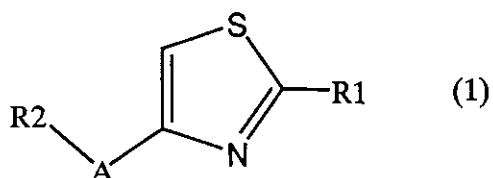


ABSTRACT

An object of the present invention is to provide a novel thiazole compound with specific inhibitory activity against phosphodiesterase 4.

5           The present invention provides a compound represented by Formula (1), an optical isomer thereof, or a salt thereof:



wherein R1 is a di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxyphenyl group; R2 is any one of the  
10 following groups (a) to (t): (a) a phenyl group; (b) a naphthyl  
group; (c) a pyridyl group; (d) a furyl group; (e) a thienyl  
group; (f) an isoxazolyl group; (g) a thiazolyl group; (h) a  
pyrrolyl group; (i) an imidazolyl group; (j) a tetrazolyl group;  
(k) a pyrazinyl group; (l) a thienothienyl group; (m) a  
15 benzothienyl group; (n) an indolyl group; (o) a benzimidazolyl  
group; (p) an indazolyl group; (q) a quinolyl group; (r) a  
1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolyl group; (s) a quinoxalinyl group; and  
(t) a 1,3-benzodioxolyl group; and A is any one of the following  
groups (i) to (vi): (i) -CO-B- wherein B is a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group;  
20 (ii) -CO-Ba wherein Ba is a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylene group; (iii) -CH(OH)-  
B-; (iv) -COCH(COOR<sub>3</sub>)-Bb- wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group and Bb  
is a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group; and (v) -Bc- wherein Bc is a C<sub>2-6</sub>  
alkylene group.