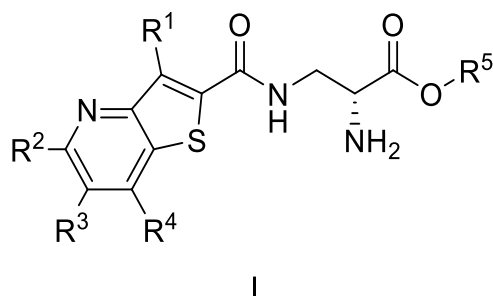


CLAIMS

1. A compound of Formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:



R^1 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, cyano, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, cyano, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, cyano, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4} hydroxyhaloalkyl, cyano, NR^aR^b , OR^6 , $L-(OR^6)$, and R^7 ;

R^a and R^b are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, and C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} hydroxyalkyl, and C_{1-4} hydroxyhaloalkyl;

L represents C_{1-3} alkylene;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, phenyl, a 4, 5, or 6 membered heterocycle, and a 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl, wherein said cycloalkyl, phenyl, heterocycle or heteroaryl are independently unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from halogen, C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxy, wherein said C_{1-3} alkyl and C_{1-3} alkoxy are independently unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F;

R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₅ alkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, C₁₋₄ hydroxyhaloalkyl, R⁸, WR⁸, and W(OR⁹);

W is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₃ alkylene and -CH₂C(O)-;

5 R⁸ is selected from the group consisting of C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, phenyl, a 4, 5, or 6 membered heterocycle, and a 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl, wherein said cycloalkyl, phenyl, heterocycle or heteroaryl are independently unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from halogen, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, wherein said C₁₋₃ alkyl and C₁₋₃ alkoxy are independently unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F; and

R⁹ is C₁₋₃ alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F.

10 2. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, halogen, and C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and C₁₋₄ alkyl;

15 R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ hydroxyalkyl, OR⁶, and R⁷;

R⁶ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, and C₁₋₄ haloalkyl;

20 R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of a C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl and phenyl, wherein said cycloalkyl and phenyl are independently unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from halogen, C₁₋₃ alkyl, and C₁₋₃ alkoxy, wherein said C₁₋₃ alkyl and C₁₋₃ alkoxy are independently unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F;

R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₄ alkyl, R⁸, WR⁸, W(OR⁹);

W is C₁₋₃ alkylene;

25 R⁸ is selected from the group consisting of C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl and phenyl, wherein said cycloalkyl and phenyl is independently unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents

independently selected from halogen, C₁₋₃ alkyl, and C₁₋₃ alkoxy, wherein said C₁₋₃ alkyl and C₁₋₃ alkoxy are independently unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F; and

R⁹ is C₁₋₃ alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F.

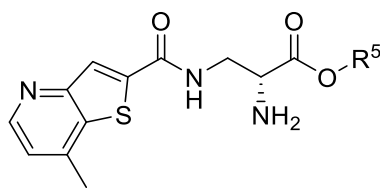
3. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R¹ is hydrogen.

4. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R² is hydrogen.

5. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R³ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, and halogen.

6. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ fluoroalkyl, NR^aR^b, C₁₋₄ hydroxyalkyl C₁₋₄ alkoxy, halogen, and phenyl unsubstituted or substituted with ethyl.

7. A compound according to claim 1 having the formula Ia, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:



Ia

8. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, cyclopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, -CH₂-cyclopropyl, 2-methoxyethyl, isopentyl, benzyl, cyclohexyl, 2-oxo-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl, and phenyl.

9. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R⁵ is C₁₋₅ alkyl.

10. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, and isopropyl.
11. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 10, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, and butyl.
12. The compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:
- methyl (R)-2-amino-3-(7-methylthieno[3,2-b]pyridine-2-carboxamido)propanoate;
- ethyl (R)-2-amino-3-(7-methylthieno[3,2-b]pyridine-2-carboxamido)propanoate;
- propyl (R)-2-amino-3-(7-methylthieno[3,2-b]pyridine-2-carboxamido)propanoate; and
- isobutyl (R)-2-amino-3-(7-methylthieno[3,2-b]pyridine-2-carboxamido)propanoate; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
13. The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is methyl (R)-2-amino-3-(7-methylthieno[3,2-b]pyridine-2-carboxamido)propanoate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
14. The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is ethyl (R)-2-amino-3-(7-methylthieno[3,2-b]pyridine-2-carboxamido)propanoate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
15. The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is propyl (R)-2-amino-3-(7-methylthieno[3,2-b]pyridine-2-carboxamido)propanoate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to any one of claims 1 to 15, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents.
17. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 15 or the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 for use as a medicament.

18. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 15 or the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 for use in the treatment of depression.

5 19. Use of the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1-15 or the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition selected from the group consisting of suicidal ideation, bipolar disorder (including bipolar depression), obsessive compulsive disorder, and status epilepticus.

10 20. Use of the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1-15 or the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of depression.