziari E, Talley NJ, Thompson WG and Whitehead WE. Rome II: A multinational consensus document on Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders. Gut 45(Suppl.2), III-III1.9-1-1999.*

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) can be defined in accordance with *Thompson WG, Longstreth GF, Drossman DA, Heaton KW, Irvine EJ, Mueller-Lissner SA. C. Functional Bowel Disorders and Functional Abdominal Pain. In: Drossman DA, Talley NJ, Thompson WG, Whitehead WE, Coraziarri E, eds. Rome II: Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders: Diagnosis, Pathophysiology and Treatment. 2 ed. McLean, VA: Degnon Associates, Inc.; 2000:351-432 and Drossman DA, Corazziari E, Talley NJ, Thompson WG and Whitehead WE. Rome II: A multinational consensus document on Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders. Gut 45(Suppl.2), III-III1.9-1-1999.*

A "combination" according to the invention may be present as a "fix combination" or as a "kit of parts combination".

A "fix combination" is defined as a combination wherein (i) a compound of formula (I); and (ii) a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist are present in one unit. One example of a "fix combination" is a pharmaceutical composition wherein (i) a compound of formula (I) and (ii) a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist are present in admixture. Another example of a "fix

combination” is a pharmaceutical composition wherein (i) a compound of formula (I) and (ii) a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist; are present in one unit without being in admixture.

A “kit of parts combination” is defined as a combination wherein (i) a compound of formula (I) and (ii) a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist are present in more than one unit. One example of a “kit of parts combination” is a combination wherein (i) a compound of formula (I) and (ii) a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist are present separately. The components of the “kit of parts combination” may be administered simultaneously, sequentially or separately, i.e. separately or together.

The term “positive allosteric modulator” is defined as a compound which makes a receptor more sensitive to receptor agonists by binding to the receptor protein at a site different from that used by the endogenous ligand.

The term “therapy” and the term “treatment” also include “prophylaxis” and/or prevention unless stated otherwise. The terms “therapeutic” and “therapeutically” should be construed accordingly.

#### Pharmaceutical formulations

The compound of formula (I) can be formulated alone or in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist.

For clinical use, the compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is in accordance with the present invention suitably formulated into pharmaceutical formulations for oral administration. Also rectal, parenteral or any other route of administration may be contemplated to the skilled man in the art of formulations. Thus, the compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is formulated with a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically acceptable carrier or adjuvant. The carrier may be in the form of a solid, semi-solid or liquid diluent.

In the preparation of oral pharmaceutical formulations in accordance with the invention, the compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, to

be formulated is mixed with solid, powdered ingredients such as lactose, saccharose, sorbitol, mannitol, starch, amylopectin, cellulose derivatives, gelatin, or another suitable ingredient, as well as with disintegrating agents and lubricating agents such as magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, sodium stearyl fumarate and polyethylene glycol waxes. The mixture is then processed into granules or compressed into tablets.

Soft gelatine capsules may be prepared with capsules containing a mixture of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, with vegetable oil, fat, or other suitable vehicle for soft gelatine capsules. Hard gelatine capsules may contain a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, in combination with solid powdered ingredients such as lactose, saccharose, sorbitol, mannitol, potato starch, corn starch, amylopectin, cellulose derivatives or gelatine.

Dosage units for rectal administration may be prepared (i) in the form of suppositories which contain the active substance(s) mixed with a neutral fat base; (ii) in the form of a gelatine rectal capsule which contains a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, in a mixture with a vegetable oil, paraffin oil, or other suitable vehicle for gelatine rectal capsules; (iii) in the form of a ready-made micro enema; or (iv) in the form of a dry micro enema formulation to be reconstituted in a suitable solvent just prior to administration.

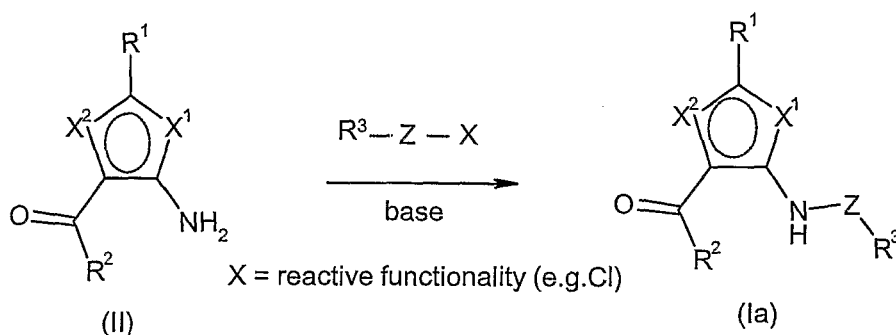
Liquid preparations for oral administration may be prepared in the form of syrups or suspensions, e.g. solutions or suspensions, containing a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, and the remainder of the formulation consisting of sugar or sugar alcohols, and a mixture of ethanol, water, glycerol, propylene glycol and polyethylene glycol. If desired, such liquid preparations may contain colouring agents, flavouring agents, saccharine and carboxymethyl cellulose or other thickening agents. Liquid preparations for oral administration may also be prepared in the form of a dry powder to be reconstituted with a suitable solvent prior to use.

Solutions for parenteral administration may be prepared as a solution of a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, in a pharmaceutically acceptable solvent. These solutions may also contain stabilizing ingredients and/or buffering ingredients and are dispensed into unit doses in the form of ampoules or vials. Solutions for parenteral administration may also be prepared as a dry preparation to be reconstituted with a suitable solvent extemporaneously before use.

In one aspect of the present invention, a compound of formula (I), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, may be administered once or twice daily, depending on the severity of the patient's condition. A typical daily dose of the compounds of formula (I) is from 0.1 to 100 mg per kg body weight of the subject to be treated, but this will depend on various factors such as the route of administration, the age and weight of the patient as well as of the severity of the patient's condition.

#### Methods of preparation

The compounds according to formula (I) of the present invention, when Y = -NH-Z-R<sup>3</sup> and wherein X<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, and R<sup>3</sup> are defined as above, Z is -SO<sub>2</sub>-, -C(S)- or -C(O)-, may be prepared by the following general methods,

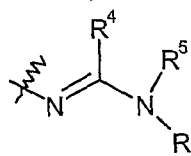


Scheme 1

wherein aminoheteroaryls (II) efficiently are converted into (Ia), using electrophiles such as acyl chlorides, sulfonylchlorides, carbamoylchlorides, isocyanates or isothiocyanates (typically 1.0 - 2.0 equivalents) in organic solvents such as THF or the like. The reaction is performed either in the presence of bases such as triethylamine and temperatures of 25 - 50°C or in the presence of polymer-supported diisopropylethylamine (PS-DIPEA; 1.5 - 3 equivalents) at ambient temperature to 50°C with agitation over 4 - 18 hours. Filtration of

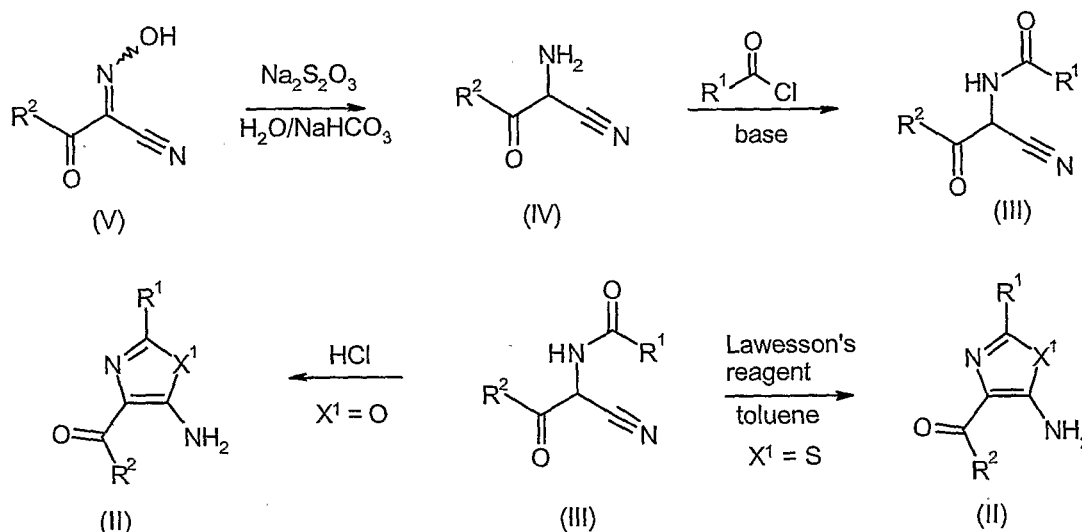
the reaction mixture over the nucleophilic anion exchange resin Isolute-NH<sub>2</sub>, elution with THF and evaporation *in vacuo* yields the desired products as oils or amorphous solids.

For compounds according to formula (I) of the present invention when Y =



, the preparation is done according to methods familiar to the man skilled in the art.

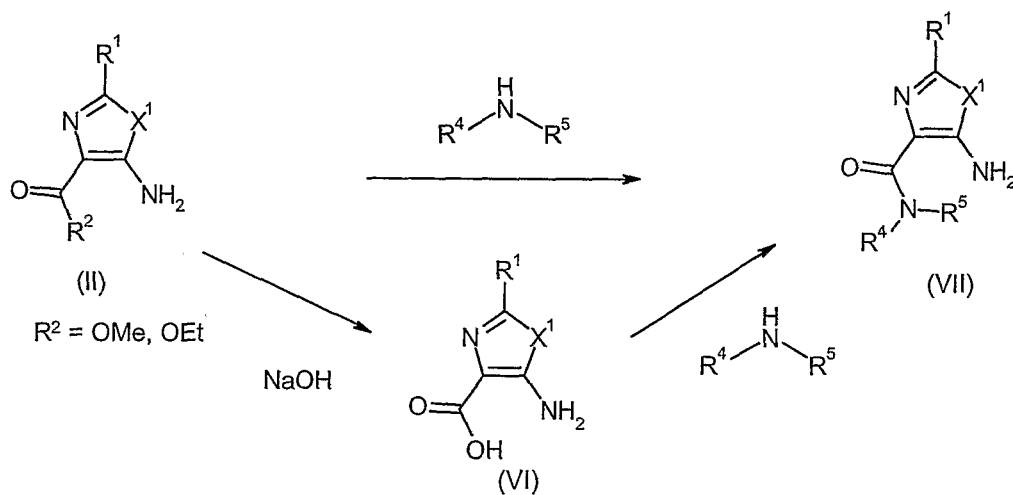
The aminoheteroaryls (II) in scheme 1 where X<sup>2</sup> is N are prepared from intermediates (III) by heating the reagent with Lawesson's reagent (X<sup>1</sup> is S) or hydrochloric acid in dioxane (X<sup>1</sup> is O). Intermediate (III) is accessible via reduction of the oximes (V) followed by subsequent acylation of the thus formed aminonitrile (IV) as indicated in Scheme 2 (Literature: Tetrahedron 1985, 41, 5989 – 5994; Synthesis 2004, 7, 1021 - 1028). The oximes (V) are commercially available (e.g. ethyl (hydroxyimino)cyano acetate from Aldrich) or can be prepared by known synthesis methods (e.g. Journal of Heterocyclic Chemistry 2005, 42, 141 – 145).



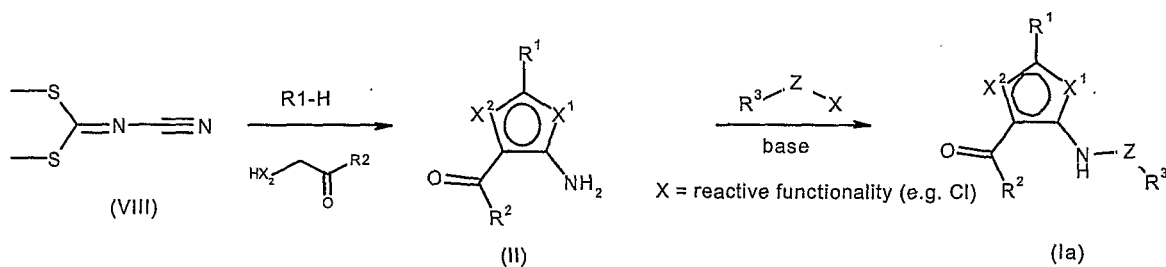
Scheme 2

Intermediate (II) where R<sup>2</sup> is OMe, OEt can be subjected to further modifications as indicated in Scheme 3. Amide bond formation can be executed from the reaction of the carboxylic esters with primary or secondary amines and from the reaction of the

corresponding carboxylic acids (generated via hydrolysis of the ester in refluxing sodium hydroxide in methanol) with various amines. A variety of methods and coupling reagents can be used to effect these transformations including bases such as tert-butanolate or coupling reagents such as EDCI, DIC, BOP, and HATU under standard conditions very familiar to persons skilled in the art of organic synthesis.

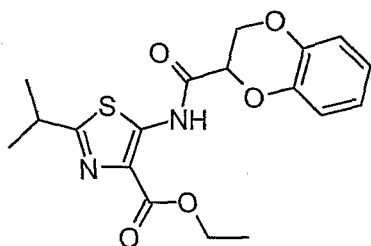


The compounds according to formula I of the present invention, when  $Y = -NH-Z-R^3$  and wherein  $X^1 = N$ , and  $X^2$ ,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and  $R^3$  are defined as above,  $Z$  is  $-SO_2-$ ,  $-C(S)-$  or  $-C(O)-$ , are prepared by the methods familiar to persons skilled in the art as described in Scheme 4. Hereby, dimethyl N-cyanodithioiminocarbonate (VIII) (commercially available from Aldrich) is efficiently converted into (II) by methods familiar to persons skilled in the art (compare Liebigs Annalen der Chemie 1986, 4, 780 or Chemische Berichte 1983, 116, 1547). Intermediate (II) is then transformed into product (Ia) as described in Scheme 1.



EXAMPLES**Example 1:**

Synthesis of ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-isopropyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate

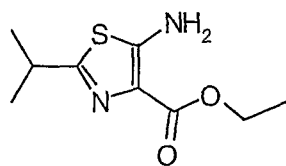


Ethyl 5-amino-2-isopropyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate (0.16 mmol) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.2 mmol) were dissolved in dichloromethane (DCM) (10 mL) and 2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxine-2-carbonyl chloride (0.2 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 hours, and then quenched with K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>(aq) (1 M, 25 mL) and extracted with DCM. The organic phases were pooled, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated. The crude material was purified by preparative HPLC to yield the pure product as a white powder. Yield: 41 %. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.33-1.44 (m, 9H), 3.25-3.36 (m, 1H), 4.29-4.58 (m, 3H), 4.89-4.96 (m, 1H), 6.86-6.95 (m, 3H), 7.11-7.17 (m, 1H), 11.70 (s, 1H). MS m/z 377.44 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>

The product is also accessible via a synthesis protocol, which allows the parallel synthesis of compound libraries using standard robotic equipment. Ethyl 5-amino-2-isopropyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate (0.16 mmol) was dissolved in DCM (4 mL) and polymer bounded DIEA (diisopropylamine, polymer bound) (82.4 mg, 0.32 mmol) was added. The acid chloride (0.32 mmol) was added and the reaction was shaken over night at room temperature. 1M NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2 mL) and 1 mL DCM were added. The phases were separated in a phase separator. The solvent was removed. The mixture was purified directly on preparative HPLC using a C8-column and a CH<sub>3</sub>CN:NH<sub>4</sub>OAc-buffer gradient from 0% to 100%. Yield: 35%

**Example 2:**

Synthesis of ethyl 5-amino-2-isopropyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate (used as intermediate)

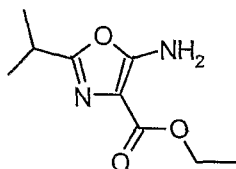


Ethyl *N*-isobutyryl-3-nitriloalaninate (100 mg) and Lawesson's reagent (180 mg) were dissolved in toluene (5 mL). The solution was refluxed under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere overnight.

5 The toluene was evaporated. The evaporate was dissolved in THF and filtered through a SCX-2 ion exchange column (5 g) followed by washing the column with THF and MeOH. The solution was evaporated to afford the product as a yellow oil (crude). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 5.87(s(broad), 1H), 4.36 (q, 2H), 3.22-3.15 (m, 1H), 1.37 (t, 3H), 1.28 (d, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.9, 159.9, 159.2, 120.5, 60.6, 33.6, 23.2, 14.9; MS *m/z* 214.97 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>

### Example 3:

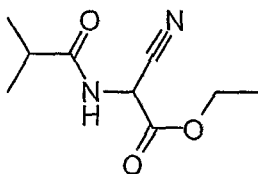
Synthesis of ethyl 5-amino-2-isopropyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate (used as intermediate)



15 Ethyl *N*-isobutyryl-3-nitriloalaninate (468 mg) was dissolved in HCl saturated 1,4-dioxane (25 mL). The solution was stirred for 3 h and subsequently evaporated. The evaporate was dissolved in K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>(aq) (1 M, 50 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether. The organic phases were pooled, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated to yield crude product.

### Example 4:

Synthesis of ethyl *N*-isobutyryl-3-nitriloalaninate (used as intermediate)

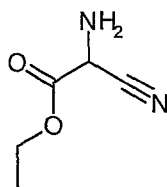


Isobutyryl chloride (100 mg) was added to a solution of the ethyl 3-nitriloalaninate (123 μL) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (217 μL) in DCM (5 mL). The reaction was stirred for 2 h and then

K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>(aq) (1 M, 25 mL) was added. Subsequently, the mixture was extracted with DCM. The organic phases were pooled, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated. The crude material was used in the next synthesis step without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.81(s, broad), 5.48 (d, 1H), 4.34-4.23 (m, 2H), 2.54-2.42 (m, 1H), 1.33-1.27 (m, 3H), 1.18-1.11 (m, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 177.0, 163.8, 114.5, 64.3, 43.3, 35.3, 19.34, 14.1.

**Example 5:**

Synthesis of ethyl 3-nitriloalaninate (used as intermediate)

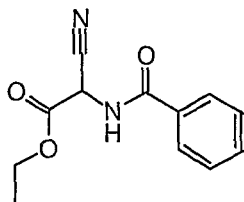


Ethyl(hydroxyimino)cyano acetate (5.0 g; available from Aldrich) was dissolved in EtOH (99.5 %, 25 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Platinum(IV) oxide was added to form a suspension. Subsequently hydrogenation was performed at 4.0 bar overnight. The solution was filtered through celite to yield the pure product as a yellow oil 4.099 g, 91 %. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 500 MHz) δ 1.19 (t, 3H), 2.8-3.8 (s, 2H), 4.15 (q, 2H), 4.75 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 125 MHz) δ 14.5, 47.1, 62.7, 119.3, 167.9.

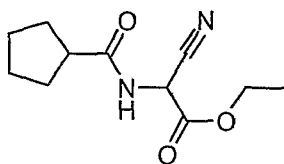
The following compounds were synthesized according to the procedure described above.

**Example 6:**

Ethyl *N*-benzoyl-3-nitriloalaninate (used as intermediate)

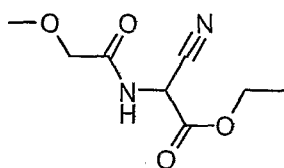
**Example 7:**

Ethyl *N*-(cyclopentylcarbonyl)-3-nitriloalaninate (used as intermediate)

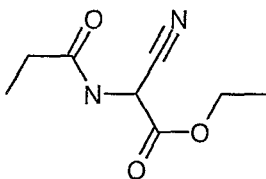
**Example 8:**

Ethyl *N*-(methoxyacetyl)-3-nitriloalaninate (used as intermediate)

5

**Example 9:**

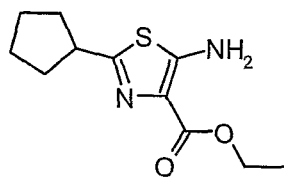
Ethyl 3-nitrilo-*N*-propionylalaninate (used as intermediate)



10

**Example 10:**

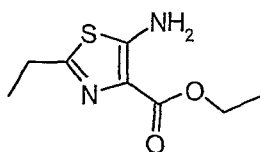
Ethyl 5-amino-2-cyclopentyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate (used as intermediate)



15

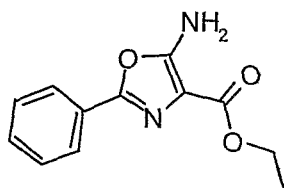
**Example 11:**

Ethyl 5-amino-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate (used as intermediate)

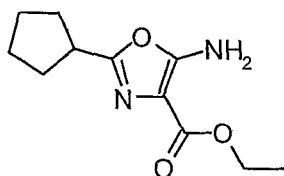
**Example 12:**

Ethyl 5-amino-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate (used as intermediate)

5

**Example 13:**

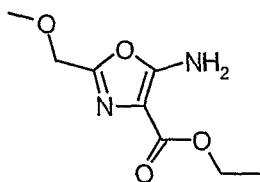
Ethyl 5-amino-2-cyclopentyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate (used as intermediate)



10

**Example 14:**

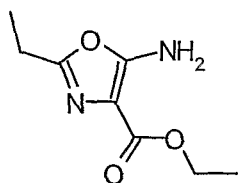
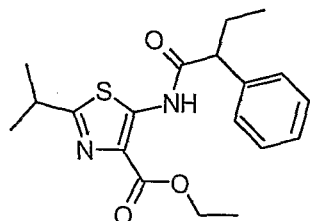
Ethyl 5-amino-2-(methoxymethyl)-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate (used as intermediate)



15

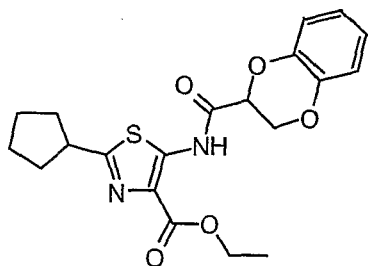
**Example 15:**

Ethyl 5-amino-2-ethyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate (used as intermediate)

**Example 16:****Ethyl 2-isopropyl-5-[(2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate**

5

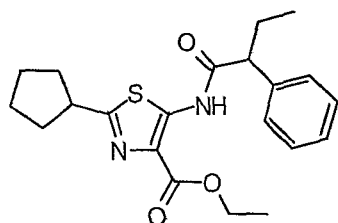
Yield: 8.6 %.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.91 (t, 3H), 1.30-1.39 (m, 9H), 1.84-1.89 (m, 1H), 2.17-2.29 (m, 1H), 3.23-3.32 (m, 1H), 3.50 (t, 1H), 4.37 (q, 2H), 7.23-7.35 (m, 5H), 10.77 (s, 1H). MS  $m/z$  361.49 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$

10 **Example 17:****Ethyl 2-cyclopentyl-5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate**

15

Yield: 7.2 %.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.41 (t, 3H), 1.60-2.24 (m, 8H), 3.36-3.47 (m, 1H), 4.29-4.57 (m, 4H), 4.89-4.94 (m, 1H), 6.87-6.95 (m, 3H), 7.12-7.16 (m, 1H), 11.70 (s, 1H). MS  $m/z$  403.48 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$

**Example 18:****Ethyl 2-cyclopentyl-5-[(2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate**

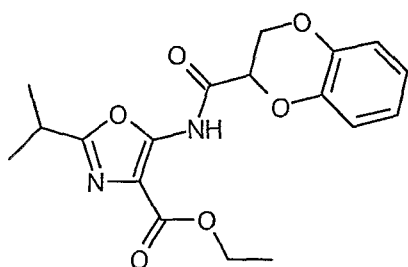


Yield: 42 %.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.90 (t, 3H), 1.35 (t, 1H), 1.58-2.29 (m, 10H), 3.31-3.42 (m, 1H), 3.49 (t, 1H), 4.36 (q, 2H), 7.22-7.35 (m, 5H), 10.76 (s, 1H). MS  $m/z$  387.52 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ )

5

### Example 19:

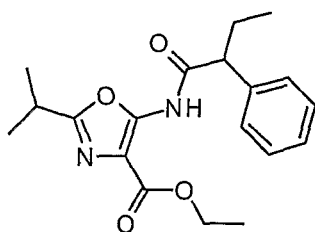
Ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-isopropyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate



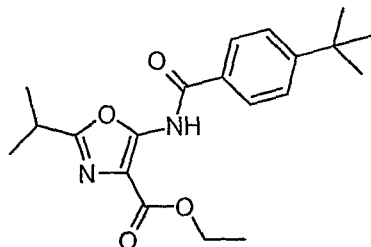
10 Yield: 14 %.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.33-1.41 (m, 9H), 3.07-3.14 (m, 1H), 4.29-4.57 (m, 4H), 4.82-4.87 (m, 1H), 6.88-6.93 (m, 4H), 7.05-7.11 (m, 1H), 10.17 (s, 1H). MS  $m/z$  361.37 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ )

### Example 20:

15 Ethyl 2-isopropyl-5-[(2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate



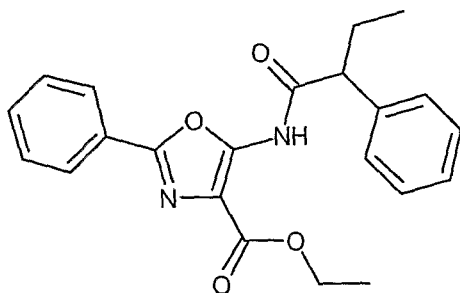
Yield: 15 %.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.88 (q, 3H), 1.24-1.33 (m, 6H), 1.79-1.92 (m, 1H), 2.15-2.27 (m, 1H), 2.98-3.08 (m, 1H), 3.44 (t, 1H), 4.25 (q, 2H), 7.20-7.38 (m, 5H), 9.04 (s, 1H). MS  $m/z$  345.42 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ )

**Example 21:**Ethyl 5-[(4-*tert*-butylbenzoyl)amino]-2-isopropyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate

Yield: 4.1 %.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.33 (s, 9H), 1.36-1.42 (m, 9H), 3.10-3.18 (m, 1H), 4.40 (q, 1H), 7.51 (d, 2H), 7.78 (d, 2H), 10.08 (s, 1H). MS  $m/z$  359.45 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$

**Example 22:**

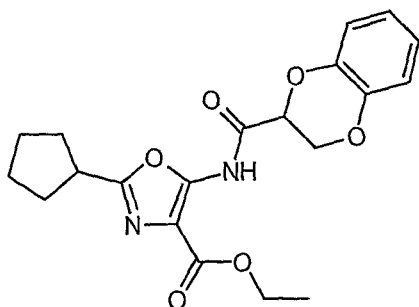
Ethyl 2-phenyl-5-[(2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate



Yield: 5.0 %.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.93 (t, 3H), 1.33 (t, 3H), 1.84-1.97 (m, 1H), 2.19-2.34 (m, 1H), 3.51 (t, 1H), 4.33 (q, 2H), 7.26-7.42 (m, 8H), 8.02-8.06 (m, 2H), 9.20 (s, 1H). MS  $m/z$  379.44 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$

**Example 23:**

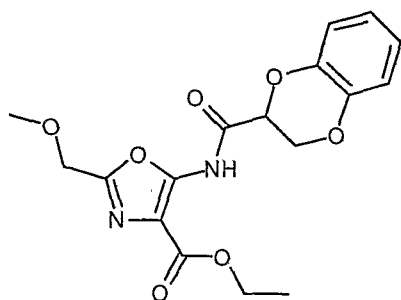
Ethyl 2-cyclopentyl-5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate



Yield: 14 %.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.36 (t, 3H), 1.52-2.11 (m, 8H), 3.15-3.25 (1H), 4.23-4.56 (m, 4H), 4.81-4.86 (m, 1H), 6.76-7.12 (m, 4H), 10.16 (s, 1H). MS  $m/z$  387.41 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$

5 **Example 24:**

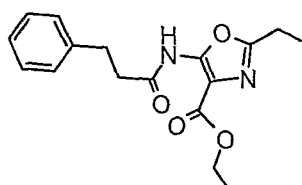
Ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-(methoxymethyl)-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate



Yield: 4.7 %.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.29 (t, 3H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 4.18-4.44 (6H),  
 10 4.78-4.78 (m, 1H), 6.72-7.02 (m, 4H). MS  $m/z$  363.35 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$

**Example 25:**

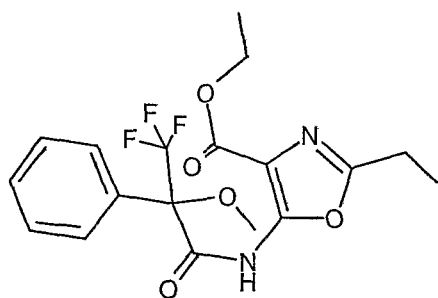
Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-[(3-phenylpropanoyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate



15 Yield: 10.3%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.27-1.47 (m, 6H), 2.73-3.13 (m, 6H), 4.37 (q, 2H), 7.15-7.39 (m, 5H), 9.03 (s, 1H). MS  $m/z$  317.0 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$

**Example 26:**

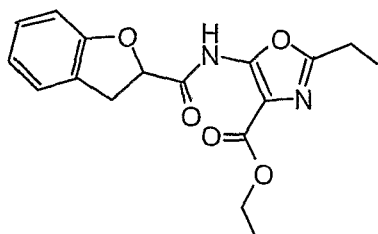
20 Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-[(3,3,3-trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenylpropanoyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate



Yield: 13%. MS  $m/z$  400.9 ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup>

### Example 27:

- 5 Ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1-benzofuran-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-ethyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate

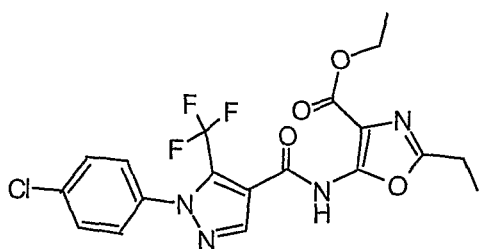


Yield: 13.3%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.28-1.47 (m, 6H), 2.81 (q, 2H), 3.48-3.77 (m, 2H), 4.40 (q, 2H), 5.28 (dd, 1H), 6.92-7.04 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.28 (m, 2H), 10.25 (s, 1H).

- 10 MS  $m/z$  330.9 ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup>

### Example 28:

Ethyl 5-([1-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]carbonyl)amino)-2-ethyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate

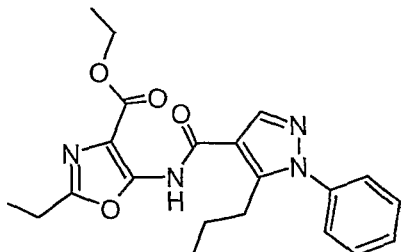


15

MS  $m/z$  456.9 ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup>

### Example 29:

Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-[[[(1-phenyl-5-propyl-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)carbonyl]amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate

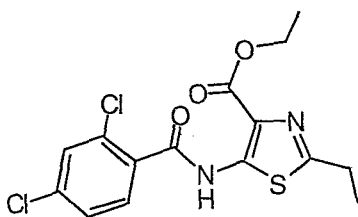


MS  $m/z$  397.2 ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup>

5

**Example 30:**

Ethyl 5-[(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)amino]-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate

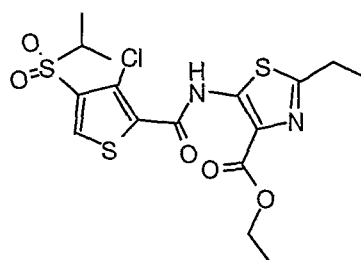


Yield: 4.9%. MS  $m/z$  372.9 ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup>

10

**Example 31:**

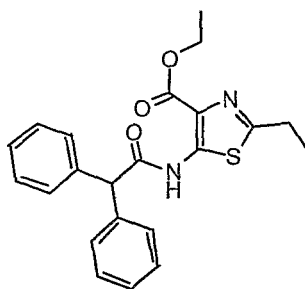
Ethyl 5-([3-chloro-4-(isopropylsulfonyl)-2-thienyl]carbonyl)amino)-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate



15 MS  $m/z$  450.8 ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup>

**Example 32:**

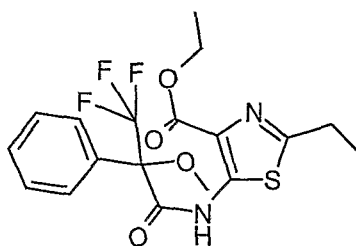
Ethyl 5-[(diphenylacetyl)amino]-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate



MS  $m/z$  395.0 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>

**Example 33:**

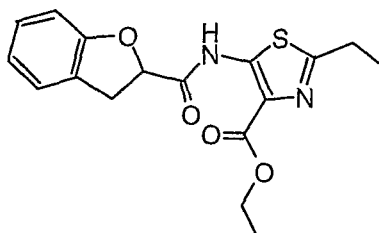
- 5 Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-[(3,3,3-trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenylpropanoyl)amino]-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate



MS  $m/z$  416.9 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>

10 **Example 34:**

- Ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1-benzofuran-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate

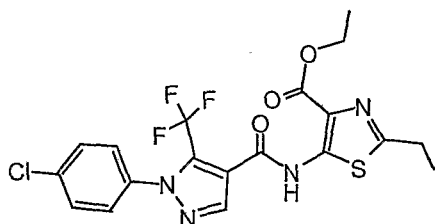


MS  $m/z$  346.9 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>

15

**Example 35:**

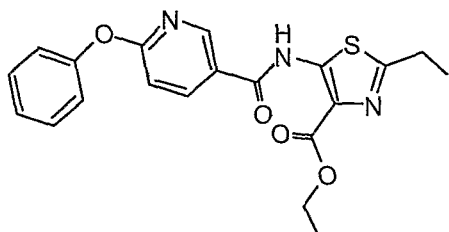
- Ethyl 5-([1-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]carbonyl)amino)-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate



MS m/z 472.9 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>

**Example 36:**

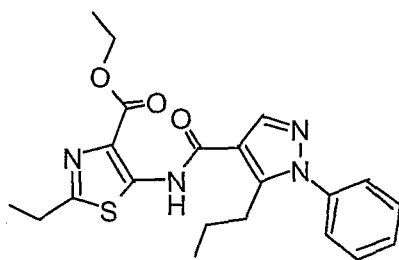
- 5 Ethyl 2-ethyl-5--{[(6-phenoxy-pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino}-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate



MS m/z 398.0 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>

**Example 37:**

- 10 Ethyl 2-ethyl-5--{[(1-phenyl-5-propyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)carbonyl]amino}-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate



MS m/z 413.0 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>

15 Analysis

LC-MS analysis was performed using a Micromass 8 probe MUX-LTC ESP+ system, purity being determined by single wavelength (254nm) UV detection. Chromatography was performed over an Xterra™ MS C8 3.5μm, 4.6 x30 mm column, 8 in parallel. The flow of 15ml/min was split over the 8 columns to give a flow rate of 1.9ml/min. The 10-minute chromatography gradient was as follows:

20

Mobile Phase A: 95% ACN + 5% 0,010 M NH<sub>4</sub>OAc

Mobile Phase B: 5% ACN + 95% 0,010 M NH<sub>4</sub>OAc

10 min 0,0 min 0% A

5 8,0 min 100% A

9,0 min 100% A

9,1 min 0% A

NMR analysis was performed at 400MHz.

10

### Biological evaluation

#### Effects of the positive allosteric GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor modulator in a functional *in vitro* assay.

15 The effect of GABA and baclofen on intracellular calcium release in CHO cells expressing the GABA<sub>B(1A,2)</sub> receptor heterodimer was studied in the presence or absence of the positive allosteric modulator. The positive allosteric modulator according to the invention increased both the potency and the efficacy of GABA.

20 The potency of the compounds i.e. the ability of the compounds to reduce the EC<sub>50</sub> of GABA was revealed by the concentration required to reduce GABA's EC<sub>50</sub> by 50 %. These potencies were similar to the potency reported for CGP7930 (can be purchased from Tocris, Northpoint, Fourth Way, Avonmouth, Bristol, BS11 8TA, UK) by Urwyler *et al.* CGP7930 increases the potency of GABA from EC<sub>50</sub> of about 170-180 nM to EC<sub>50</sub> of about 35-50 nM.

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### EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

#### **Materials**

30 Nut mix F-12 (Ham) cell culture media, OPTI-MEM I reduced serum medium, Fetal bovine serum (FBS), penicillin/streptomycin solution (PEST), geneticin, HEPES (4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (buffer), 1 M solution), Hank's Balanced Salt Solution (HBSS) and zeocin were from Life technologies (Paisley, Scotland); Polyethyleneimine, probenidol, baclofen and  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid (GABA) were from

Sigma (St Louis, USA); Fluo-3 AM was from Molecular Probes (Oregon, USA). 4-Amino-n-[2,3-<sup>3</sup>H]butyric acid ([<sup>3</sup>H]GABA) was from Amersham Pharmacia Biotech (Uppsala, Sweden).

***Generation of cell lines expressing the GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor***

GABA<sub>B</sub>R1a and GABA<sub>B</sub>R2 were cloned from human brain cDNA and subcloned into pCI-Neo (Promega) and pALTER-1 (Promega), respectively. A GABA<sub>B</sub>R1a-G<sub>αq</sub>i5 fusion protein expression vector was constructed using the pCI-Neo-GABA<sub>B</sub>R1a cDNA plasmid and pLEC1-G<sub>αq</sub>i5 (Molecular Devices, CA). In order to make the G<sub>αq</sub>i5 pertussis toxin insensitive, Cys356 was mutated to Gly using standard PCR methodology with the primers 5'-GGATCCATGGCATGCTGCCTGAGCGA-3' (forward) and 5'-GCGGCCGCTCAGAAGAGGCCGCGTCCTT-3' (reverse). The G<sub>αq</sub>i5mut cDNA was ligated into the BamHI and NotI sites of pcDNA3.0 (Invitrogen). The GABA<sub>B</sub> R1a coding sequence was amplified by PCR from pCI-Neo-GABA<sub>B</sub>R1a using the primers, 5'-GGATCCCCGGGGAGCCGGGCCC-3' (forward) and 5'-GGATCCCTTATAAAGCAAATGCACTCGA-3' (reverse) and subcloned into the BamHI site of pcDNA3.0-G<sub>αq</sub>i5mut.

In order to optimise the Kozak consensus sequence of GABA<sub>B</sub>R2, *in situ* mutagenesis was performed using the Altered Sites Mutagenesis kit according to manufacturer's instruction (Promega) with the following primer, 5'-GAATTCGCACCATGGCTTCCC-3'. The optimised GABA<sub>B</sub>R2 was then restricted from pALTER-1 with Xho I + Kpn I and subcloned into the mammalian expression vector pcDNA3.1(-)/Zeo (Invitrogen) to produce the final construct, pcDNA3.1(-)/Zeo-GABA<sub>B</sub>R2.

For generation of stable cell lines, CHO-K1 cells were grown in Nut mix F-12 (Ham) media supplemented with 10% FBS, 100 U/ml Penicillin and 100 µg/ml Streptomycin at 37° C in a humidified CO<sub>2</sub>-incubator. The cells were detached with 1 mM EDTA in PBS and 1 million cells were seeded in 100 mm petri dishes. After 24 hours the culture media was replaced with OptiMEM and incubated for 1 hour in a CO<sub>2</sub>-incubator.

For generation of a cell line expressing the GABA<sub>B</sub>R1a/GABA<sub>B</sub>R2 heterodimer, GABA<sub>B</sub>R1a plasmid DNA (4 µg) GABA<sub>B</sub>R2 plasmid DNA (4 µg) and lipofectamine (24 µl) were mixed in 5 ml OptiMEM and incubated for 45 minutes at room temperature. The cells were exposed to the transfection medium for 5 hours, which then was replaced with culture medium. The cells were cultured for an additional 10 days before selection agents (300 µg/ml hygromycin and 400 µg/ml geneticin) were added. Twenty-four days after

transfection, single cell sorting into 96-well plates by flow cytometry was performed using a FACS Vantage SE (Becton Dickinson, Palo Alto, CA). After expansion, the GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor functional response was tested using the FLIPR assay described below. The clone with the highest functional response was collected, expanded and then subcloned by single cell sorting. The clonal cell line with the highest peak response in the FLIPR was used in the present study.

For generation of a stable cell line expressing GABA<sub>B</sub>R1a-G<sub>αq15</sub> fusion protein and GABA<sub>B</sub>R2, GABA<sub>B</sub>R1a-G<sub>αq15mut</sub> plasmid DNA (8 μg) GABA<sub>B</sub>R2 plasmid DNA (8 μg) and lipofectamine (24 μl) were mixed in 5 ml OptiMEM and incubated for 45 minutes at room temperature. The cells were exposed to the transfection medium for 5 hours, which then was replaced with culture medium. After forty-eight hours, the cells were detached and seeded in 6 well plates (2000 cells/well) and grown in culture medium supplemented with geneticin (400 μg/ml) and zeocin (250 μg/ml). After 4 days, cells from single colonies were collected and transferred to a 24-well plate. After 10 days, the cell clones were seeded in T-25 flasks and grown for another 16 days before they were tested for GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor mediated functional response. The clones that showed the highest peak response were collected and subcloned by seeding the cells in 6-well plates (1000 cells/well) and repeating the steps described above. The clonal cell line that gave the highest peak response in the FLIPR was used in the present study.

#### ***Measurement of GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor dependent release of intracellular calcium in the FLIPR***

Measurement of GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor dependent release of intracellular calcium in the fluorescence imaging plate reader (FLIPR) was performed as described by Coward et al. *Anal. Biochem.* (1999) 270, 242-248, with some modifications. Transfected CHO cells were cultivated in Nut Mix F-12 (HAM) with Glutamax-I and supplemented with 10%, 100 U/ml penicillin and 100 μg/ml streptomycin, 250 μg/ml zeocin and 400 μg/ml geneticin. Twenty-four hours prior to the experiment the cells (35,000 cells/well) were seeded in black-walled 96-well poly-D-lysine coated plates (Becton Dickinson, Bedford, UK) in culture medium without selection agents. The cell culture medium was aspirated and 100 μl of Fluo-3 loading solution (4 μM Fluo-3, 2.5 mM probenecid and 20 mM

Hepes in Nut Mix F-12 (Ham)) was added. After incubation for 1 hour at 37°C in a 5 % CO<sub>2</sub> incubator, the dye-solution was aspirated and the cells were washed 2 times with 150 µl of wash solution (2.5 mM probenecid and 20 mM Hepes in HBSS) followed by addition of 150 µl of wash solution. The cells were then assayed in a fluorescence imaging plate reader (Molecular Devices Corp., CA, USA). Test compounds were diluted to 50 µM concentrations in HBSS containing 20 mM Hepes and 5% DMSO and added in a volume of 50 µl. The fluorescence was sampled every second for 60 s (10 s before and 50 s after the addition of test compound) before GABA (50 µl 7.6 nM-150 µM) was added and sampling continued every sixth second for additional 120 seconds.

### *GTPγS*

[<sup>35</sup>S]-GTPγS binding assays were performed at 30°C for 45min in membrane buffer (100mM NaCl, 5mM, 1mM EDTA, 50mM HEPES, pH 7.4) containing 0.025µg/µl of membrane protein (prepared from the cell lines described above) with 0.01% bovine serum albumin (fatty acid free), 10µM GDP, 100µM DTT and 0.53nM [<sup>35</sup>S]-GTPγS (Amersham-Pharmacia Biotech) in a final volume of 200µl. Non-specific binding was determined in the presence of 20µM GTPγS. The reaction was started by the addition of GABA at concentration between 1mM and 0.1nM in the presence or absence of the required concentration of PAM. The reaction was terminated by addition of ice-cold wash buffer (50mM Tris-HCl, 5mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50mM NaCl, pH 7.4) followed by rapid filtration under vacuum through Printed Filtermat A glass fiber filters (Wallac) (0.05% PEI treated) using a Micro 96 Harvester (Skatron Instruments). The filters were dried for 30 min at 50°C, then a paraffin scintillant pad was melted onto the filters and the bound radioactivity was determined using a 1450 Microbeta Trilux (Wallac) scintillation counter.

### *Calculations*

GABA dose-response curves in the presence and absence of test compounds were constructed using the 4-parameter logistic equation,  $y = y_{\max} + ((y_{\min} - y_{\max}) / (1 + (x/C)^D))$ , where C=EC<sub>50</sub> and D=slope factor.

The potency of PAM in GTP $\gamma$ S assays was determined by plotting the log EC<sub>50</sub> for GABA against the log concentration of the positive allosteric modulator in the presence of which the measurement was performed.

- 5 Generally, the potency of the compounds of formula (I) ranges from EC<sub>50</sub>s between 30  $\mu$ M and 0.001  $\mu$ M. Examples of individual EC<sub>50</sub> values:

| Compound                                                                                         | EC <sub>50</sub> ( $\mu$ M) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ethyl 5-[(4- <i>tert</i> -butylbenzoyl)amino]-2-isopropyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate (example 21) | 7.23                        |
| Ethyl 2-isopropyl-5-[(2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate (example 16)            | 1.96                        |

#### Effect of compounds in IBS model (colorectal distension)

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##### *Colorectal Distension (CRD)*

For CRD, a 3 cm polyethylene balloon with a connecting catheter (made in-house) is inserted in the distal colon, 2 cm from the base of the balloon to the anus, during light isoflurane anaesthesia (Forene<sup>®</sup>, Abbott Scandinavia AB, Sweden). The catheter is fixed to  
 15 the base of the tail with tape. At the same time, an intravenous catheter (Neoflon<sup>®</sup>, Becton Dickinson AB, Sweden) is inserted in a tail vein for compounds administration. Thereafter, rats are placed in Bollman cages and allowed to recover from sedation for at least 15 min before starting the experiments.

- 20 During the CRD procedure, the balloons are connected to pressure transducers (P-602, CFM-k33, 100 mmHg; Bronkhorst Hi-Tec, Veenendal, The Netherlands). A customized barostat (AstraZeneca, Mölndal, Sweden) is used to control the air inflation and intraballoon pressure. A customized computer software (PharmLab on-line 4.0.1) running on a standard PC is used to control the barostat and to perform data collection and storage.
- 25 The distension paradigm generated by the barostat are achieved by generating pulse patterns on an analog output channel. The CRD paradigms use consisted on repeated phasic distensions, 12 times at 80 mmHg, with a pulse duration of 30 s at 5 min intervals.

Responses to CRD are assessed by recording and quantitation of phasic changes in intraballoon pressure during the distending pulses. Pressure oscillations during the isobaric inflation of the intracolonic balloon reflect abdominal muscle contractions associated to the distension procedure and, therefore, are considered a valid assessment of the visceromotor response (VMR) associated to the presence of pain of visceral origin.

#### *Data Collection and Analysis*

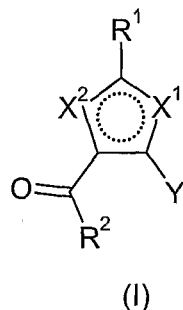
The balloon pressure signals are sampled at 50 Hz and afterwards subjected to digital filtering. A highpass filter at 1 Hz is used to separate the contraction-induced pressure changes from the slow varying pressure generated by the barostat. A resistance in the airflow between the pressure generator and the pressure transducer further enhance the pressure variations induced by abdominal contractions of the animal. In addition, a band-stop filter at 49-51 Hz is used to remove line frequency interference. A customized computer software (PharmLab off-line 4.0.1) is used to quantify the phasic changes of the balloon pressure signals. The average rectified value (ARV) of the balloon pressure signals is calculated for the 30 s period before the pulse (baseline activity) and for the duration of the pulse (as a measure of the VMR to distension). When performing pulses analysis, the first and last second of each pulse are excluded since they reflect artefact signals produced by the barostat during inflation and deflation of the balloon and do not originate from the animal.

#### *Results*

The effect of the positive allosteric modulators is examined on the VMR to isobaric CRD in rats. A paradigm consisting of 12 distensions at 80 mmHg is used. The compounds are administered at a dose of 1 to 50  $\mu\text{mol/kg}$  and VMR responses to CRD compared to the vehicle control.

Claims

1. A compound of the general formula (I)



wherein

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$R^1$  represents  $NR^4R^5$ ,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy; optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

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$R^1$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein any aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $R^1$  may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, wherein said  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

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$R^2$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy, optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

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$R^2$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

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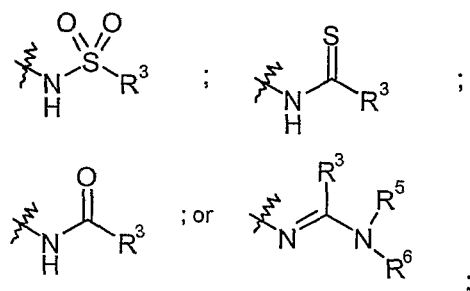
$R^2$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy,

halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$\text{R}^2$  represents amino, optionally mono- or disubstituted with  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkenyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkynyl or  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl;

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Y represents



$\text{R}^3$  represents  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl;  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkenyl;  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkynyl;  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkoxy; or  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkoxy,  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$

10 cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{COR}^8$ , nitrile,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{C=ONR}^7$  or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$\text{R}^3$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkenyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkynyl,  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkoxy,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{10}$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $\text{R}^3$  may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkoxy or  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  thioalkoxy, wherein said  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

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$\text{R}^4$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl;  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkenyl;  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkoxy,  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, keto, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

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$R^4$  each and independently represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

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$R^5$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

10  $R^5$  each and independently represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

15 or  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  together form a ring consisting of from 3 to 7 atoms selected from C, N and O, wherein said ring is optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, keto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

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$R^6$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy;

25  $R^7$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy;

$R^8$  each and independently represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, optionally substituted by aryl or  
30 heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy;

$R^9$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy;

5  $R^{10}$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;

$X^1$  represents S, O or N;

$X^2$  represents S, O or N;

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with the proviso that  $X^1$  and  $X^2$  represent different atoms and with the further proviso that  $X^1$  is not S when  $X^2$  is O and  $X^1$  is not O when  $X^2$  is S;

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wherein each of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and cycloalkyl may independently have one or more carbon atom(s) substituted for O, N or S; wherein none of the O, N or S is in a position adjacent to any other O, N or S;

wherein each of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy and cycloalkyl may independently have one or more carbon atom(s) substituted by fluoro;

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as well as pharmaceutically and pharmacologically acceptable salts thereof, and enantiomers of the compound of formula (I) and salts thereof;

with the exceptions of:

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5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[(4-methylbenzoyl)amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2,6-difluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;

4-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[(1-oxohexyl)amino]-2-(phenylmethyl)-, ethyl ester;

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4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-chloro-6-fluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-ethyl-, ethyl ester;

- 5-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-chloro-6-fluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;
- 5 4-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 2-benzyl-5-hexanamido-, ethyl ester hydrochloride;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-chloro-6-methoxybenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-5-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;
- 10 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2,6-difluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-ethyl-, ethyl ester;
- 5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-bromobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;
- 15 ester;
- 4-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-5-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-(benzoylamino)-2-phenyl-, ethyl ester;
- Oxazolium, 4-benzoyl-3-butyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[(trifluoroacetyl)amino]-;
- 20 Oxazolium, 4-(2-bromobenzoyl)-3-butyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[(trifluoroacetyl)amino]-;
- Oxazolium, 4-benzoyl-3-butyl-2-phenyl-5-[(trifluoroacetyl)amino]-;
- 5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[(4-methylbenzoyl)amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;
- 5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;
- 25 ester;
- 5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[[[(2-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;
- 4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[2-butyl-4-[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;
- 30 4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-methyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-phenyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-(1-methylethyl)-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

5 4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-propyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-ethyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

10 4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;

4-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-5-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-5-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;

15 5-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxamide, 5-[(aminocarbonyl)amino]-2-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-;

4-Thiazolecarboxamide, 5-(acetylamino)-2-methyl-;

20 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2,6-difluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-bromobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-chloro-6-methoxybenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;

25 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-chloro-6-fluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-ethyl-, ethyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2,6-difluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-ethyl-, ethyl ester;

30 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-[[[(2-chloro-6-fluorobenzoyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;

4-Oxazolecarboxamide, 5-(acetylamino)-N,N,2-trimethyl-;

4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-(benzoylamino)-2-phenyl-, ethyl ester;

- 4-Oxazolecaboxamide, 5-(benzoylamino)-2-phenyl-;
- Acetamide, N-(5-benzoyl-2-phenyl-4-thiazolyl)-;
- Acetamide, N-[5-benzoyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-thiazolyl]-;
- Benzamide, N-(5-benzoyl-2-phenyl-4-thiazolyl)-;
- 5 Benzamide, N-[5-benzoyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-thiazolyl]-;
- Benzamide, N-[5-benzoyl-2-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]-4-thiazolyl]-;
- 4-Oxazolecaboxamide, N-benzoyl-5-(benzoylamino)-2-phenyl-;
- 4-Oxazolecaboxamide, 5-(benzoylamino)-2-phenyl-;
- 4-Oxazolecaboxamide, N-(4-methylbenzoyl)-5-[(4-methylbenzoyl)amino]-2-(4-methylphenyl)-;
- 10 4-Oxazolecaboxamide, 5-acetamido-2-methyl-;
- 4-Oxazolecaboxamide, 5-acetamido-N-acetyl-2-methyl-;
- 4-Oxazolecaboxamide, 5-acetamido-N,2-dimethyl-;
- 4-Oxazolecaboxamide, 5-(acetylamino)-N,N,2-trimethyl-;
- 15 4-Thiazolecaboxamide, 5-acetamido-N,2-dimethyl-;
- 4-Thiazolecaboxamide, 5-(acetylamino)-2-methyl-;
- 4-Thiazolecaboxamide, 5-acetamido-N,2-dimethyl-;
- 4-Thiazolecaboxamide, 5-acetamido-N,N,2-trimethyl-;
- 5-Thiazolecabamic acid, 4-carbamoyl-2-methyl-, ethyl ester;
- 20 4-Thiazolecaboxamide, 5-(acetylamino)-2-methyl-;
- 4-Thiazolecaboxylic acid, 2-benzyl-5-hexanamido-, ethyl ester hydrochloride;
- 4-Thiazolecaboxylic acid, 5-[(1-oxohexyl)amino]-2-(phenylmethyl)-, ethylester;
- Acetamide, 2-amino-N-[5-benzoyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-thiazolyl]-;
- Carbamic acid, [4-[(methylamino)carbonyl]-2-[(phenylmethyl)thio]-5-thiazolyl]-, ethyl
- 25 ester;
- Carbamic acid, [4-[(phenylmethyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-[(phenylmethyl)thio]-5-thiazolyl]-, ethyl ester;
- 4-Thiazolecaboxylic acid, 5-[(ethoxycarbonyl)amino]-2-[(phenylmethyl)thio]-, ethyl ester;
- 30 Benzamide, N-[5-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-2-[(4-nitrophenyl)amino]-4-thiazolyl]-;
- 4-Thiazolecaboxamide, 2-(ethylthio)-5-[phenylacetyl]amino]-;
- Carbamic acid, [4-(aminocarbonyl)-2-[(phenylmethyl)thio]-5-thiazolyl]-, ethyl ester;

Carbamic acid, [2-[[5-benzoyl-2-(1-piperidiny)-4-thiazolyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl]-, phenylmethyl ester;

Carbamic acid, [2-[[5-benzoyl-2-(4-morpholiny)-4-thiazolyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl]-, phenylmethyl ester;

5 Carbamic acid, [2-[[5-benzoyl-2-(dimethylamino)-4-thiazolyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl]-, phenylmethyl ester;

Carbamic acid, [2-[[5-benzoyl-2-(dimethylamino)-4-thiazolyl]amino]-1-methyl-2-oxoethyl]-, phenylmethyl ester;

10 Carbamic acid, [2-[[5-benzoyl-2-(dimethylamino)-4-thiazolyl]amino]-2-oxo-1-(phenylmethyl)ethyl]-, phenylmethyl ester;

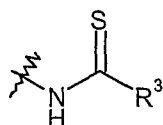
Carbamic acid, [2-[[5-benzoyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-thiazolyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl]-, phenylmethyl ester;

2H-Isoindole-2-acetamide, N-[5-benzoyl-2-(4-morpholiny)-4-thiazolyl]-1,3-dihydro-1,3-dioxo-;

15 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 5-acetamido-2-(1-naphtylamino)-, ethyl ester; and

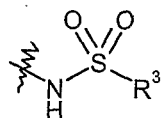
4-Thiazolecarboxamide, 2-(phenylmethyl)-5-[2-(phenyl-1-thioxoethyl)amino]-.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein Y represents

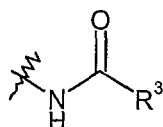


20

3. A compound according to claim 1, wherein Y represents



4. A compound according to claim 1, wherein Y represents



25

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein  $R^1$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_5$  alkyl.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein  $R^1$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl.

5 7. A compound according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein  $R^2$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy, optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups.

10 8. A compound according to claim 7, wherein  $R^2$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy.

9. A compound according to claim 8, wherein  $R^2$  represents ethoxy.

10. A compound according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein  $R^2$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, 15 optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups.

11. A compound according to claim 10, wherein  $R^2$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, optionally 20 substituted by one or more of  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups.

12. A compound according to any one of claims 1-11, wherein  $R^3$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_7$  alkyl, 25  $C_2$ - $C_7$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_7$  alkynyl or  $C_3$ - $C_7$  cycloalkyl, optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $R^3$  may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, wherein said  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl 30 groups.

13. A compound according to claim 12, wherein  $R^3$  represents  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy or by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $R^3$  may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl or  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy.

5

14. A compound according to claim 13, wherein  $R^3$  represents  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl, substituted by one or more of  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy or by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups.

15. A compound according to claim 13, wherein  $R^3$  represents  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl, substituted by one or more of  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy and by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups.

10

16. A compound according to any one of claims 1-11, wherein  $R^3$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2-C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2-C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3-C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1-C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $SO_2R^9$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $R^3$  may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl or  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy.

15

17. A compound according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein  $R^4$  represents  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl.

20

18. A compound according to claim 17, wherein  $R^4$  represents methyl.

19. A compound according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein  $R^5$  represents  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl.

25

20. A compound according to claim 19, wherein  $R^5$  represents methyl.

21. A compound according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  form a ring consisting of 5 or 6 atoms selected from C, O and N.

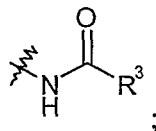
30

22. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

$R^1$  represents  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl; optionally substituted by one  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy; or  $R^1$  represents aryl;

$R^2$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy;

Y represents



- 5  $R^3$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy, or one or two aryl; or  $R^3$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, halogen(s),  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $SO_2R^{10}$ , or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $R^3$  may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, wherein said  $C_1$ -  
10  $C_{10}$  alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

$R^8$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;

$R^{10}$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;

$X^1$  represents S or O;

$X^2$  represents N;

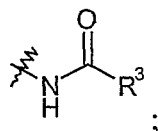
- 15 wherein each of alkyl one or more carbon atom(s) substituted for O, wherein none of the O is in a position adjacent to any other O;  
wherein each of alkyl groups may have one or more carbon atom(s) substituted by fluoro.

23. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

- 20  $R^1$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_5$  alkyl; optionally substituted by one  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy; or  $R^1$  represents aryl;

$R^2$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy;

Y represents



- 25  $R^3$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy, or one or two aryl; or  $R^3$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, halogen(s),  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $SO_2R^{10}$ , or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $R^3$  may be further substituted by one or more

of halogen(s), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy, wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

**R<sup>8</sup>** represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

**R<sup>10</sup>** represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

5 **X<sup>1</sup>** represents S or O;

**X<sup>2</sup>** represents N;

wherein each of alkyl one or more carbon atom(s) substituted for O, wherein none of the O is in a position adjacent to any other O;

wherein each of alkyl groups may have one or more carbon atom(s) substituted by fluoro.

10

24. A compound according to claim 1, selected from

Ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-isopropyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-isopropyl-5-[(2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

15 Ethyl 2-cyclopentyl-5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-cyclopentyl-5-[(2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-isopropyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

20 Ethyl 2-isopropyl-5-[(2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 5-[(4-*tert*-butylbenzoyl)amino]-2-isopropyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-phenyl-5-[(2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-cyclopentyl-5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

25 Ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-(methoxymethyl)-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-[(3-phenylpropanoyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-[(3,3,3-trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenylpropanoyl)amino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

30 Ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1-benzofuran-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-ethyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 5-({[1-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl]carbonyl} amino)-2-ethyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-({[(1-phenyl-5-propyl-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)carbonyl]amino}-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate;

5 Ethyl 5-[(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)amino]-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 5-({[3-chloro-4-(isopropylsulfonyl)-2-thienyl]carbonyl} amino)-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 5-[(diphenylacetyl)amino]-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-[(3,3,3-trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenylpropanoyl)amino]-1,3-thiazole-4-  
10 carboxylate;

Ethyl 5-[(2,3-dihydro-1-benzofuran-2-ylcarbonyl)amino]-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

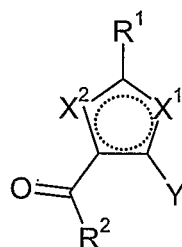
Ethyl 5-({[1-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl]carbonyl} amino)-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;

15 Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-({[(6-phenoxy-pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino}-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate;  
and

Ethyl 2-ethyl-5-({[(1-phenyl-5-propyl-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)carbonyl]amino}-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate.

20 25. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1-24 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

26. A compound of the general formula (I)



(I)

25 wherein

$R^1$  represents  $NR^4R^5$ ,  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1-C_{10}$  thioalkoxy; optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3-C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1-C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

5  $R^1$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2-C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2-C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3-C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1-C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein any aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $R^1$  may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1-C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, wherein said  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl may be further substituted by one  
10 or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

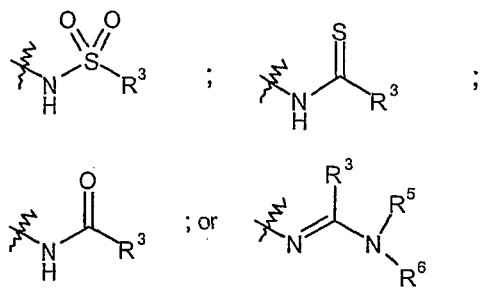
$R^2$  represents  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy, optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1-C_{10}$  thioalkoxy,  $C_3-C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  
15  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$R^2$  represents  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2-C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2-C_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $C_3-C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1-C_{10}$  thioalkoxy,  $C_3-C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

20  $R^2$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2-C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2-C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3-C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1-C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$R^2$  represents amino, optionally mono- or disubstituted with  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2-C_{10}$  alkenyl,  
25  $C_2-C_{10}$  alkynyl or  $C_3-C_{10}$  cycloalkyl;

$Y$  represents



$R^3$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  
 5  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{COR}^8$ , nitrile,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{C=ONR}^7$  or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$R^3$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy,  
 10 halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{10}$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $R^3$  may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, wherein said  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

15  $R^4$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, keto, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl  
 20 groups; or

$R^4$  each and independently represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

25  $R^5$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$

alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid, CONR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, NR<sup>6</sup>COR<sup>7</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or R<sup>5</sup> each and independently represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid, CONR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, NR<sup>6</sup>COR<sup>7</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

or R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> together form a ring consisting of from 3 to 7 atoms selected from C, N and O, wherein said ring is optionally substituted by one or more of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, keto, carboxylic acid, CONR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, NR<sup>6</sup>COR<sup>7</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

R<sup>6</sup> each and independently represents hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy;

R<sup>7</sup> each and independently represents hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy;

R<sup>8</sup> each and independently represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, optionally substituted by aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy;

R<sup>9</sup> represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> thioalkoxy;

R<sup>10</sup> represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl;

X<sup>1</sup> represents S, O or N;

$X^2$  represents S, O or N;

with the proviso that  $X^1$  and  $X^2$  represent different atoms and with the further proviso that

5  $X^1$  is not S when  $X^2$  is O and  $X^1$  is not O when  $X^2$  is S;

wherein each of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and cycloalkyl may independently have one or more carbon atom(s) substituted for O, N or S; wherein none of the O, N or S is in a position adjacent to any other O, N or S;

10

wherein each of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy and cycloalkyl may independently have one or more carbon atom(s) substituted by fluoro;

as well as pharmaceutically and pharmacologically acceptable salts thereof, and

15

enantiomers of the compound of formula (I) and salts thereof;

with the exceptions of:

5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[(4-methylbenzoyl)amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;

20

5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;

5-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 4-[[[(2-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-2-phenyl-, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester;

25

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[2-butyl-4-[[[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-];

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[[[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-methyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-];

4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[[[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-phenyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-];

30

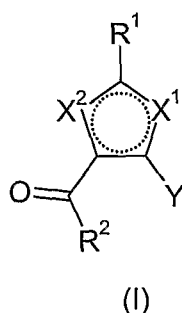
4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[[[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-(1-methylethyl)-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-];

- 4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[[[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-propyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;
- 4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[[[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-ethyl-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;
- 5 4-Piperidinecarboxamide, N-[4-[[[(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl]-2-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-5-thiazolyl]-1-(1-methylethyl)-;
- 4-Thiazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-5-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-5-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;
- 10 5-Oxazolecarboxylic acid, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-[[[(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]-, methyl ester;
- 4-Oxazolecarboxamide, 5-[(aminocarbonyl)amino]-2-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-;
- Benzamide, N-[5-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-2-[(4-nitrophenyl)amino]-4-thiazolyl]-;
- 15 Thiazolecarboxamide, 2-(ethylthio)-5-[phenylacetyl]amino]-;

as well as pharmaceutically and pharmacologically acceptable salts thereof, and enantiomers of the compound of formula (I) and salts thereof, for use in therapy.

- 20 27. A compound according to any one of claims 1-24 for use in therapy.

28. Use of a compound of the general formula (I)



wherein

25

$R^1$  represents  $NR^4R^5$ ,  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1-C_{10}$  thioalkoxy; optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1-C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3-C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1-C_{10}$  thioalkoxy,

halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$\text{R}^1$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkenyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkynyl,  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkoxy,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein any aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $\text{R}^1$  may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkoxy or  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  thioalkoxy, wherein said  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

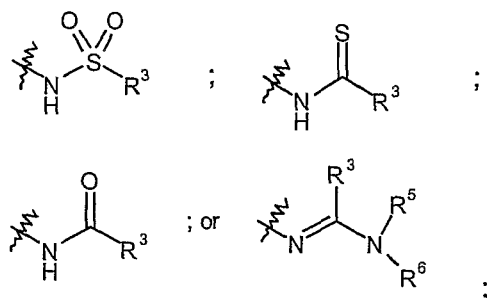
$\text{R}^2$  represents  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkoxy, optionally substituted by one or more of  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  thioalkoxy,  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$\text{R}^2$  represents  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl;  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkenyl;  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkoxy,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  thioalkoxy,  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl, keto, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$\text{R}^2$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkenyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkynyl,  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkoxy,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{NR}^6\text{COR}^7$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$\text{R}^2$  represents amino, optionally mono- or disubstituted with  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkenyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$  alkynyl or  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$  cycloalkyl;

$\text{Y}$  represents



$R^3$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $COR^8$ , nitrile,  $SO_2NR^6R^7$ ,  $SO_2R^9$ ,  $NR^6SO_2R^7$ ,  $NR^6C=ONR^7$  or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$R^3$  represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $SO_2NR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6SO_2R^7$ ,  $SO_2R^{10}$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group used in defining  $R^3$  may be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, wherein said  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl may be further substituted by one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

$R^4$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, keto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$R^4$  each and independently represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

$R^5$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl; or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups; or

$R^5$  each and independently represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

or  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  together form a ring consisting of from 3 to 7 atoms selected from C, N and O, wherein said ring is optionally substituted by one or more of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy, halogen(s), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, keto, carboxylic acid,  $CONR^6R^7$ ,  $NR^6COR^7$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ , nitrile or  
5 one or two aryl or heteroaryl groups;

$R^6$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy;

10  $R^7$  each and independently represents hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy;

15  $R^8$  each and independently represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, optionally substituted by aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy;

$R^9$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl may  
20 optionally be further substituted by one or more of halogen(s),  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  thioalkoxy;

$R^{10}$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl;

25  $X^1$  represents S, O or N;

$X^2$  represents S, O or N;

with the proviso that  $X^1$  and  $X^2$  represent different atoms and with the further proviso that  
30  $X^1$  is not S when  $X^2$  is O and  $X^1$  is not O when  $X^2$  is S;

wherein each of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and cycloalkyl may independently have one or more carbon atom(s) substituted for O, N or S; wherein none of the O, N or S is in a position adjacent to any other O, N or S;

5 wherein each of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy and cycloalkyl may independently have one or more carbon atom(s) substituted by fluoro;

as well as pharmaceutically and pharmacologically acceptable salts thereof, and enantiomers of the compound of formula (I) and salts thereof;

10

for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist.

29. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-24 or 26, optionally in  
15 combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

30. Use of a compound as defined in claim 28, optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention of reflux.

20

31. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-24 or 26, optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention of reflux.

25 32. Use of a compound as defined in claim 28, optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the inhibition of transient lower esophageal sphincter relaxations (TLESRs).

33. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-24 or 26, optionally in  
30 combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the inhibition of transient lower esophageal sphincter relaxations (TLESRs).

34. Use of a compound as defined in claim 28, optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a functional gastrointestinal disorder.

5 35. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-24 or 26, optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a functional gastrointestinal disorder.

36. Use according to claim 34 or claim 35, wherein said functional gastrointestinal disorder.  
10 is functional dyspepsia.

37. Use of a compound as defined in claim 28, optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

15 38. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-24 or 26, optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

20 39. Use according to claim 37 or claim 38, wherein said IBS is constipation predominant IBS.

40. Use according to claim 37 or claim 38, wherein said IBS is diarrhea predominant IBS.

25 41. Use according to claim 37 or claim 38, wherein said IBS is alternating bowel movement predominant IBS.

42. A method for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of formula (I)  
30 according to any one of claims 1-24 or 26 or of a compound as defined in claim 28, optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

43. A method for the treatment of a functional gastrointestinal disorder, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1-24 or 26 or of a compound as defined in claim 28,,  
5 optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

44. A method for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of formula (I)  
10 according to any one of claims 1-24 or 26 or of a compound as defined in claim 28,, optionally in combination with a GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor agonist, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

45. Ethyl 5-amino-2-isopropyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate, useful as intermediate in the  
15 synthesis of GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor positive allosteric modulators or agonists.

46. Ethyl *N*-(cyclopentylcarbonyl)-3-nitriloalaninate, useful as intermediate in the synthesis of GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor positive allosteric modulators or agonists.

20 47. Ethyl 5-amino-2-cyclopentyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate, useful as intermediate in the synthesis of GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor positive allosteric modulators or agonists.

48. Ethyl 5-amino-2-ethyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carboxylate, useful as intermediate in the synthesis of GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor positive allosteric modulators or agonists.

25 49. Ethyl 5-amino-2-cyclopentyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate, useful as intermediate in the synthesis of GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor positive allosteric modulators or agonists.

50. Ethyl 5-amino-2-(methoxymethyl)-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylate, useful as intermediate  
30 in the synthesis of GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor positive allosteric modulators or agonists.

51. Use of a compound according to any of claims 45 – 50, in a process for the manufacture of a compound according to any one of claims 1-24 or according to claim 26 or claim 28.