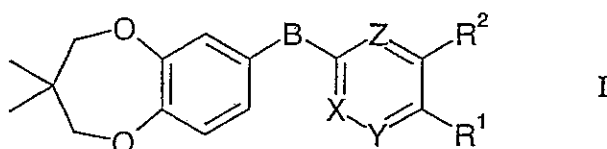


Case 22257

Benzo[b][1,4] dioxepine derivatives

The present invention is concerned with novel benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine derivatives of the formula



wherein

5 B is $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$ or $-\text{CHR}^3-\text{O}-$;

R^3 is H or C_{1-3} -alkyl;

X, Y and Z are $\text{C}-\text{R}^4$ or N, and at least one of X, Y and Z is $\text{C}-\text{R}^4$;

R^4 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl;

R^1 and R^2 are independently from each other selected from the group consisting of

10 H,

C_{1-7} -alkyl,

C_{1-7} -alkoxy- C_{1-7} -alkyl,

$-\text{COOR}^5$ or $-\text{COR}^5$, wherein R^5 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl,

$-\text{OR}^6$, wherein R^6 is H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m$ -cycloalkyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m$ -heterocyclyl,

15 $-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ -CN, or $-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ - OR^7 , and R^7 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl, wherein

m is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and n is 1, 2 or 3;

$-\text{SR}^8$, wherein R^8 is H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m$ -cycloalkyl, or $-(\text{CH}_2)_m$ -heterocyclyl,

wherein m is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

$-\text{CONR}^9\text{R}^{10}$, wherein R^9 and R^{10} are H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, or wherein NR^9R^{10} can form a

20 ring having 3 to 7 atoms, said ring optionally including one or more additional N or O atoms,

and a five-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O or S, which is substituted by H or C_{1-7} -alkyl;

or R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atoms they are attached to can form a ring having

25 3 to 7 atoms, said ring optionally including one or more N or O atoms;

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and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

It has been found that compounds of formula I are useful as inhibitors of human Acetyl-Coenzyme A Carboxylase (ACC) and further stimulate fatty acid oxidation in liver and muscle, which makes them suitable for the use as medicaments in context with
5 diseases such as e.g. diabetes, obesity and dyslipidemia.

Acetyl-Coenzyme A Carboxylases (ACCs, EC 6.4.1.2) catalyze the formation of malonyl-coenzyme A (CoA) and regulate fatty acid biosynthesis and oxidation (A. W. Alberts, P. R. Vagelos in *The Enzymes*, Ed. P. D. Boyer, Academic Press New York 1972, Vol. 6, 37-82). There are two isoforms of ACC in mammals. ACC1 or ACC α is a cytosolic
10 enzyme, and its production of malonyl-CoA is the committed step in the biosynthesis of long-chain fatty acids. In comparison, ACC2 or ACC β is a mitochondrial enzyme, and its malonyl-CoA product regulates fatty acid oxidation by potentially inhibiting the mitochondrial enzyme carnitine palmitoyltransferase I, which transports long-chain acyl-CoAs from the cytosol to the mitochondria for oxidation (J. D. McGarry and N. F.
15 Brown, *Eur. J. Biochem.* 1997, 244, 1). Mice lacking ACC2 have a higher than normal rate of fatty acid oxidation and reduced body fat and body weight (L. Abu-Elheiga, M. M. Matzuk, K. A. H. Abo-Hashema, S. J. Wakil, *Science* 2001, 291, 2613-2616).

It has been postulated that ACC β regulates mitochondrial fatty acid oxidation (Ruderman et al., *Am. J. Physiol.* 276, E1-E18, 1999) and ACC β has also been linked to
20 various diseases (Abu-Elheiga et al., *Science* 291, 2613-2616, 2001). ACC inhibitors seem to be suitable for the use as medicaments, particularly for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diseases which are related to ACC β . Furthermore, they can be used for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diseases which are related to reduced rates of fatty acid oxidation such as obesity, dyslipidemias and diabetes.

25 One possible application relates to metabolic diseases where low levels of fatty acid oxidation in liver are a problem such as e.g. high fatty acid levels in blood, high triglyceride (TG) levels in blood, dyslipidemias in the form of disturbances in the lipoprotein profile, imbalances in very-low-density lipoprotein (VLDL), low-density lipoprotein (LDL) and high-density lipoprotein (HDL), hepatic overproduction of
30 VLDL-bound TG, and vascular diseases associated with the above metabolic abnormalities, comprising atherosclerosis, hypertension and cardiovascular complications.

Thus, ACC β inhibitors may be useful as medicaments in context with metabolic complications where low levels of fatty acid oxidation in skeletal muscle are a problem
35 such as high TG levels in muscle, elevated levels of reactive fatty acid esters in muscle

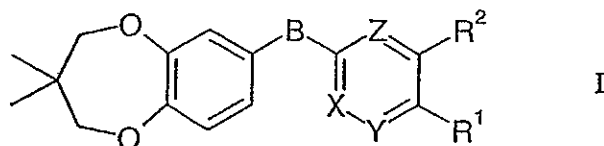
such as long chain fatty acyl-CoA, carnitine-CoA and diacylglycerol (DAG), low sensitivity or insensitivity of muscle to the action of insulin due to high TG or elevated levels of reactive fatty acid esters in muscle, impaired glucose tolerance as a consequence of reduced insulin sensitivity, progressing stages of low insulin sensitivity resulting in hyperinsulinemia and insulin resistance, further consequences of insulin resistance such as high blood glucose levels (hyperglycemia) and the development of non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM, Type 2 diabetes), further consequences caused by hyperglycemia, e. g. diabetic microvascular diseases in the form of nephropathy, neuropathy, retinopathy and blindness.

10 ACC β inhibitors can also be used as medicaments in context with medical indications for which increase in fatty acid oxidation is considered beneficial such as obesity syndromes, e.g. excess storage of endogenous lipid (fat), impaired control of appetite and food consumption as a result of low lipid utilization and constant depletion of carbohydrate storage, saving of carbohydrate storage, reduction in the need for carbohydrate supply, suppression of appetite, long term body weight control and maintenance for all persons with genetic, or behavioral inclination to reduced fat oxidation.

Of the diseases mentioned above, the use of compounds of formula (I) as medicaments in context with obesity via increase of mitochondrial fatty acid oxidation in muscle and liver and net increase in energy expenditure in peripheral (muscle) tissue, in context with dyslipidemia via reduced (rebalanced) output by human liver of very low density lipoprotein-bound triglycerides (VLDL-TGs) and in context with insulin resistance and Type II diabetes via reduction in peripheral tissue of high TG levels and reduction of elevated concentrations of the highly reactive esters of fatty acids such as acyl-CoA, carnitine-CoA, diacylglycerol (DAG) are considered to be of particular interest.

Disclosed herein are compounds which may have the criteria mentioned above. It has been found that the compounds of formula (I) can show the potential to be highly selective ACC β inhibitors. Further disclosed herein is a process for the manufacture of compounds of formula (I) as well as the use of the compounds of formula (I) in the control or prevention of diseases which are mediated by ACC β inhibitors, and, respectively, their use for the production of corresponding medicaments.

In a first aspect, there is provided the compounds of the formula



wherein

5 B is $-C\equiv C-$ or $-CHR^3-O-$;

R^3 is H or C_{1-3} -alkyl;

X, Y and Z are $C-R^4$ or N, and at least one of X, Y and Z is $C-R^4$;

R^4 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl;

R^1 and R^2 are independently from each other selected from the group consisting of

10 H,

C_{1-7} -alkyl,

C_{1-7} -alkoxy- C_{1-7} -alkyl,

$-COOR^5$ or $-COR^5$, wherein R^5 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl,

$-OR^6$, wherein R^6 is H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ -cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ -heterocyclyl,

15 $-(CH_2)_n-CN$, or $-(CH_2)_n-OR^7$, and R^7 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl; wherein
m is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and n is 1, 2 or 3;

$-SR^8$, wherein R^8 is H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ -cycloalkyl, or $-(CH_2)_m$ -heterocyclyl,
wherein m is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

$-CONR^9R^{10}$, wherein R^9 and R^{10} are H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, or wherein NR^9R^{10} can form a
20 ring having 3 to 7 atoms, said ring optionally including one or more
additional N or O atoms,

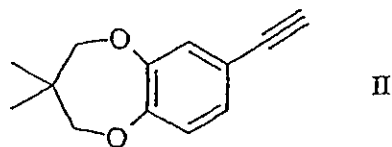
and a five-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected
from N, O or S, which is substituted by H or C_{1-7} -alkyl;

or R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atoms they are attached to can form a ring having
25 3 to 7 atoms, said ring optionally including one or more N or O atoms;

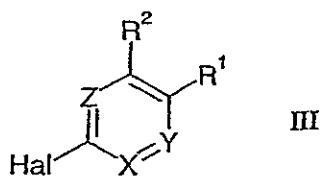
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

In a second aspect, there is provided a process for the manufacture of
compounds as defined above, which process comprises

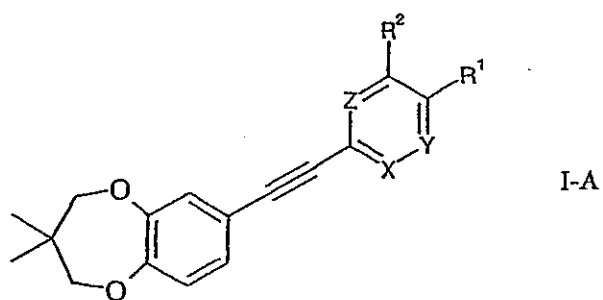
a) reacting a compound of formula



5 with an aryl halide or heteroaryl halide of formula

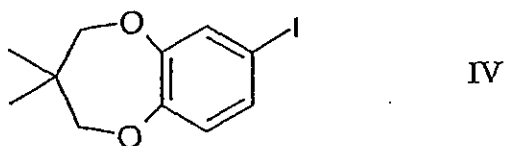


wherein Hal is bromide or iodide and X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are as defined above, to obtain a compound of formula

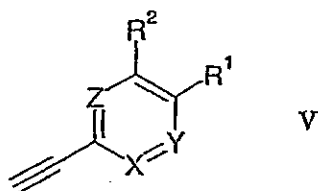


10 wherein X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are as defined above, or, alternatively,

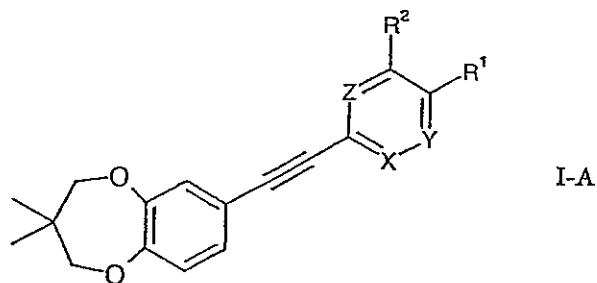
b) reacting a compound of formula



with an alkyne of formula

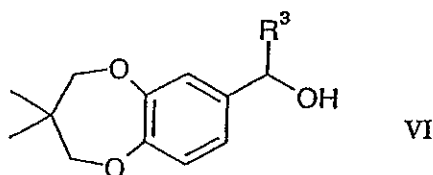


wherein X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are defined above, to obtain a compound of formula



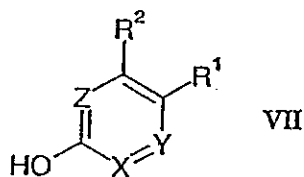
wherein X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are as defined above, or, alternatively,

c) reacting a compound of formula



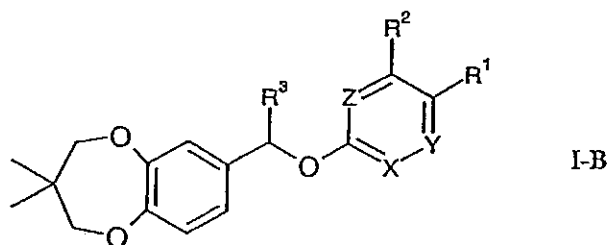
5

wherein R³ is H or C₁₋₃-alkyl, with a compound of formula



wherein X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are as defined above,

to obtain a compound of formula



10

wherein X, Y, Z, R¹, R² and R³ are as defined above.

In a third aspect, there is provided the compounds as defined above when manufactured by a process as defined above.

In a fourth aspect, there is provided the pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound as defined above as well as pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or adjuvant.

In a fifth aspect, there is provided the compounds as defined above for use as therapeutically active substances.

In a sixth aspect, there is provided the compounds as defined above for use as therapeutically active substances for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases which are modulated by ACC β inhibitors.

In a seventh aspect, there is provided the use of compounds as defined above for the preparation of medicaments for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases which are modulated by ACC β inhibitors.

Unless otherwise indicated the following definitions are set forth to illustrate and define the meaning and scope of the various terms used to describe the invention herein.

The term "lower alkyl" or "C₁₋₇-alkyl", alone or in combination with other groups, refers to a branched or straight-chain monovalent alkyl radical of one to seven carbon atoms, preferably one to four carbon atoms. This term is further exemplified by such radicals as methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, s-butyl, t-butyl and the groups
5 specifically exemplified herein.

The term "halogen" refers to fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine.

The term "alkoxy" refers to the group R'-O-, wherein R' is alkyl. The term "lower-alkoxy" or "C₁₋₇-alkoxy" refers to the group R'-O-, wherein R' is lower-alkyl. Examples of lower-alkoxy groups are e.g. methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, butoxy, isobutoxy
10 and hexyloxy. Preferred are the lower-alkoxy groups specifically exemplified herein.

The term "cycloalkyl" or "C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl" denotes a saturated carbocyclic group containing from 3 to 7 carbon atoms, such as cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl or cycloheptyl.

"Heterocyclyl" means a saturated heterocyclic group, consisting of one or more
15 rings, preferably one to two rings, of three to eight atoms per ring; incorporating one, two, or three ring heteroatoms (chosen from N, O or S(O)₀₋₂), which can optionally be mono- or multiply-substituted, particularly mono- or di-substituted by halogen, CF₃, lower-alkyl and/or lower-alkoxy. Examples of heterocyclic groups are oxiranyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, thiomorpholinyl,
20 or quinuclidinyl. Preferred are the heterocyclyl groups specifically exemplified herein.

The term "a five-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O or S, which is substituted by H or C₁₋₇-alkyl" refers to an aromatic 5- or 6-membered ring which can comprise 1, 2, 3 or 4 atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and/or sulphur such as embraces furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl,
25 oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, triazolyl, oxadiazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxatriazolyl, pentazolyl and their dihydro derivatives. The heteroaryl group is optionally substituted by C₁₋₇-alkyl. Preferred are the heteroaryl groups specifically exemplified herein.

The term "protecting group" refers to groups such as e.g. acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, silyl, or imine-derivatives, which are used to temporarily block the
30 reactivity of functional groups. Well known protecting groups are e.g. lower-alkyl-, β -trimethylsilylethyl- and β -trichloroethyl-esters, which can be used for the protection of carboxy groups.

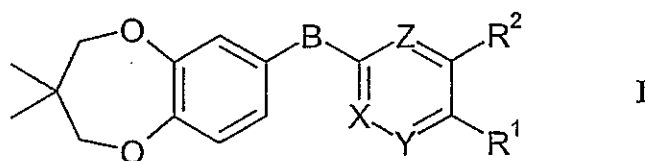
The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" embraces salts of the compounds of formula (I) with pharmaceutically acceptable bases such as alkali salts, e.g. Na- and K-

salts, alkaline earth salts, e.g. Ca- and Mg-salts, and ammonium or substituted ammonium salts, such as e.g. trimethylammonium salts. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" also relates to such salts.

The compounds of formula (I) can also be solvated, e.g. hydrated. The solvation
5 can be effected in the course of the manufacturing process or can take place e.g. as a consequence of hygroscopic properties of an initially anhydrous compound of formula (I) (hydration). The term pharmaceutically acceptable salts also includes pharmaceutically acceptable solvates.

The term "pharmaceutically acceptable esters" refers to an in vivo hydrolysable
10 ester of a compound of formula (I) containing an available carboxy group. More particularly, where the group(s) R^1 and/or R^2 is the group COOR^5 , in addition to hydrogen or lower alkyl, R^5 may be usefully derivatized further to any pharmaceutically acceptable readily hydrolysable moiety.

In detail, the present invention relates to compounds of formula (I)



15

wherein

B is $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$ or $-\text{CHR}^3-\text{O}-$;

R^3 is H or C_{1-3} -alkyl;

X, Y and Z are $\text{C}-\text{R}^4$ or N, and at least one of X, Y and Z is $\text{C}-\text{R}^4$;

20 R^4 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl;

R^1 and R^2 are independently from each other selected from the group consisting of
H,

C_{1-7} -alkyl,

C_{1-7} -alkoxy- C_{1-7} -alkyl,

25 $-\text{COOR}^5$ or $-\text{COR}^5$, wherein R^5 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl,

$-\text{OR}^6$, wherein R^6 is H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m$ -cycloalkyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m$ -heterocyclyl,

$-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ -CN, or $-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ - OR^7 , and R^7 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl, wherein

m is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and n is 1, 2 or 3;

$-\text{SR}^8$, wherein R^8 is H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m$ -cycloalkyl, or $-(\text{CH}_2)_m$ -heterocyclyl,

30

wherein m is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

-CONR⁹R¹⁰, wherein R⁹ and R¹⁰ are H, C₁₋₇-alkyl, or wherein NR⁹R¹⁰ can form a ring having 3 to 7 atoms, said ring optionally including one or more additional N or O atoms,
and a five-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected
5 from N, O or S, which is substituted by H or C₁₋₇-alkyl;

or R¹ and R² together with the carbon atoms they are attached to can form a ring having 3 to 7 atoms, said ring optionally including one or more N or O atoms;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Preferred compounds of formula (I) of the present invention are compounds of
10 formula (I), wherein one of R¹ or R² is hydrogen.

Further preferred are compounds of formula (I), wherein R¹ or R² is selected from the group consisting of

C₁₋₇-alkyl,
C₁₋₇-alkoxy-C₁₋₇-alkyl,
15 -COOR⁵, wherein R⁵ is C₁₋₇-alkyl,
-OR⁶, wherein R⁶ is H, C₁₋₇-alkyl, -(CH₂)_m-cycloalkyl, -(CH₂)_m-heterocyclyl,
-(CH₂)_n-CN, or -(CH₂)_n-OR⁷, and R⁷ is H or C₁₋₇-alkyl, wherein
m is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and n is 1, 2 or 3;
-SR⁸, wherein R⁸ is C₁₋₇-alkyl;
20 -CONR⁹R¹⁰, wherein R⁹ and R¹⁰ are H, C₁₋₇-alkyl, or wherein NR⁹R¹⁰ can form a
ring having 3 to 7 atoms, said ring optionally including one or more
additional N or O atoms,
and a five-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected
from N, O or S, which is substituted by H or C₁₋₇-alkyl.

25 Especially preferred are compounds of formula (I), wherein R¹ or R² is selected from the group consisting of

C₁₋₇-alkyl,
C₁₋₇-alkoxy-C₁₋₇-alkyl,
-COOR⁵, wherein R⁵ is H or C₁₋₇-alkyl,
30 -OR⁶, wherein R⁶ is H, C₁₋₇-alkyl, -(CH₂)_m-cycloalkyl, -(CH₂)_m-heterocyclyl,
-(CH₂)_n-CN, or -(CH₂)_n-OR⁷, and R⁷ is H or C₁₋₇-alkyl, wherein
m is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and n is 1, 2 or 3; and
-SR⁸, wherein R⁸ is C₁₋₇-alkyl.

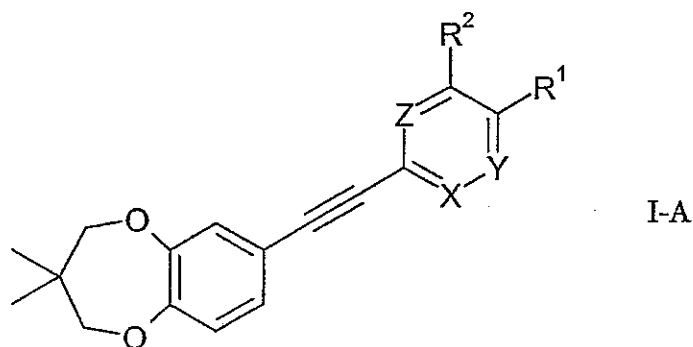
More preferred are those compounds of formula (I) in accordance with the present
35 invention, wherein R¹ or R² is -COOR⁵, and R⁵ is H or C₁₋₇-alkyl.

Furthermore, compounds of formula (I) are preferred, wherein R^1 or R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-7} -alkoxy- C_{1-7} -alkyl, $-OR^6$, wherein R^6 is H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ -cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ -heterocyclyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ -CN, or $-(CH_2)_n$ - OR^7 , and R^7 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl, wherein m is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and n is 1, 2 or 3; and $-SR^8$, wherein R^8 is C_{1-7} -alkyl.

- 5 Also preferred are compounds of formula (I), wherein R^1 or R^2 is a five-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O or S, which is substituted by H or C_{1-7} -alkyl.

- Compounds of formula (I) according to the present invention, wherein R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atoms they are attached to form a ring having 3 to 7 atoms, said
10 ring optionally including one or more N or O atoms, are also preferred.

Further preferred are compounds of formula (I) having the formula



wherein

X, Y, Z, R^1 and R^2 are as defined in claim 1; and

- 15 pharmaceutically acceptable salts and/or esters thereof.

Especially preferred are those compounds of formula (I-A), wherein X, Y und Z are $-CR^4$ and R^4 is hydrogen.

Examples of such compounds are the following:

- 4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-benzoic acid ethyl
20 ester;
3-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-benzoic acid ethyl ester;
3,3-dimethyl-7-(4-methylsulfanyl-phenylethynyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
25 7-(4-methoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenol;

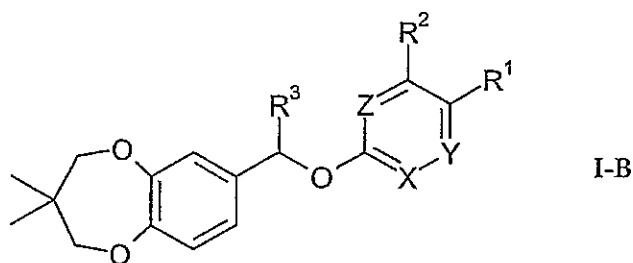
- 7-(4-ethoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
 7-(4-ethoxymethyl-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
 2-[4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenyl]-5-methyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole;
 7-(4-cyclopropylmethoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
 3,3-dimethyl-7-(4-propoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
 and
 3,3-dimethyl-7-(4-oxiranylmethoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine.

Also preferred are compounds of formula (I-A), wherein one of X, Y or Z is N and the others are $-\text{CR}^4$ and R^4 is hydrogen.

The following compounds are examples thereof:

- 6-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-nicotinic acid ethyl ester; and
 5-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

Furthermore, compounds of formula (I) having the formula



wherein

X, Y, Z, R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in claim 1; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts and/or esters thereof, are also preferred.

- Particularly preferred are compounds of formula (I-B), wherein X, Y und Z are $-\text{CR}^4$ and R^4 is hydrogen.

Examples of such compounds are the following:

4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylmethoxy)-benzoic acid

ethyl ester; and

7-(3-ethoxy-phenoxy-methyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine.

Furthermore, the following compounds are examples of preferred compounds of the present invention:

- 5 4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-benzoic acid ethyl ester;
3-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-benzoic acid ethyl ester;
3,3-dimethyl-7-(4-methylsulfanyl-phenylethynyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-
10 benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
1-[4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenyl]-ethanone;
7-(4-methoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
7-(3-methoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
15 4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenol;
7-(4-ethoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
7-benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-ylethynyl-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
7-(2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-5-ylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-
benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
20 [4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenyl]-morpholin-4-yl-methanone;
4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-N,N-dimethyl-benzamide;
6-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-nicotinic acid
25 ethyl ester;
7-(4-ethoxymethyl-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
2-[4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenyl]-5-methyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole;
30 5-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylmethoxy)-benzoic acid ethyl ester;
7-(4-cyclopropylmethoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-
35 benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
7-[4-(2-methoxy-ethoxy)-phenylethynyl]-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
[4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenoxy]-

acetonitrile;

3,3-dimethyl-7-(4-propoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;

3,3-dimethyl-7-(4-oxiranylmethoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-

benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;

5 7-(4-isopropyl-phenoxy-methyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;

3,3-dimethyl-7-(4-methylsulfanyl-phenoxy-methyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-

benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;

7-(3-ethoxy-phenoxy-methyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;

7-(4-ethyl-phenoxy-methyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;

10 7-(4-methoxy-phenoxy-methyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;

and

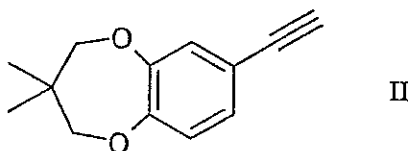
5-[4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenyl]-2-methyl-2H-tetrazole.

The pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of formula (I) also
15 constitute preferred embodiments of the present invention.

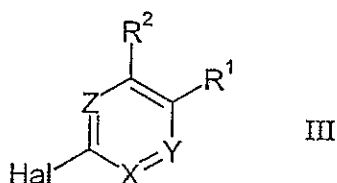
It will be appreciated, that the compounds of general formula I in this invention may be derivatised at functional groups to provide derivatives which are capable of conversion back to the parent compound in vivo. Physiologically acceptable and metabolically labile derivatives, which are capable of producing the parent compounds of
20 general formula (I) in vivo are also within the scope of this invention.

A further aspect of the present invention is the process for the manufacture of compounds of formula (I) as defined above, which process comprises

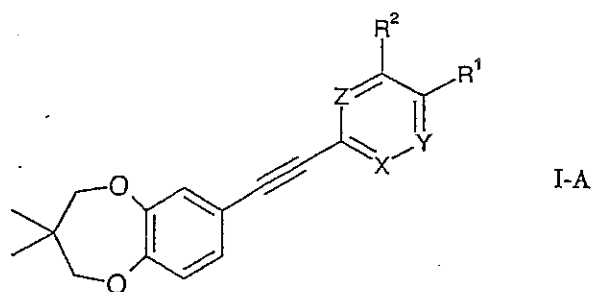
a) reacting a compound of formula



25 with an aryl halide or heteroaryl halide of formula

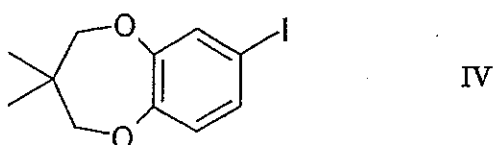


wherein Hal is bromide or iodide and X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are as defined herein before, to obtain a compound of formula

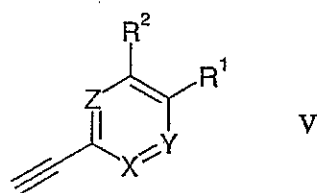


wherein X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are as defined herein before, or, alternatively,

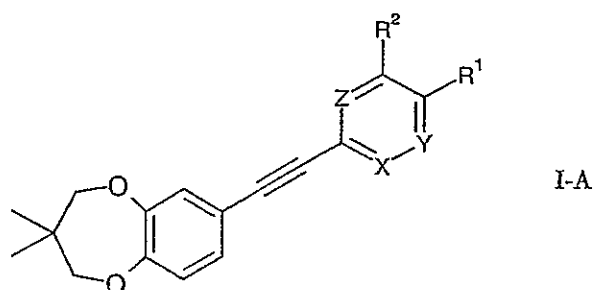
b) reacting a compound of formula



5 with an alkyne of formula

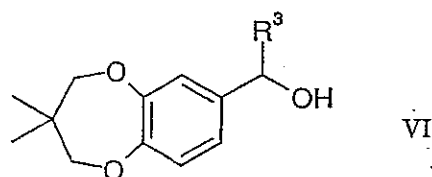


wherein X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are as defined herein before, to obtain a compound of formula

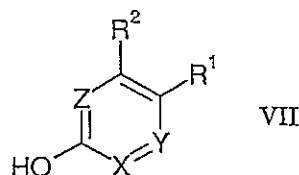


wherein X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are as defined herein before, or, alternatively,

10 c) reacting a compound of formula

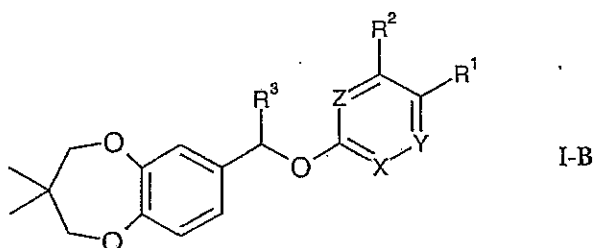


wherein R^3 is H or C_{1-3} -alkyl, with a compound of formula



wherein X, Y, Z, R^1 and R^2 are as defined before,

to obtain a compound of formula



5

wherein X, Y, Z, R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined before.

As described above, the compounds of formula (I) of the present invention can be used as medicaments for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases which are associated with $ACC\beta$ and/or fatty acid oxidation, such as e.g. diabetes, particularly non-
 10 insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, increased lipid and cholesterol levels, particularly low HDL-cholesterol, high LDL-cholesterol, or high triglyceride levels, atherosclerotic diseases, metabolic syndrome (syndrome X), elevated blood pressure, endothelial dysfunction, procoagulant state, and dyslipidemia. The use as medicament for the treatment and/or prevention of diabetes, especially non insulin dependent diabetes
 15 mellitus, obesity and dyslipidemia is preferred.

The invention therefore also relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound as defined above and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or adjuvant.

Further, the invention relates to compounds as defined above for use as therapeutically active substances, particularly as therapeutic active substances for the
 20 treatment and/or prevention of diseases which are modulated by $ACC\beta$ inhibitors. Examples of such diseases are diabetes, particularly non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, increased lipid and cholesterol levels, particularly low HDL-cholesterol, high LDL-cholesterol, or high triglyceride levels, atherosclerotic diseases, metabolic syndrome (syndrome X), elevated blood pressure, endothelial dysfunction, procoagulant state,
 25 obesity and dyslipidemia.

In another embodiment, the invention relates to a method for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases which are modulated by ACC β inhibitors, which method comprises administering a compound of formula (I) to a human or animal. Preferred examples of such diseases are diabetes, particularly non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, increased lipid and cholesterol levels, particularly low HDL-cholesterol, high LDL-cholesterol, or high triglyceride levels, atherosclerotic diseases, metabolic syndrome (syndrome X), elevated blood pressure, endothelial dysfunction, procoagulant state, obesity and dyslipidemia. A preferred method as defined above is one, wherein the disease is diabetes, more preferably non insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, obesity or dyslipidemia.

The invention further relates to the use of compounds as defined above for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases which are modulated by ACC β inhibitors. Preferred examples of such diseases diabetes, particularly non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, increased lipid and cholesterol levels, particularly low HDL-cholesterol, high LDL-cholesterol, or high triglyceride levels, atherosclerotic diseases, metabolic syndrome (syndrome X), elevated blood pressure, endothelial dysfunction, procoagulant state, obesity and dyslipidemia. In a preferred embodiment, the present invention relates to the use as defined above, wherein the disease is diabetes, preferably non insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, obesity or dyslipidemia.

In addition, the invention relates to the use of compounds as defined above for the preparation of medicaments for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases which are modulated by ACC β inhibitors. Preferred examples of such diseases are diabetes, particularly non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, increased lipid and cholesterol levels, particularly low HDL-cholesterol, high LDL-cholesterol, or high triglyceride levels, atherosclerotic diseases, metabolic syndrome (syndrome X), elevated blood pressure, endothelial dysfunction, procoagulant state, obesity and dyslipidemia. Such medicaments comprise a compound as defined above.

The compounds of formula (I) can be manufactured by the methods given below, by the methods given in the examples or by analogous methods. Appropriate reaction conditions for the individual reaction steps are known to a person skilled in the art. Starting materials are either commercially available or can be prepared by methods analogous to the methods given below, by methods described in references cited in the text or in the examples, or by methods known in the art.

Compounds of formula (I) wherein B is $-C\equiv C-$ (acetylene derivatives) are prepared by a Sonogashira cross coupling reaction of an appropriate aryl iodide or bromide with

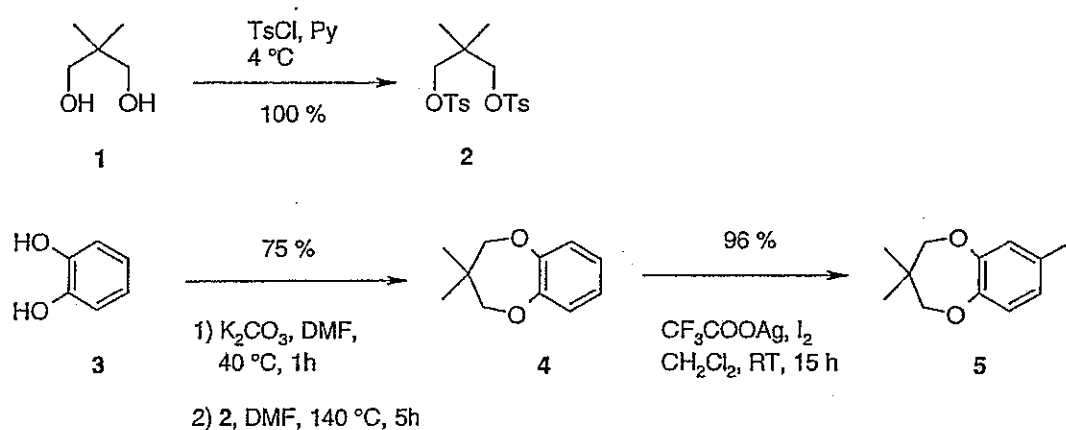
trimethylsilylacetylene followed by a TMS deprotection and a second Sonogashira reaction (general conditions for the cross coupling step: $[\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2]$, CuI , $i\text{Pr}_2\text{NH}$, THF, heat).

The synthesis of the key aryl iodide (5) is shown in Scheme 1.

- 5 7-Iodo-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine (5) is obtained by iodination of 3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine (4) with silver trifluoroacetate in CH_2Cl_2 . 3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine (4) is prepared according to M. Klaus, P. Mohr, E. Weiss, Eur. Pat. Appl. EP 0 350 846 A2 (1990).

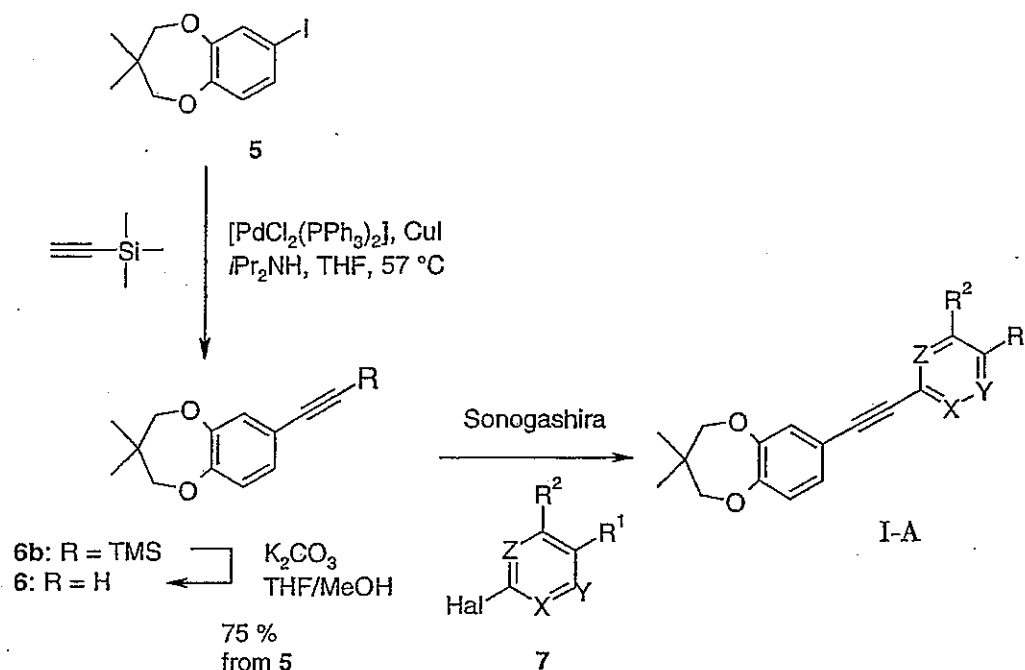
10

Scheme 1



- Most examples are prepared from the advanced acetylenic intermediate (6), obtained from iodide (5) by cross coupling with trimethylsilylacetylene and subsequent cleavage of the TMS moiety with K_2CO_3 in THF/MeOH (Scheme 2). In a second
- 15 Sonogashira cross coupling reaction (6) is reacted with an appropriate aryl halide or heteroaryl halide of type (7) to obtain a compound of formula (I-A).

Scheme 2

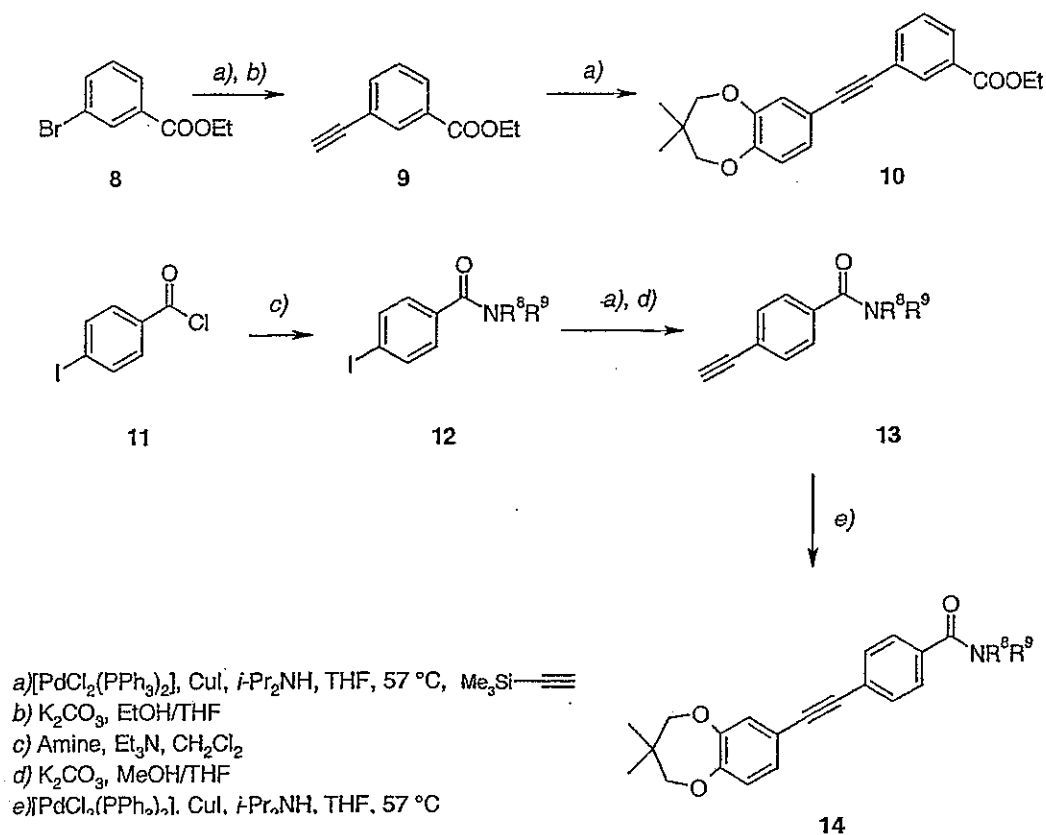


Alternatively, compounds of formula (I) can be prepared in a similar way by inverting the coupling steps (Scheme 3). The compound of formula (9) is prepared in analogy to the method described in T. Iijima, Y. Endo, M. Tsuji, E. Kawachi, H. Kagechika, K. Shudo, *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* 1999, 47, 3, 398-404.

The aryl halides or heteroaryl halides (e.g. 8 and 11) used as starting material are commercially available or can be prepared as follows.

Amides of type (12) are obtained from the reaction of 4-iodobenzoyl chloride (11) and the corresponding amines in CH_2Cl_2 and Et_3N .

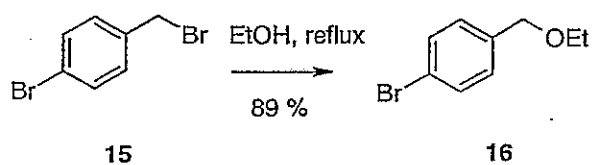
Scheme 3



Bromide (16) is obtained from 4-bromobenzyl bromide (15) in refluxing ethanol (see Scheme 4).

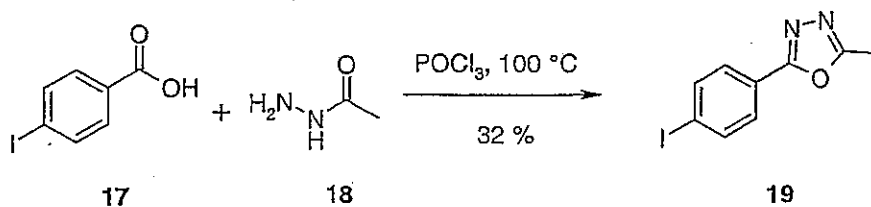
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Scheme 4



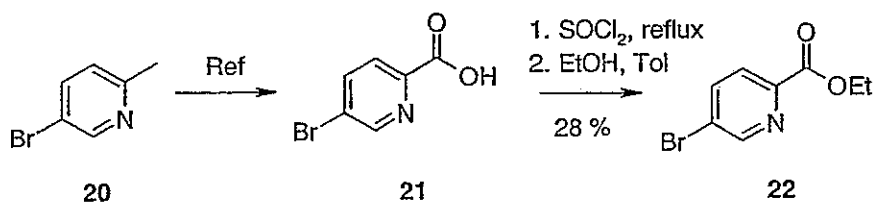
1,3,4-Oxadiazole (19) is obtained from reaction of 4-iodobenzoic acid (17) and acethydrazide (18) in phosphoryl chloride (POCl_3) at 100°C (see Scheme 5).

Scheme 5



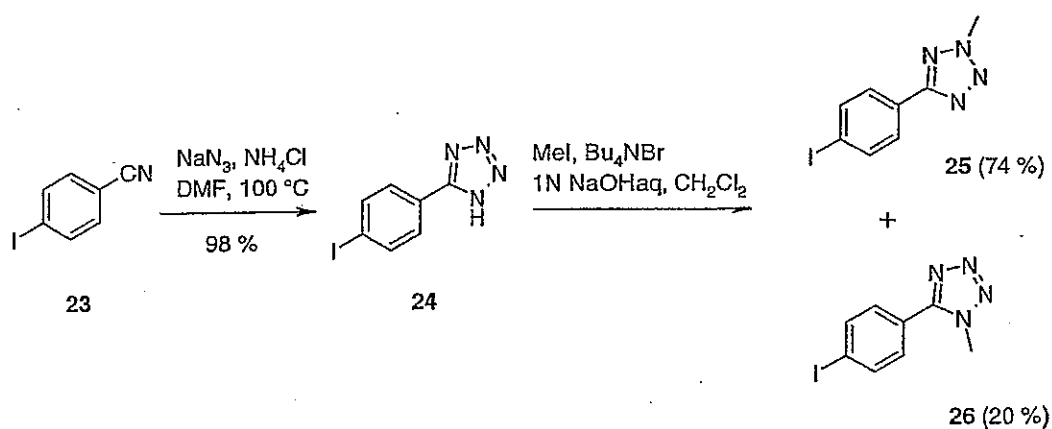
Pyridine (22) is obtained in two steps from 5-bromo-2-methyl-pyridine (20) by oxidation to 5-bromo-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid (21) as described in G. M. Sanders, M. van Dijk and H. C. van der Plas, *Heterocycles* 1981, 15, 213-223, and chlorination with SOCl_2 followed by reaction with EtOH (see Scheme 6).

Scheme 6



Reaction of 4-iodobenzonitrile (23) with sodium azide affords tetrazole (24) that can be methylated to a mixture of 25/26. The two regioisomers are easily separated by flash chromatography (see Scheme 7).

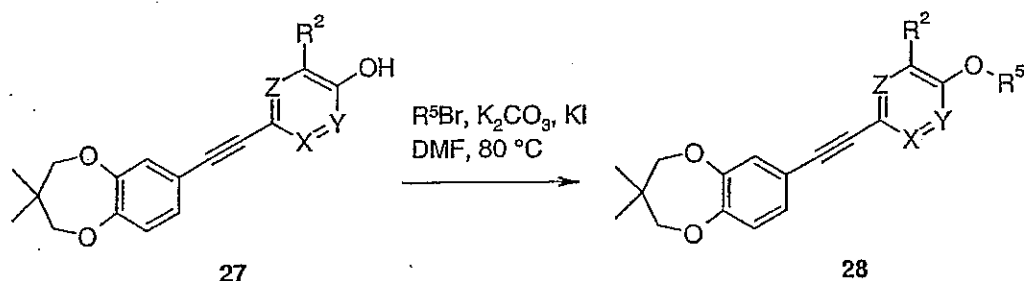
Scheme 7



Compounds of formula (I) of the present invention, wherein R^1 is $-OR^5$ and R^5 is C_{1-7} -alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ -cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ -heterocyclyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ -CN, or $-(CH_2)_n$ - OR^6 , and R^6 is H or C_{1-6} -alkyl, can be obtained by alkylation of the corresponding phenol (27) (see Scheme 8).

5

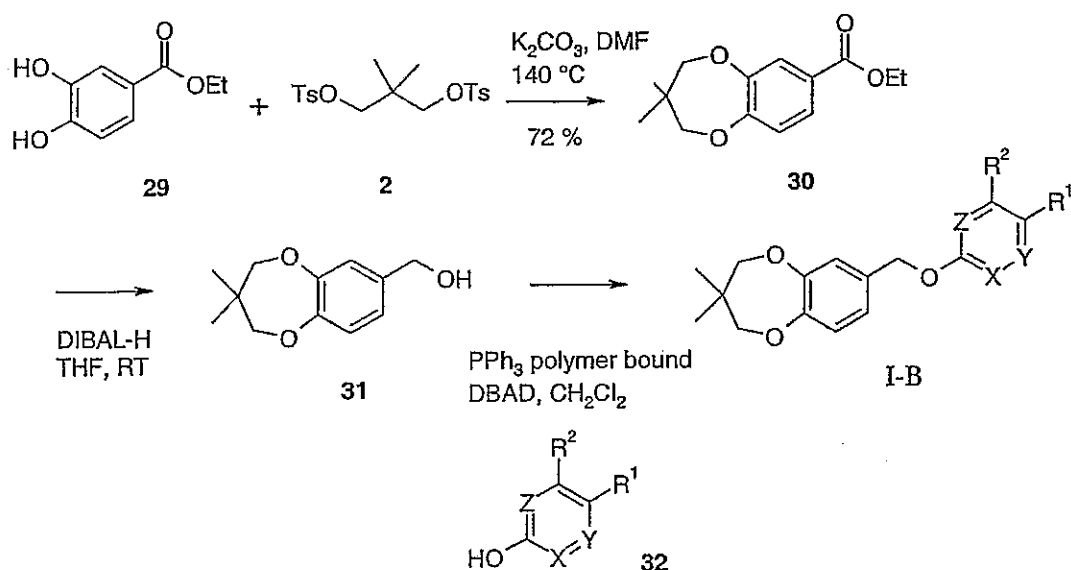
Scheme 8



Compounds of formula (I) wherein B is $-CH_2O-$ (benzylether derivatives) are prepared by alkylation of alcohol (31) under Mitsunobu conditions (see Scheme 9). Ester (30) is obtained from ethyl 3,4-dihydroxybenzoate following a similar procedure to the synthesis of (4) (M. Klaus, P. Mohr, E. Weiss, Eur. Pat. Appl. EP 0 350 846 A2). Reduction of (30) with DIBAL-H affords alcohol (31).

10

Scheme 9



It will be appreciated, that the compounds of general formula (I) of this invention may be derivatised at functional groups to provide derivatives which are capable of conversion back to the parent compound in vivo.

15

The following test was carried out in order to determine the activity of the compounds of formula (I):

Production and characterization of human ACC β enzyme, its use in ACC activity assays and for inhibition studies

5 The cloning of the full length human muscle-type ACC β cDNA and expression in HEK293 cells (ATCC, # CRL-1573) was performed as follows. The ACC β cDNA was amplified by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and was cloned using standard recombinant DNA techniques. The PCR reaction was performed with the Expand Long Template PCR System (Roche Molecular Biochemicals, # 1 681 8340) and 0.5 ng of
10 cDNA from human skeletal muscle as template. The primers used for PCR amplification were designed on the basis of the published sequence of the human ACC β cDNA isolated from a human liver cDNA library (Abul-Elheiga et al. J. Biol Chem. 272, 10669-10677, 1997). The sequence of the forward primer ACCB1 was 5'-TTACGCGTGCTAGCCACCATGGTCTTGCTTCTTTGTCTATC-3'; it includes a
15 NheI restriction cleavage site for subcloning and a Kozak translation initiation consensus sequence preceding the ATG start codon. The sequence of the reverse primer ACCB8 was 5'-TTCTCGAGTCAGGTGGAGGCCGGGCTGTC-3'; it includes a stop codon and a XhoI restriction cleavage site for subcloning. The amplified DNA fragment of approximately 7.4 kb was cloned into a mammalian expression vector. The resulting
20 plasmid isolates, pRF33A, B, C, D, and E were individually transfected in human embryonic kidney 293 cells (HEK293) using a standard lipid transfection method. Cell extracts of transfected cells were prepared in a lysis buffer containing 0.4 mg/ml digitonin and enzyme activity was determined using a radiometric ACC activity assay as described below. Plasmid pRF33D gave the highest activity and was chosen for large scale
25 transfections of HEK293 cells and enzyme purification.

Since ACC enzyme activities in crude cell lysates were very low, enrichment of ACC β enzyme expressed in HEK293 cells was achieved by a single anion exchange chromatography step. Cell lysates were run over a 5 ml Econo Pac High Q column (Bio-Rad, # 732-0027). Bound proteins were eluted by a gradient of NaCl from 0 to 1 M in 50
30 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 1 mM DTT, 5% glycerol. Fractions containing high ACC β enzyme activity were pooled and stored at -20 °C.

Standard ACC β enzyme assays, in a total volume of 100 μ l, contained 50 mM HEPES-KOH, pH 7.5, 10 mM K-citrate, 10 mM MgSO₄, 1 mM ATP, 0.1 mM DTT, 2 %

DMSO, 0.1 mg/ml fatty acid-free BSA, 0.2 mM acetyl-CoA, 2 mM KHCO_3 , 0.2 mM $[^{14}\text{C}]\text{NaHCO}_3$ (50-60 mCi/mmol) and cell lysate or purified ACC β enzyme. Reactions were incubated at 37 °C for 45 min. and stopped by the addition of 50 μl of 2 N HCl. Terminated reactions were incubated at 50 °C over night to evaporate non-incorporated $[^{14}\text{C}]\text{NaHCO}_3$. $[^{14}\text{C}]$ -labeled malonyl-CoA reaction product was quantitated by liquid scintillation counting after the addition of 20 μl of Microscint 20 (Canberra Packard, # 6013621) on a TopCount NXT microplate scintillation counter (Canberra Packard).

Inhibition of ACC β activity was determined at saturating substrate concentrations with two-fold serial dilutions of test compounds spanning a concentration range of at least two log units. IC_{50} values were calculated with the GraFit software (Erithacus Software Ltd.).

The preferred compounds of the present invention exhibit IC_{50} values of 5 nM to 100 μM , preferably 1 to 1000 nM..

The following table shows measured values for some selected compounds of the present invention.

	ACC β IC_{50} ($\mu\text{mol/l}$)
Example 5	42.2
Example 7	1.44
Example 9	15.1
Example 13	5.41
Example 14	11.2
Example 15	3.11
Example 21	0.01
Example 23	0.25

The compounds of formula (I) and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters can be used as medicaments, e.g. in the form of pharmaceutical preparations for enteral, parenteral or topical administration. They can be administered, for example, perorally, e.g. in the form of tablets, coated tablets, dragées, hard and soft gelatine

capsules, solutions, emulsions or suspensions, rectally, e.g. in the form of suppositories, parenterally, e.g. in the form of injection solutions or infusion solutions, or topically, e.g. in the form of ointments, creams or oils.

5 The production of the pharmaceutical preparations can be effected in a manner which will be familiar to any person skilled in the art by bringing the described compounds of formula (I) and their pharmaceutically acceptable, into a galenical administration form together with suitable, non-toxic, inert, therapeutically compatible solid or liquid carrier materials and, if desired, usual pharmaceutical adjuvants.

10 Suitable carrier materials are not only inorganic carrier materials, but also organic carrier materials. Thus, for example, lactose, corn starch or derivatives thereof, talc, stearic acid or its salts can be used as carrier materials for tablets, coated tablets, dragées and hard gelatine capsules. Suitable carrier materials for soft gelatine capsules are, for example, vegetable oils, waxes, fats and semi-solid and liquid polyols (depending on the nature of the active ingredient no carriers are, however, required in the case of soft
15 gelatine capsules). Suitable carrier materials for the production of solutions and syrups are, for example, water, polyols, sucrose, invert sugar and the like. Suitable carrier materials for injection solutions are, for example, water, alcohols, polyols, glycerol and vegetable oils. Suitable carrier materials for suppositories are, for example, natural or hardened oils, waxes, fats and semi-liquid or liquid polyols. Suitable carrier materials for
20 topical preparations are glycerides, semi-synthetic and synthetic glycerides, hydrogenated oils, liquid waxes, liquid paraffins, liquid fatty alcohols, sterols, polyethylene glycols and cellulose derivatives.

Usual stabilizers, preservatives, wetting and emulsifying agents, consistency-improving agents, flavor-improving agents, salts for varying the osmotic pressure, buffer
25 substances, solubilizers, colorants and masking agents and antioxidants come into consideration as pharmaceutical adjuvants.

The dosage of the compounds of formula (I) can vary within wide limits depending on the disease to be controlled, the age and the individual condition of the patient and the mode of administration, and will, of course, be fitted to the individual requirements
30 in each particular case. For adult patients a daily dosage of about 1 mg to about 1000 mg, especially about 1 mg to about 100 mg, comes into consideration. Depending on the dosage it is convenient to administer the daily dosage in several dosage units.

The pharmaceutical preparations conveniently contain about 0.1-500 mg, preferably 0.5-100 mg, of a compound of formula (I).

The following examples serve to illustrate the present invention in more detail. They are, however, not intended to limit its scope in any manner.

Examples

Example 1

5 4-(3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-benzoic acid ethyl ester

a) 3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine (4)

The title compound was prepared according to the method as described in M. Klaus, P. Mohr, E. Weiss, Eur. Pat. Appl. EP 0 350 846 A2 (1990).

10 b) 7-Iodo-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine (5)

A solution of 3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine (4) (726 mg) in CH₂Cl₂ (40 ml) is prepared and silver trifluoroacetate (1.13 g) and iodine (1.06 g) are subsequently added. Precipitation of silver iodide is immediately observed. The mixture is stirred 16 h before filtration over dicalite. The organic layer is washed with sat. aq. Na₂O₃S₂ sol. (2 x 50 ml) and water (2 x 50 ml). The aqueous layers are extracted one more time with CH₂Cl₂ (50 ml). After drying (MgSO₄) the solvent is evaporated yielding 7-iodo-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine (5) as a light brown oil, MS (ESI) 304.1 (M)⁺.

20 c) (3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-trimethyl-silane (6b)

To a mixture of [PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂] (1.73 g) and copper(I) iodide (845 mg) under Ar is added a degassed solution of 7-iodo-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine (7) (15.0 g) in diisopropylamine (225 ml) and THF (225 ml). Trimethylsilylacetylene (7.27 g) is added and the mixture is stirred over night at 57 °C. After addition of AcOEt (1 L) and filtration over dicalite, the solution is washed with 1 N aq. HCl sol. (3 x 1 L) and brine (2 x 1 L). The organic layer is dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent is evaporated to yield (3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-trimethyl-silane (6b) as a brown oil.

d) 7-Ethynyl-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine (6)

All material from step c) is dissolved in THF (200 ml) and MeOH (1 L) and K₂CO₃ (3.98 g) are added. The mixture is stirred 1 h at RT, diluted with Et₂O (1.2 L) and extracted with H₂O (2 x 500 ml). After drying over Na₂SO₄ the solvent is evaporated to
 5 obtain 8.7 g of 7-ethynyl-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine (6) as a dark brown oil, MS (ESI) 202.2 (M)⁺.

e) 4-(3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-benzoic acid ethyl ester

To a mixture under Ar of 7-ethynyl-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-
 10 benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine (6) (1.0 g), ethyl-4-bromobenzoate (1.13 g), [PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂] (174 mg) and copper(I) iodide (94 mg) is added a degassed solution of diisopropylamine (20 ml) and THF (20 ml). The reaction mixture is stirred over night at 57 °C. After addition of AcOEt (100 ml) and filtration over dicalite, the solution is washed with 1 N aq. HCl sol. (3 x 50 ml) and H₂O (3 x 50 ml). The organic layer is dried over MgSO₄ and the
 15 solvent is evaporated. The crude product is purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, heptane/AcOEt 9:1) followed by preparative HPLC. 756 mg of 4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-benzoic acid ethyl ester are obtained as a white solid, MS (ESI) 350.2 (M)⁺.

Example 2

20 3,3-Dimethyl-7-(4-methylsulfanyl-phenylethynyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine

The title compound is prepared in analogy to example 1 from 7-ethynyl-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine (6) (example 1d) and bromothioanisole. MS (ESI) 324.2 (M)⁺.

25

Example 3

1-[4-(3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenyl]-ethanone

The title compound is prepared in analogy to example 1 from 7-ethynyl-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine (6) (example 1d) and 1-(4-iodo-
 30 phenyl)-ethanone. MS (ESI) 320.2 (M)⁺.

Example 15

3-(3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-benzoic acid ethyl ester (10)

a) 3-Ethynyl-benzoic acid ethyl ester (9)

5 The title compound is prepared in analogy to T. Iijima, Y. Endo, M. Tsuji, E. Kawachi, H. Kagechika, K. Shudo, *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* 1999, 47, 3, 398-404).

b) 7-(4-Ethoxymethyl-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine

To a mixture under N₂ of 3-ethynyl-benzoic acid ethyl ester (9) (50 mg), 7-iodo-
10 3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine (5) (87 mg) (example 1b), [PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂] (10 mg) and copper(I) iodide (5.5 mg) is added a degassed mixture of THF (2.5 ml) and diisopropylamine (2.5 ml). After 5.5 h stirring at RT hexane (15 ml) is added and the mixture is washed with 1 N aq. HCl sol. (2 x 15 ml), H₂O (15 ml) and brine (15 ml). After drying over MgSO₄ the solvent is evaporated and the product is
15 purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, hexane/1 % AcOEt). 55 mg of 3-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-benzoic acid ethyl ester (10) are obtained as a colourless gum, MS (ESI) 350.2 (M)⁺.

Example 16

20 [4-(3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenyl]-morpholin-4-yl-methanone

a) (4-Iodo-phenyl)-morpholin-4-yl-methanone

A mixture of 4-iodobenzoyl chloride (500 mg), morpholine (163 mg) and triethylamine (380 mg) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 ml) is stirred 2 h before washing with H₂O (20 ml) and brine (20 ml). The organic layer is dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent is evaporated to
25 obtain 482 mg of (4-iodo-phenyl)-morpholin-4-yl-methanone, yellowish semisolid, MS (ESI) 318.0 (M+H)⁺.

b) Morpholin-4-yl-(4-trimethylsilyl-ethynyl-phenyl)-methanone

To a mixture under Ar of (4-iodo-phenyl)-morpholin-4-yl-methanone (273 mg), trimethylsilylacetylene (169 mg), [PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂] (30 mg) and copper(i) iodide (15 mg) is
30 added a degassed mixture of THF (4.5 ml) and diisopropylamine (4.5 ml). After stirring over night at 57 °C and aqueous work up, the organic layer is dried over Na₂SO₄ and the

solvent is evaporated. Flash chromatography (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/25 % NH₄OH 97:3:0.3) yields 247 mg of morpholin-4-yl-(4-trimethylsilanylethynyl-phenyl)-methanone as a light brown solid, ¹H-NMR (300 MHz): 0.26 (s, 3H); 3.32-3.91 (br, 8H); 7.34 (d, *J* = 6.5, 2H); 7.51 (d, *J* = 6.5, 2H).

5 c) (4-Ethynyl-phenyl)-morpholin-4-yl-methanone

The material obtained in step b) is treated 1 h at RT with K₂CO₃ in a MeOH (30 ml) THF (6 ml) mixture. The reaction mixture is poured on Et₂O (60 ml) and washed with H₂O (2 x 60 ml). After drying over Na₂SO₄ and evaporation of the solvent 110 mg of (4-ethynyl-phenyl)-morpholin-4-yl-methanone are obtained, ¹H-NMR (300 MHz): 3.15
10 (s, 1H); 3.33-3.94 (br, 8H); 7.37 (d, *J* = 6.6, 2H); 7.53 (d, *J* = 6.6, 2H).

d) [4-(3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenyl]-morpholin-4-yl-methanone

The title compound is prepared in analogy to 3-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-benzoic acid ethyl ester (10) from (4-ethynyl-phenyl)-morpholin-4-yl-methanone and 7-iodo-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*]
15 [1,4]dioxepine (5) as a yellow viscous oil, MS (ESI) 392.3 (M+H)⁺.

Example 17

4-(3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-N,N-dimethyl-benzamide

20 a) 4-Iodo-N,N-dimethyl-benzamide

The title compound is prepared in analogy to example 16a from 4-iodobenzoyl chloride, N,N-dimethylamine and triethylamine in CH₂Cl₂ as a yellowish oil, MS (ESI) 276.0 (M+H)⁺.

b) N,N-Dimethyl-4-trimethylsilanylethynyl-benzamide

25 To a mixture under Ar of 4-Iodo-N,N-dimethyl-benzamide (237 mg), trimethylsilylacetylene (169 mg), [PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂] (30 mg) and copper(i) iodide (15 mg) is added a degassed mixture of THF (4.5 ml) and diisopropylamine (4.5 ml). After stirring over night at 57 °C and aqueous work up, the organic layer is dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent is evaporated. Flash chromatography (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/25 % NH₄OH
30 97:3:0.3) yields N,N-Dimethyl-4-trimethylsilanylethynyl-benzamide as a brown oil, ¹H-NMR (300 MHz): 0.25 (s, 3H); 2.96 (s, 3H); 3.10 (s, 3H); 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.5, 2H); 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.5, 2H).

c) 4-Ethynyl-N,N-dimethyl-benzamide

The title compound is prepared in analogy to (4-ethynyl-phenyl)-morpholin-4-yl-methanone (Example 16c) from N,N-Dimethyl-4-trimethylsilanylethynyl-benzamide.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz): 3.15 (s, 1H); 3.33-3.94 (br, 8H); 7.37 (d, *J* = 6.6, 2H); 7.53 (d, *J* = 6.6, 2H).

d) 4-(3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-N,N-dimethyl-benzamide

The title compound is prepared in analogy to 3-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-benzoic acid ethyl ester (10) from 4-ethynyl-N,N-dimethyl-benzamide and 7-iodo-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*][1,4]dioxepine (5) as a light brown solid, MS (ESI) 699.4 (100, [2*M*+*H*]⁺), 350.4 (15, [*M*+*H*]⁺).

Example 18

7-(4-Cyclopropylmethoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*][1,4]dioxepine

15 General procedure for the alkylation of 4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenol (Example 6):

4-(3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenol (Example 6) (100 mg) is dissolved in 2 ml DMF and K₂CO₃ (141 mg), KI (59 mg) and 1.25 equivalents of the alkyl bromide are added. The mixture is stirred 22 h at 80 °C.

20 After cooling to RT H₂O is added and the product is extracted with 3 portions of AcOEt. The combined organic layers are washed with more H₂O and brine and are dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent is evaporated to yield the product.

7-(4-Cyclopropylmethoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*][1,4]dioxepine is obtained by alkylation with cyclopropylmethyl bromide as a brownish solid, MS (ESI) 349.4 (*M*+*H*)⁺.

Example 19

7-[4-(2-Methoxy-ethoxy)-phenylethynyl]-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure described in
5 example 18 by alkylation of 4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenol (Example 6) with 2-methoxyethyl bromide as brownish solid, MS (ESI) 353.3 (M+H)⁺.

Example 20

[4-(3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenoxy]-
10 acetonitrile

The title compound was obtained according to the general procedure described in
example 18 by alkylation of 4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenol (Example 6) with 2-bromo acetonitrile as brownish solid, MS (ESI) 334.3 (M+H)⁺.

15

Example 21

3,3-Dimethyl-7-(4-propoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine

The title compound was obtained according to the general procedure described in
example 18 by alkylation of 4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenol (Example 6) with n-propyl bromide as brownish solid, MS (ESI) 337.4
20 (M+H)⁺.

Example 22

3,3-Dimethyl-7-(4-oxiranylmethoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine

The title compound was obtained according to the general procedure described in
25 example 18 by alkylation of 4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenol (Example 6) with epibromohydrin as brownish solid, MS (ESI) 351.4 (M+H)⁺.

Example 23

4-(3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylmethoxy)-benzoic acid
ethyl ester

a) 2,2-Dimethyl-1,3-propanediol ditosylate (2)

5 The title compound is prepared according to the method described in R. Bird, G. Griffiths, G. F. Griffiths, C. J. M. Stirling, *J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 2* 1982, 579 or according to M. Klaus, P. Mohr, E. Weiss, Eur. Pat. Appl. EP 0 350 846 A2 (1990).

b) 3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine-7-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (30)

10 Ethyl-3,4-dihydroxybenzoate (20.0 g) is dissolved in DMF (300 ml) and the solution is heated to 40 °C. After addition of K₂CO₃ the mixture is stirred 1 h at the same temperature before addition of 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-propanediol ditosylate (49.9 g.) in DMF (240 ml). The mixture is stirred 5 h at 140 °C, then is poured on ice and the product is extracted with Et₂O. The organic layer is washed with H₂O, dried over MgSO₄
15 and the solvent is evaporated. Distillation (126 °C, 0.5 mbar) yields 19.8 g of 3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine-7-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (30) as a colourless liquid, MS (ESI) 250.1 (M)⁺.

c) (3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-yl)-methanol (31)

3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine-7-carboxylic acid ethyl ester
20 (30) (9.00 g) is dissolved in THF (150 ml) and a 1.5 M solution of diisobutylaluminium hydride in toluene (120 ml) is slowly added. The resulting reaction mixture is stirred 1 h at RT, then cooled to -30 °C and H₂O (120 ml) is cautiously added. After letting the temperature rise to RT a 20 % aq. HCl solution (100 ml) is added. The ether layer is collected, washed with H₂O and dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent is evaporated. Flash
25 chromatography (silica gel, hexane/AcOEt 4:1) yields 7.25 g of (3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-yl)-methanol (31), MS (ESI) 208.1 (M)⁺.

d) 4-(3,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylmethoxy)-benzoic acid ethyl ester

To a mixture of (3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-yl)-
30 methanol (31) (100 mg), polymer bound PPh₃ (412 mg, ~3 mmol/g on polystyrene) and ethyl-4-hydroxybenzoate in CH₂Cl₂ (4 ml) is added di-*tert*-butylazodicarboxylate (111 mg). The mixture is shaken 1 h, then the polymer is filtered off and the solvent is evaporated. Flash chromatography yields 74 mg of 4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-

benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylmethoxy)-benzoic acid ethyl ester as a colourless oil, MS (ESI) 357.2 (M+H)⁺.

Example 24

7-(4-Isopropyl-phenoxy-methyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine

- 5 In analogy to the method described in example 23, 7-(4-isopropyl-phenoxy-methyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine is prepared from (3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-yl)-methanol (31) and 4-isopropylphenol. MS (ESI) 344.4 (M+NH₄)⁺.

Example 25

- 10 3,3-Dimethyl-7-(4-methylsulfonyl-phenoxy-methyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine

According to the method described in example 23, the title compound is prepared from (3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-yl)-methanol (31) and 4-(methylthio)phenol. MS (ESI) 331.3 (M+H)⁺.

15

Example 26

7-(3-Ethoxy-phenoxy-methyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine

According to the method described in example 23, the title compound is obtained from (3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-yl)-methanol (31) and 3-ethoxyphenol. MS (ESI) 346.2 (M+NH₄)⁺.

20

Example 27

7-(4-Ethyl-phenoxy-methyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine

- 25 According to the method described in example 23, 7-(4-ethyl-phenoxy-methyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine is obtained from (3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-yl)-methanol (31) and 4-ethylphenol. MS (ESI) 346.2 (M+NH₄)⁺.

Example 28

7-(4-Methoxy-phenoxy-methyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine

According to the method described in example 23, the title compound is prepared from (3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-yl)-methanol (31) and 4-methoxyphenol. MS (ESI) 332.3 (M+NH₄)⁺.

Example A

Film coated tablets containing the following ingredients can be manufactured in a conventional manner:

<u>Ingredients</u>	<u>Per tablet</u>	
Kernel:		
Compound of formula (I)	10.0 mg	200.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	23.5 mg	43.5 mg
Lactose hydrous	60.0 mg	70.0 mg
Povidone K30	12.5 mg	15.0 mg
Sodium starch glycolate	12.5 mg	17.0 mg
Magnesium stearate	1.5 mg	4.5 mg
(Kernel Weight)	120.0 mg	350.0 mg
Film Coat:		
Hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose	3.5 mg	7.0 mg
Polyethylene glycol 6000	0.8 mg	1.6 mg
Talc	1.3 mg	2.6 mg
Iron oxyde (yellow)	0.8 mg	1.6 mg
Titan dioxide	0.8 mg	1.6 mg

- 5 The active ingredient is sieved and mixed with microcrystalline cellulose and the mixture is granulated with a solution of polyvinylpyrrolidone in water. The granulate is mixed with sodium starch glycolate and magnesium stearate and compressed to yield kernels of 120 or 350 mg respectively. The kernels are lacquered with an aqueous solution / suspension of the above mentioned film coat.

Example B

Capsules containing the following ingredients can be manufactured in a conventional manner:

<u>Ingredients</u>	<u>Per capsule</u>
Compound of formula (I)	25.0 mg
Lactose	150.0 mg
Maize starch	20.0 mg
Talc	5.0 mg

- 5 The components are sieved and mixed and filled into capsules of size 2.

Example C

Injection solutions can have the following composition:

Compound of formula (I)	3.0 mg
Gelatine	150.0 mg
Phenol	4.7 mg
Sodium carbonate	to obtain a final pH of 7
Water for injection solutions	ad 1.0 ml

Example D

Soft gelatin capsules containing the following ingredients can be manufactured in a conventional manner:

Capsule contents

Compound of formula (I)	5.0 mg
Yellow wax	8.0 mg
Hydrogenated Soya bean oil	8.0 mg
Partially hydrogenated plant oils	34.0 mg
Soya bean oil	110.0 mg
Weight of capsule contents	165.0 mg

Gelatin capsule

Gelatin	75.0 mg
Glycerol 85 %	32.0 mg
Karion 83	8.0 mg (dry matter)
Titan dioxide	0.4 mg
Iron oxide yellow	1.1 mg

- 5 The active ingredient is dissolved in a warm melting of the other ingredients and the mixture is filled into soft gelatin capsules of appropriate size. The filled soft gelatin capsules are treated according to the usual procedures.

Example E

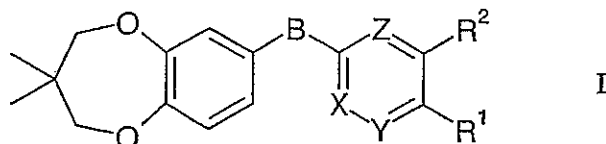
Sachets containing the following ingredients can be manufactured in a conventional manner:

Compound of formula (I)	50.0 mg
Lactose, fine powder	1015.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose (AVICEL PH 102)	1400.0 mg
Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose	14.0 mg
Polyvinylpyrrolidon K 30	10.0 mg
Magnesiumstearate	10.0 mg
Flavoring additives	1.0 mg

- 5 The active ingredient is mixed with lactose, microcrystalline cellulose and sodium carboxymethyl cellulose and granulated with a mixture of polyvinylpyrrolidon in water. The granulate is mixed with magnesiumstearate and the flavouring additives and filled into sachets.

Claims

1. Compounds of the formula



wherein

5 B is $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$ or $-\text{CHR}^3-\text{O}-$;

R^3 is H or C_{1-3} -alkyl;

X, Y and Z are $\text{C}-\text{R}^4$ or N, and at least one of X, Y and Z is $\text{C}-\text{R}^4$;

R^4 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl;

R^1 and R^2 are independently from each other selected from the group consisting of

10 H,

C_{1-7} -alkyl,

C_{1-7} -alkoxy- C_{1-7} -alkyl,

$-\text{COOR}^5$ or $-\text{COR}^5$, wherein R^5 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl,

15 $-\text{OR}^6$, wherein R^6 is H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m$ -cycloalkyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m$ -heterocyclyl,

$-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ -CN, or $-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ - OR^7 , and R^7 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl, wherein

m is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and n is 1, 2 or 3;

$-\text{SR}^8$, wherein R^8 is H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m$ -cycloalkyl, or $-(\text{CH}_2)_m$ -heterocyclyl,

wherein m is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

20 $-\text{CONR}^9\text{R}^{10}$, wherein R^9 and R^{10} are H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, or wherein NR^9R^{10} can form a

ring having 3 to 7 atoms, said ring optionally including one or more

additional N or O atoms,

and a five-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected

from N, O or S, which is substituted by H or C_{1-7} -alkyl;

or R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atoms they are attached to can form a ring having

25 3 to 7 atoms, said ring optionally including one or more N or O atoms;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. Compounds of formula (I) according to claim 1, wherein one of R^1 or R^2 is hydrogen.

3. Compounds of formula (I) according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R^1 or R^2 is selected from the group consisting of

- C_{1-7} -alkyl,
 - C_{1-7} -alkoxy- C_{1-7} -alkyl,
 - 5 -COOR⁵, wherein R^5 is C_{1-7} -alkyl,
 - OR⁶, wherein R^6 is H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ -cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ -heterocyclyl,
 - $-(CH_2)_n$ -CN, or $-(CH_2)_n$ -OR⁷, and R^7 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl, wherein
 - m is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and n is 1, 2 or 3;
 - SR⁸, wherein R^8 is C_{1-7} -alkyl;
 - 10 -CONR⁹R¹⁰, wherein R^9 and R^{10} are H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, or wherein NR⁹R¹⁰ can form a ring having 3 to 7 atoms, said ring optionally including one or more additional N or O atoms,
- and a five-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O or S, which is substituted by H or C_{1-7} -alkyl.

15 4. Compounds of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein R^1 or R^2 is selected from the group consisting of

- C_{1-7} -alkyl,
- C_{1-7} -alkoxy- C_{1-7} -alkyl,
- COOR⁵, wherein R^5 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl,
- 20 -OR⁶, wherein R^6 is H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ -cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ -heterocyclyl,
- $-(CH_2)_n$ -CN, or $-(CH_2)_n$ -OR⁷, and R^7 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl, wherein
- m is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and n is 1, 2 or 3; and
- SR⁸, wherein R^8 is C_{1-7} -alkyl.

5 5. Compounds of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein R^1 or R^2 is -COOR⁵, and R^5 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl.

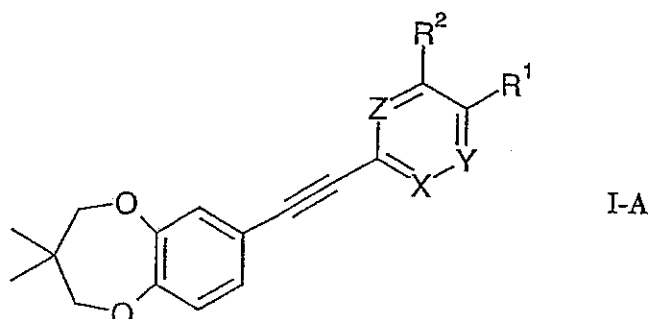
6. Compounds of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein R^1 or R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-7} -alkoxy- C_{1-7} -alkyl,

- OR⁶, wherein R^6 is H, C_{1-7} -alkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ -cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ -heterocyclyl,
- $-(CH_2)_n$ -CN, or $-(CH_2)_n$ -OR⁷, and R^7 is H or C_{1-7} -alkyl, wherein
- 30 m is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and n is 1, 2 or 3; and
- SR⁸, wherein R^8 is C_{1-7} -alkyl.

7. Compounds of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein R^1 or R^2 is a five-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O or S, which is substituted by H or C_{1-7} -alkyl.

8. Compounds of formula (I) according to claim 1, wherein R¹ and R² together with the carbon atoms they are attached to form a ring having 3 to 7 atoms, said ring optionally including one or more N or O atoms.

9. Compounds of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1 to 8 having the
5 formula



wherein

X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are as defined in claim 1; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts and/or esters thereof.

10 10. Compounds of formula (I-A) according to claim 9, wherein X, Y und Z are –CR⁴ and R⁴ is hydrogen.

11. Compounds of formula (I-A) according to claims 9 or 10, selected from the group consisting of

4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-benzoic acid ethyl
15 ester;

3-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-benzoic acid ethyl
ester;

3,3-dimethyl-7-(4-methylsulfanyl-phenylethynyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-
benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;

20 7-(4-methoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;

4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenol;

7-(4-ethoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;

7-(4-ethoxymethyl-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-
benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;

25 2-[4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-phenyl]-5-
methyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole;

7-(4-cyclopropylmethoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-
benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;

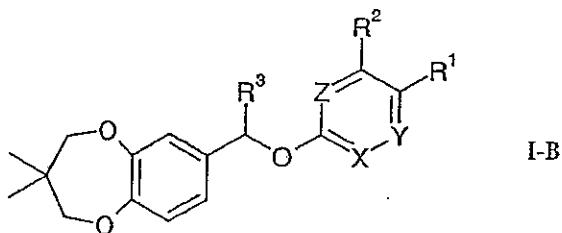
- 42 -

3,3-dimethyl-7-(4-propoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine;
and
3,3-dimethyl-7-(4-oxiranylmethoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine.

5 12. Compounds of formula (I-A) according to claim 9, wherein one of X, Y or Z is N and the others are are $-CR^4$ and R^4 is hydrogen.

13. Compounds of formula (I-A) according to claims 9 or 12, selected from the group consisting of
6-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-nicotinic acid
10 ethyl ester; and
5-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylethynyl)-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

14. Compounds of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1 to 8 having the formula



15

wherein

X, Y, Z, R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in claim 1; and

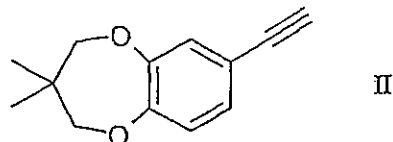
pharmaceutically acceptable salts and/or esters thereof.

15. Compounds of formula (I-B) according to claim 14, wherein X, Y und Z are $-CR^4$ and R^4 is hydrogen.
20

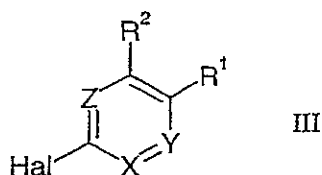
16. Compounds of formula (I-B) according to claims 14 or 15, selected from the group consisting of
4-(3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepin-7-ylmethoxy)-benzoic acid
ethyl ester; and
25 7-(3-ethoxy-phenoxyethyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b][1,4]dioxepine.

17. A process for the manufacture of compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 16, which process comprises

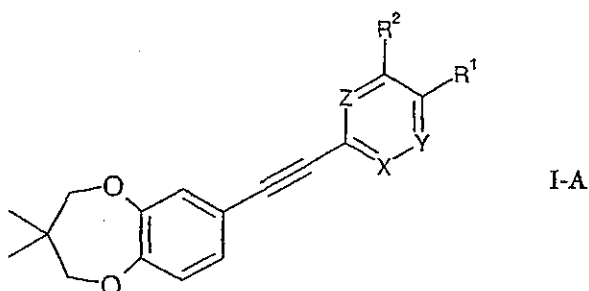
a) reacting a compound of formula



5 with an aryl halide or heteroaryl halide of formula

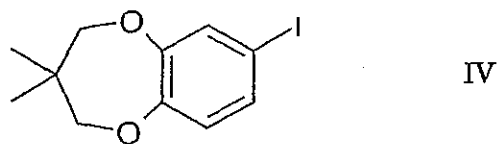


wherein Hal is bromide or iodide and X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are as defined in claim 1, to obtain a compound of formula

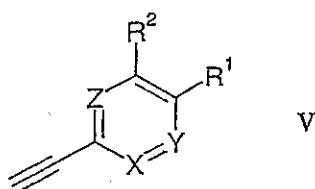


10 wherein X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are as defined in claim 1, or, alternatively,

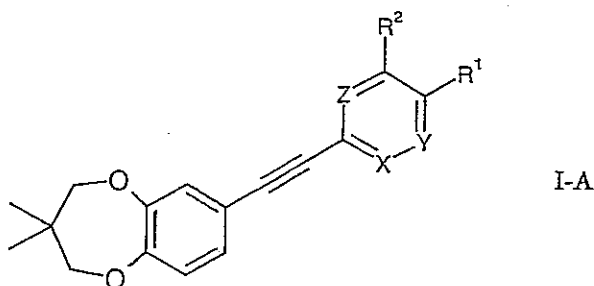
b) reacting a compound of formula



with an alkyne of formula

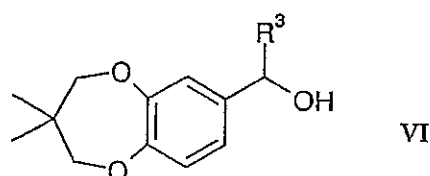


wherein X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are as defined in claim 1, to obtain a compound of formula



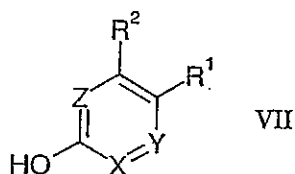
wherein X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are as defined in claim 1, or, alternatively,

c) reacting a compound of formula



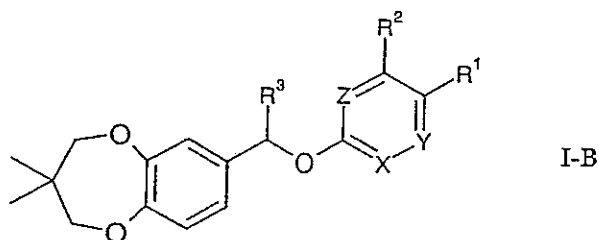
5

wherein R³ is H or C₁₋₃-alkyl, with a compound of formula



wherein X, Y, Z, R¹ and R² are as defined in claim 1,

to obtain a compound of formula



10

wherein X, Y, Z, R¹, R² and R³ are as defined in claim 1.

18. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 16 when manufactured by a process according to claim 17.

19. Pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound according to any one of
15 claims 1 to 16 as well as a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or adjuvant.

20. Pharmaceutical compositions according to claim 19 for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases which are modulated by ACC β inhibitors.

21. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 16 for use as therapeutically active substances.

22. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 16 for use as therapeutically active substances for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases which are modulated by ACC β inhibitors.

23. The use of compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 16 for the preparation of medicaments for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases which are modulated by ACC β inhibitors.

24. The use according to claim 23 wherein the disease is diabetes, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, increased lipid and cholesterol levels, particularly low HDL-cholesterol, high LDL-cholesterol, or high triglyceride levels, atherosclerotic diseases, metabolic syndrome (syndrome X), elevated blood pressure, endothelial dysfunction, procoagulant state, obesity or dyslipidemia.

25. The use according to claim 24 wherein the disease is diabetes, preferably non insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, obesity or dyslipidemia.