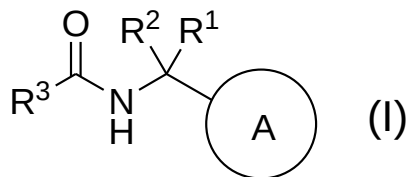


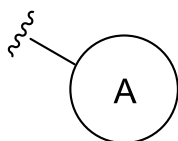
CLAIMS

1. A compound represented by the formula (I):

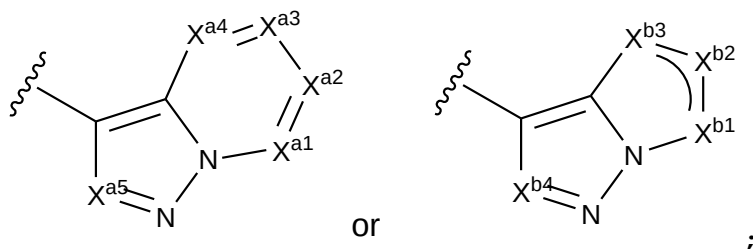


5 wherein

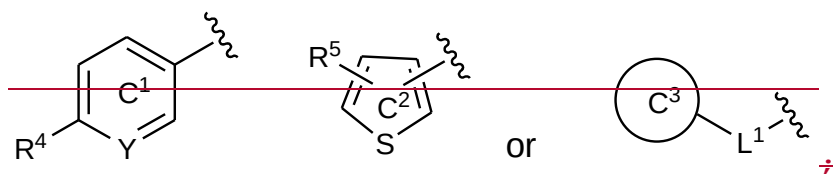
the group represented by



is a group represented by



- 10 ~~X^{a1}, X^{a2}, X^{a3}, X^{a4} and X^{a5} are each independently CR^a or a nitrogen atom; and~~
~~R^a is a hydrogen atom or a substituent, and each R^a in X^{a1}, X^{a2}, X^{a3}, X^{a4} and X^{a5} may be different;~~
~~provided that when X^{a5} is CR^a, then at least one of X^{a1}, X^{a2} and~~
15 ~~X^{a3} is a nitrogen atom;~~
~~X^{b1}, X^{b2}, X^{b3} and X^{b4} are each independently CR^b or a nitrogen atom, and when X^{b1} or X^{b3} is a nitrogen atom, then the nitrogen atom is optionally substituted; and~~
~~R^b is a hydrogen atom or a substituent, and each R^b in X^{b1}, X^{b2},~~
20 ~~X^{b3} and X^{b4} may be different;~~
~~provided that at least one of X^{b1}, X^{b2}, X^{b3} and X^{b4} is a nitrogen atom;~~
~~R¹ and R² are each independently a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₆ alkyl group optionally substituted by fluorine atom(s); and~~
25 ~~R³ is a group represented by~~



~~R⁴ and R⁵ are each a substituent selected from Substituent Group Z;~~

~~Y is a nitrogen atom or CR⁶;~~

- 5 ~~R⁶ is a hydrogen atom or a substituent selected from Substituent Group Z;~~

~~Ring C¹ is a benzene ring or a pyridine ring, each of which is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from Substituent Group Z;~~

- 10 ~~Ring C² is a thiophene ring optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from Substituent Group Z;~~

~~L¹ is an optionally substituted methylene group; and~~

~~Ring C³ is a benzene ring, a pyridine ring or a thiophene ring, each of which is optionally further substituted by 1 to 3~~

- 15 ~~substituents selected from Substituent Group Z;~~

~~{Substituent Group Z}~~

~~(1) an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,~~

~~(2) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,~~

~~(3) an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkoxy group,~~

- 20 ~~(4) an optionally substituted C₃₋₁₀ cycloalkyloxy group,~~

~~(5) a halogen atom,~~

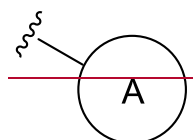
~~(6) a cyano group,~~

~~(7) an optionally substituted amino group,~~

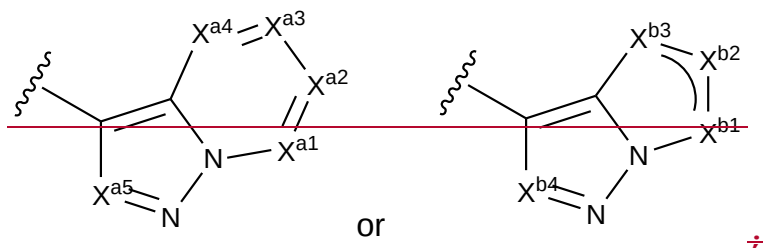
~~(8) an optionally substituted C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy group, and~~

- 25 ~~(9) an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkylthio group, or a salt thereof.~~

~~2. The compound or salt according to claim 1, wherein the group represented by~~



~~is a group represented by~~



X^{a1} is CH or a nitrogen atom;

X^{a2} is

- 5 (1) CR^a wherein R^a is
- (a) a hydrogen atom,
 - (b) a halogen atom, or
 - (c) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, or
- (2) a nitrogen atom;

10 X^{a3} is

- (1) CR^a wherein R^a is
- (a) a hydrogen atom, or
 - (b) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, or
- (2) a nitrogen atom;

15 X^{a4} is

- (1) CR^a wherein R^a is
- (a) a hydrogen atom, or
 - (b) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, or
- (2) a nitrogen atom; and

20 X^{a5} is

- (1) CR^a wherein R^a is
- (a) a hydrogen atom,
 - (b) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from a halogen atom and a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group,
 - (c) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group, or
 - (d) a C₃₋₁₀ cycloalkyl group, or
- (2) a nitrogen atom;

provided that when X^{a5} is CR^a, then at least one of X^{a1}, X^{a2} and

30 X^{a3} is a nitrogen atom;

X^{b1} is CH or a nitrogen atom;

X^{b2} is CR^b wherein R^b is

- (a) a hydrogen atom, or
- (b) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group;

X^{b3} is a nitrogen atom optionally substituted by a C₁₋₆ alkyl

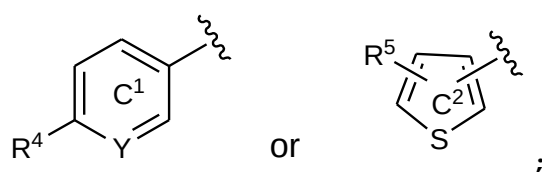
5 group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atoms; and

X^{b4} is CR^b wherein R^b is

- (a) a hydrogen atom, or
- (b) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group;

R¹ and R² are ~~both~~each a hydrogen atoms; and

10 R³ is a group represented by



R⁴ is

(1) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atoms,

15 (2) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atoms,

(3) a C₃₋₁₀ cycloalkyloxy group, or

(4) a halogen atom;

Y is a nitrogen atom or CR⁶ wherein R⁶ is a hydrogen atom or a

20 halogen atom; and

Ring C¹ is a benzene ring (i.e., Y is CR⁶) or a pyridine ring (i.e., Y is N), each of which is optionally further substituted by one halogen atom;

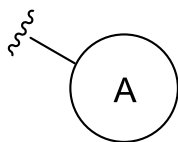
R⁵ is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3

25 halogen atoms; and

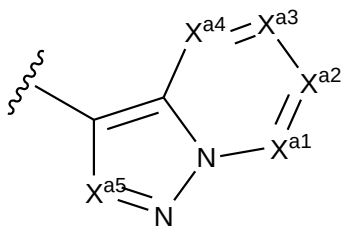
Ring C² is a thiophene ring substituted by only R⁵,
or a salt thereof.

32. The compound or salt according to claim 1, wherein

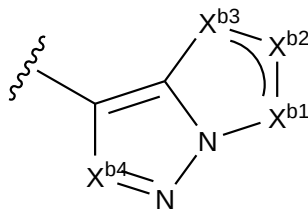
30 the group represented by



is a group represented by



or



;

X^{a1} is CH or a nitrogen atom;

5 X^{a2} is CH;

X^{a3} is CH or a nitrogen atom;

X^{a4} is CH; and

X^{a5} is CH or a nitrogen atom;

provided that when X^{a5} is CH, then at least one of X^{a1} and X^{a3} is

10 a nitrogen atom;

X^{b1} is CH;

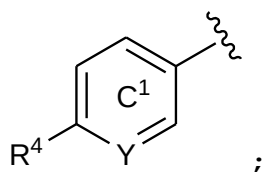
X^{b2} is CH;

X^{b3} is a nitrogen atom optionally substituted by a C₁₋₆ alkyl group; and

15 X^{b4} is CH;

R¹ and R² are both hydrogen atoms; and

R³ is a group represented by



;

R⁴ is a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3

20 halogen atoms;

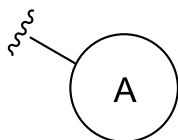
Y is a nitrogen atom or CH; and

Ring C¹ is a benzene ring (i.e., Y is CH) or a pyridine ring (i.e., Y is N), each of which is optionally further substituted by one halogen atom.

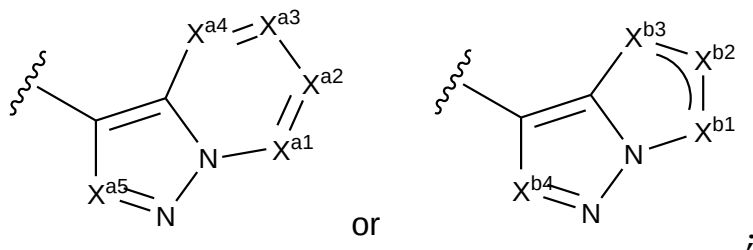
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43. The compound or salt according to claim 1, wherein

the group represented by



is a group represented by



5 X^{a1} is CH or a nitrogen atom;

X^{a2} is CH;

X^{a3} is CH;

X^{a4} is CH; and

X^{a5} is CH or a nitrogen atom;

10 provided that when X^{a5} is CH, then X^{a1} is a nitrogen atom;

X^{b1} is CH;

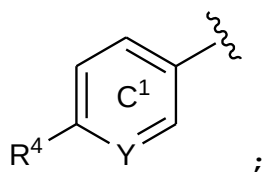
X^{b2} is CH;

X^{b3} is a nitrogen atom optionally substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl group; and

15 X^{b4} is CH;

R^1 and R^2 are both hydrogen atoms; and

R^3 is a group represented by



R^4 is a C_{1-6} alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3

20 halogen atoms;

Y is a nitrogen atom or CH; and

Ring C^1 is a benzene ring (i.e., Y is CH) or a pyridine ring (i.e., Y is N), each of which is optionally further substituted by one halogen atom.

25

54. 6-(Difluoromethoxy)-5-fluoro-N-[(pyrazolo[1,5-b]pyridazin-

3-yl)methyl]pyridine-3-carboxamide or a salt thereof.

~~65.~~ 3-Fluoro-N-([1,2,3]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl)methyl]-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzamide or a salt thereof.

5

~~76.~~ 6-(Difluoromethoxy)-5-fluoro-N-[(1-methyl-1H-imidazo[1,2-b]pyrazol-7-yl)methyl]pyridine-3-carboxamide or a salt thereof.

~~8. A medicament comprising the compound or salt according to claim 1.~~

~~9. The medicament according to claim 8, which is an antagonist of an NMDA receptor containing the NR2B subunit.~~

~~10. The medicament according to claim 8, which is an agent for the prophylaxis or treatment of major depression, bipolar disorder, migraine, pain, or behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia.~~

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound or salt according to claim 1, and a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

~~11. The compound or salt according to claim 1, for use in the prophylaxis or treatment of major depression, bipolar disorder, migraine, pain, or behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia.~~

~~12. A method of antagonizing an NMDA receptor containing the NR2B subunit in a mammal, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound or salt according to claim 1 to the mammal.~~

138. A method Use of the compound or salt according to claim 1, in the manufacture of a medicament for the prophylaxis or

treatment of major depression, bipolar disorder, migraine, pain,
or behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia in a
mammal, ~~which comprises administering~~wherein an effective
amount of the compound or salt according to claim 1 is to be
5 administered to the mammal.

~~14. Use of the compound or salt according to claim 1, for the
manufacture of an agent for the prophylaxis or treatment of
major depression, bipolar disorder, migraine, pain, or
10 behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia.~~

9. The compound or salt according to claim 1 for use in the
treatment of major depression, bipolar disorder, migraine, pain,
or behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia.

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10. The compound or salt according to claim 1 for use in
medicine.

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