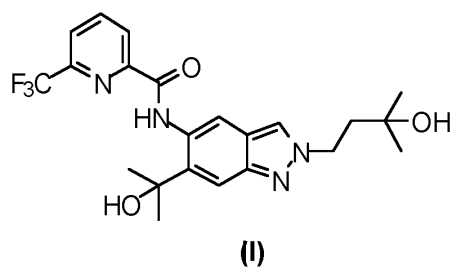


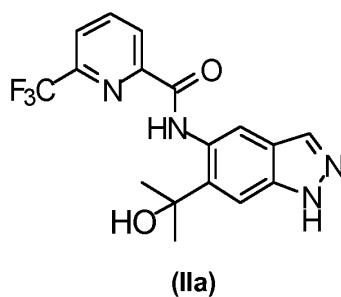
CLAIMS

1. A method of preparing a compound of formula (I):

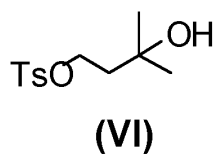


comprising the following step (A):

- 5 wherein a compound of formula (IIa):



is allowed to react with a compound of formula (VI):

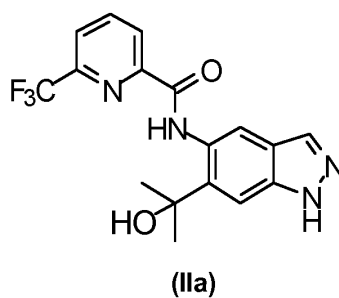


- 10 optionally in the presence of an organic base, particularly a weak base, such as a tertiary amine, such as N,N-diisopropylethylamine for example,

optionally in an aromatic hydrocarbon solvent, such as toluene, xylene and mesitylene for example,

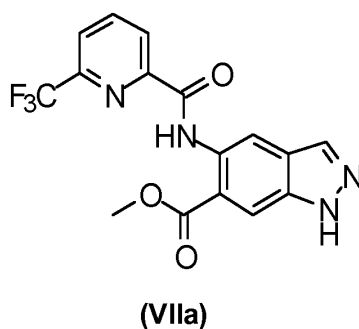
thereby providing said compound of formula (I).

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said aromatic hydrocarbon solvent is toluene.
3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said organic base is N,N-diisopropylethylamine.
4. The method according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein said compound of formula (IIa):

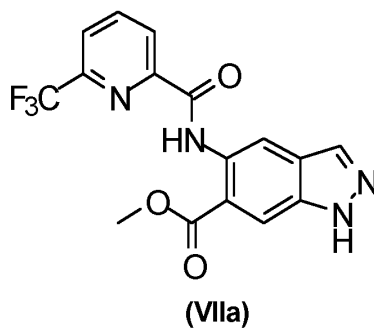


- 5 is prepared by the following step (B):

wherein a compound of formula (VIIa):

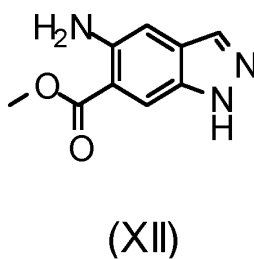


- is allowed to react with a reductive methylating agent, such as a methylmetallic agent, such as a methylmagnesium halide, such as methylmagnesium chloride for example,
- 10 optionally in the presence of an alkali metal halide, such as lithium chloride for example,
- thereby providing said compound of formula (IIa).
5. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said compound of formula (VIIa):

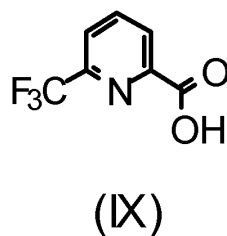


is prepared by the following step (C):

wherein a compound of formula (XII):



5 is allowed to react with a compound of formula (IX):



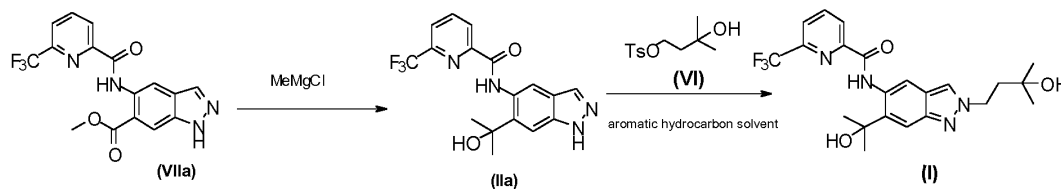
optionally in the presence of an organic base, particularly a weak organic base, such as a tertiary amine, such as N,N-diisopropylethylamine for example,

optionally in the presence of a coupling agent, such as 2,4,6-tripropyl-1,3,5,2,4,6-trioxatriphosphinane 2,4,6-trioxide (T3P) for example,

10

thereby providing said compound of formula (VIIa).

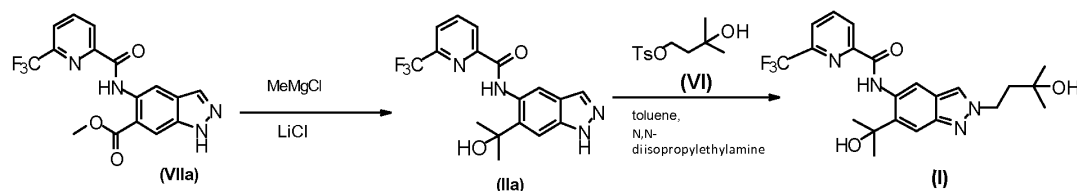
6. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said compound of formula (I) is prepared via the following steps shown in reaction scheme IA, *infra*:



5

Scheme IA.

7. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein said compound of formula (I) is prepared via the following steps shown in reaction scheme I, *infra*:



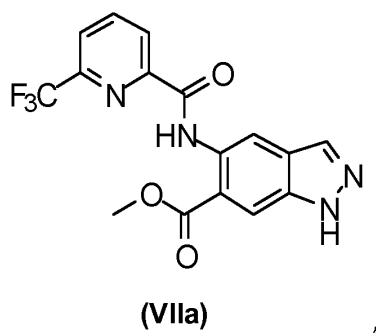
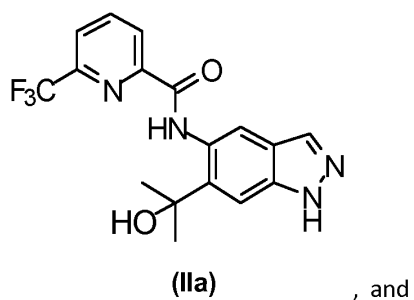
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Scheme I.

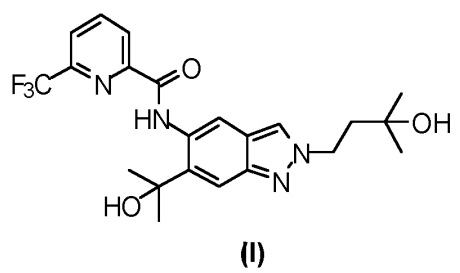
8. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein said compound of formula (I) is purified by crystallization, particularly from a solvent or a mixture of solvents such as a mixture of acetone and toluene, optionally in the presence of activated charcoal, optionally followed by a further crystallization from a solvent such as ethanol for example.

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9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said compound of formula (I) is in the form of crystalline needles (A).
10. Use of a compound selected from:

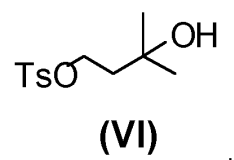


for preparing a compound of formula (I):



5 by the method according to any one of claims 1 to 9.

11. Use of a compound of structure:



for preparing a compound of formula (I):

