

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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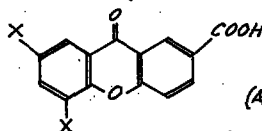
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(54) NOVEL SUBSTITUTED XANTHONE CARBOXYLIC ACID COMPOUNDS

(71) We, SYNTEX (U.S.A.) INC., a corporation organised under the laws of Delaware, United States of America of 3401 Hillview Avenue Palo Alto, California 94304, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention is directed to novel substituted xanthone carboxylic acid compounds and to compositions containing and methods utilizing these compounds as the essential ingredient in the treatment of symptoms associated with allergic manifestations, for example, asthmatic conditions.

In a first aspect, the present invention relates to novel C-5 and C-7 substituted xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid compounds selected from those represented by the following formula:

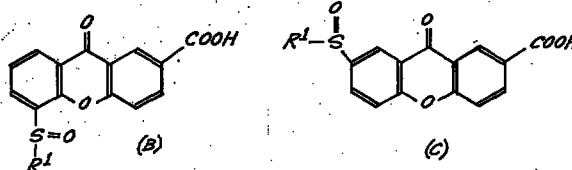


and the pharmaceutically acceptable, non-toxic esters, amides and salts thereof; wherein one X is hydrogen and the other X is a group of the formula



in which n is the integer 1 or 2 and R is lower alkyl or cycloalkyl.

Thus included within the scope of the present invention are 1) the C-5 and C-7 lower alkyl or cycloalkylsulfinyl substituted xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid compounds of the following formulas:

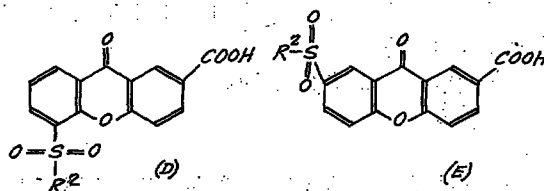


and the pharmaceutically acceptable, non-toxic esters, amides and salts thereof; wherein each R¹ is lower alkyl or cycloalkyl; and

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2) the C-5 and C-7 lower alkyl or cycloalkyl sulfonyl substituted xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid compounds of the following formulas:



and the pharmaceutically acceptable, non-toxic esters, amides and salts thereof; where-
in each R^2 is lower alkyl or cycloalkyl.

In a second aspect, the present invention is directed to a method useful for reliev-
ing symptoms associated with allergic manifestations such as are brought about by
antigen-antibody (allergic) reactions. In the relief of these symptoms, the method here-
of serves to inhibit the effects of the allergic reaction when administered in an effective
amount. While not intending to be bound by any theoretical mechanism of action, the
method hereof is believed to operate by inhibiting the release and/or the action of
toxic products, e.g., histamine, 5 - hydroxytryptamine, slow releasing substance
(SRS-A), and others, which are produced as a result of a combination of specific anti-
body and antigen (allergic reaction). These properties make the subject compounds
particularly useful in the treatment of various allergic conditions.

This aspect of the present invention thus relates to a method useful for inhibiting
the effects of the allergic reaction which comprises administering an effective amount
of a compound selected from those represented by the above formulas; and the pharma-
ceutically acceptable non-toxic esters, amides, and salts thereof; or a pharmaceutically
acceptable non-toxic composition incorporating said acids, esters, amides or salts as an
essential ingredient.

The compounds of the present invention are also smooth muscle relaxants, e.g.
bronchial dilators, and are therefore useful in the treatment of conditions in which such
agents may be indicated, as for instance in the treatment of bronchio constriction. The
compounds of the present invention are also vasodilators and are therefore useful in
the treatment of conditions in which such agents may be indicated, as for instance in
renal and cardiac disorders.

The present invention, in a third aspect, is directed to pharmaceutical composi-
tions useful for inhibiting the effects of the allergic reaction comprising an effective
amount of a compound selected from those represented by the above formulas; and the
pharmaceutically acceptable esters, amides, and salts thereof; in admixture with a
pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic carrier.

In the practice of the method of the present invention, an effective amount of a
compound of the present invention or pharmaceutical compositions thereof, as defined
above, is administered via any of the usual and acceptable methods known in the art,
either singly or in combination with another compound or compounds of the present
invention or other pharmaceutical agents, such as antibiotics, hormonal agents, and
so forth. These compounds or compositions can thus be administered orally, topically,
parenterally, or by inhalation and in the form of either solid, liquid, or gaseous dosages
including tablets, suspensions, and aerosols, as discussed in more detail hereinafter. The
administration can be conducted in single unit dosage form with continuous therapy
or in single dose therapy ad libitum. In the preferred embodiments, the method of the
present invention is practiced when relief of symptoms is specifically required, or,
perhaps, imminent; however, the method hereof is also usefully practiced as con-
tinuous or prophylactic treatment.

In view of the foregoing as well as in consideration of the degree or severity of
the condition being treated, age of subject, and so forth, all of which factors being
determinable by routine experimentation by one skilled in the art; the effective dosage
in accordance herewith can vary over a wide range. Generally, an effective amount
ranges from about 0.005 to about 100 mg. per kg. of body weight per day and pre-
ferably from about 0.01 to about 100 mg. per kg. of body weight per day. In alternate
terms, an effective amount in accordance herewith generally ranges from about 0.5 to
about 7000 mg. per day per subject.

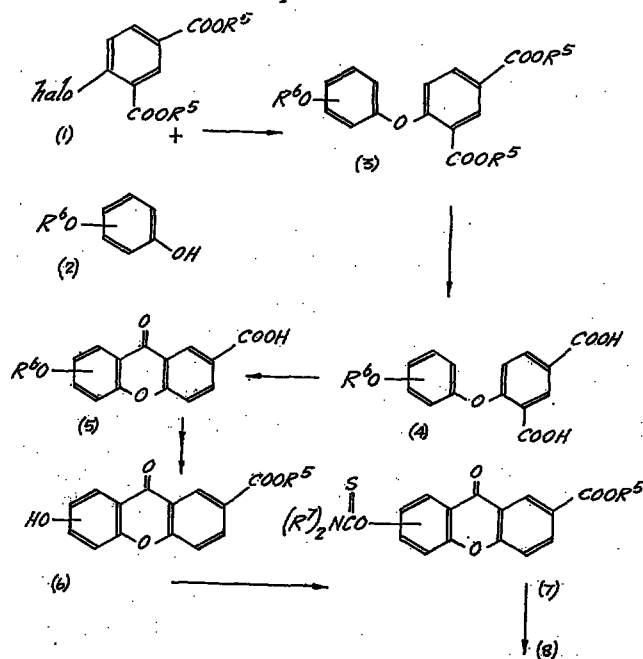
Useful pharmaceutical carriers for the preparation of the compositions hereof, can
be solids, liquids, or gases. Thus, the compositions can take the form of tablets, pills,
capsules, powders, sustained release formulations, solutions, suspensions, elixirs,

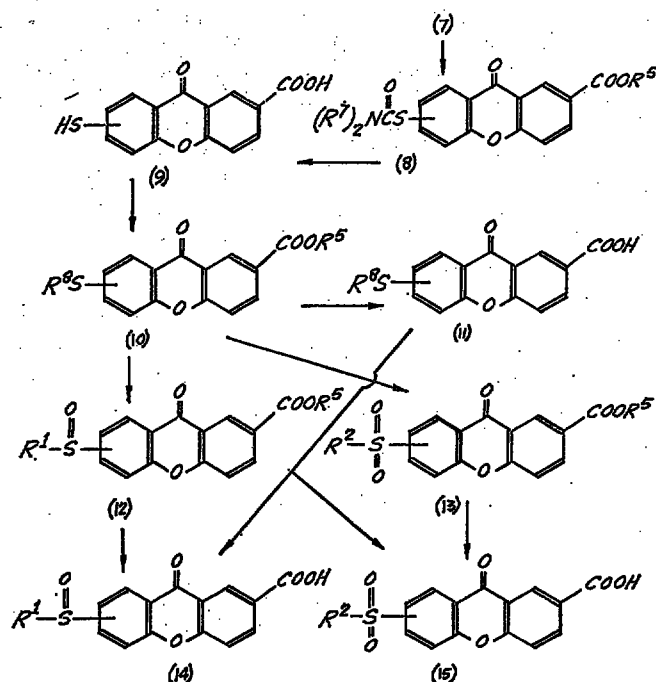
aerosols, and the like. The carriers can be selected from the various oils including those of petroleum, animal, vegetable, or synthetic origin, for example peanut oil, soybean oil, mineral oil, sesame oil, and the like. Water, saline, aqueous dextrose, and glycols are preferred liquid carriers, particularly for injectable solutions. Suitable pharmaceutical excipients include starch, cellulose, talc, glucose, lactose, sucrose, gelatin, malt, rice, flour, chalk, silica gel, magnesium stearate, sodium stearate, glyceryl monostearate, sodium chloride, dried skim milk, glycerol, propylene glycol, water, ethanol, and the like. Suitable pharmaceutical carriers and their formulation are described in "Remingtons Pharmaceutical Sciences" by E. W. Martin. Such compositions will, in any event, contain an effective amount of the active compound together with a suitable amount of carrier so as to prepare the proper dosage form for proper administration to the host.

The compounds of the present invention demonstrate activity as inhibitors of the effects of the allergic reaction as measured by tests indicative of such activity involving passive cutaneous anaphylaxis as substantially described, for example, by J. Goose et al., *Immunology*, 16, 749 (1969).

The compounds of the present invention can be prepared in accordance with the following reaction sequence:

Sequence A





wherein

each of R^1 and R^2 is as above defined;

each of R^5 , R^7 and R^8 is lower alkyl or cycloalkyl, R^5 and R^7 being preferably methyl;

R^6 is hydrogen or lower alkyl or cycloalkyl; and

halo is bromo, chloro, fluoro, or iodo, preferably bromo.

With reference to the above reaction sequence, an ortho or para substituted (OR^6) phenol (2) is condensed with the 1,3 - dicarbo(lower)alkoxy - 4 - halobenzene compound (1) in the presence of cuprous oxide optionally in organic liquid reaction medium, preferably an organic amide such as dimethylacetamide, dimethylformamide, N - methylpyrrolidone, tetramethylurea, and so forth, to prepare the corresponding 1,3 - dicarbo(lower)alkoxy - 4 - (o- or p - substituted phenyloxy) - benzene compound (3).

The reaction is preferably conducted in an inert organic reaction medium, such as those listed above, or suitable mixtures of one or more of such media. The reaction is further conducted at temperatures ranging from about 80° to about $220^\circ C.$, preferably from about 120° to $200^\circ C.$, and for a period of time sufficient to complete the reaction, ranging from about two hours to about 24 hours.

The reaction consumes the reactants on the basis of one mole of the substituted phenol per mole of the dicarbo(lower)carboxyhalobenzene per half mole of cuprous oxide. However, the amounts of the reactants to be employed are not critical, some of the desired compound (3) product being obtained when employing any proportions thereof. In the preferred embodiments, the reaction is conducted by reacting from about one to about three moles of the substituted phenol compound with about from one to about 1.2 moles of the dicarbo(lower)carboxyhalobenzene compound in the presence of from about 0.5 to about 0.6 moles of the cuprous oxide. The inert organic reaction medium, if employed, is used in solvent amounts.

Thereafter, the prepared compound (3) is base hydrolyzed to give the corresponding 1,3 - dicarboxy - 4 - (o- or p - substituted phenyloxy) - benzene (4). The base hydrolysis conditions can be any employed conventionally in the art. Generally, the hydrolysis reaction is conducted using an alkali metal hydroxide at about 50° to about $90^\circ C.$ and for a period of time sufficient to complete the reaction, ranging from about 15 minutes to about 60 minutes, preferably in the presence of inert organic reaction media such as those normally employed in organic chemical reactions of this type, e.g., aqueous alkanol solutions. Although two moles of base are required per mole of compound (3), the amounts employed are not critical to produce the desired hydrolysis. Preferably from about three to about five moles of base are employed per mole of compound (3) and the reaction media, if employed, is used in solvent amounts.

The thus prepared diacid compound (4) is then cyclized with phosphoryl chloride, thionyl chloride, sulfuric acid, hydrogen fluoride, or preferably, polyphosphoric acid (PPA), to give the corresponding 5- or 7-substituted xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid compound (5). The reaction is preferably, but optionally, conducted in an inert organic reaction medium including those usually employed in organic chemical reactions, such as dimethylsulfoxide, sulfolane, benzene, toluene, and so forth. The reaction is further conducted at temperatures ranging from about 60° to about 180°C., and for a period of time sufficient to complete the reaction ranging from about 15 minutes to about 90 minutes.

Although the reaction consumes the reactants on the basis of one mole of compound (4) per mole of cyclizing reagent, the reaction can be performed using any proportions of reactants. In the preferred embodiments, however, the reaction is conducted using from about 20 to about 50 moles of the cyclizing reagent per mole of starting compound (4).

The 5- and 7-lower alkoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid compounds (5; R^o=lower alkyl) thus prepared are converted to the respective 5- and 7-hydroxy compounds (5; R^o=hydrogen) by treatment with hydrobromic or hydroiodic acid and acetic acid. This reaction is conducted at a temperature of from about 100° to about 160°C. The thus prepared 5- and 7-hydroxy acid compounds are then esterified (R^o) to give compounds (6). This reaction is conducted with ethereal diazoalkane such as diazomethane and diazoethane or with the desired lower alkyl iodide in the presence of lithium carbonate at room temperature or with the desired lower alkanol in the presence of a trace of sulfuric acid at reflux.

The hydroxy acid esters (6) are then treated with a dialkylthiocarbamoyl chloride, such as dimethylthiocarbamoyl chloride, in the presence of base, such as an alkali metal hydride, and in organic liquid reaction media, preferably an organic amide such as those listed above with respect to reaction (1+2→3) to afford the products (7). The reaction is conducted at temperatures ranging from about 20° to about 100°C., preferably from 60° to about 80°C. and for a period of time sufficient to complete the reaction, ranging from about 1 hour to about 6 hours. In the preferred embodiments, the reaction is conducted by reaction of from about 1.1 to about 1.5 moles of dialkylthiocarbamoyl chloride per mole of compound (6).

The product compounds (7) are then rearranged by reaction at a temperature of from about 200° to about 250°C., preferably from about 220° to about 230°C., and for a period of time ranging from about 1 hour to about 8 hours and in the presence of organic medium such as sulfolane, nitrobenzene, triethyleneglycol, and so forth, which is preferably employed in solvent amounts, to give compound (8).

Compounds (8) are then converted to the corresponding 5- and 7-mercapto acid compounds (9) by base hydrolysis such as those described above for the preparation of compounds (4) from (3). The 5- and 7-lower alkylthio ether, ester compounds (10) are then prepared as described above (e.g., 5→6) or by reacting compounds (9) with a lower alkyl halide in the presence of base such as potassium carbonate and organic liquid reaction media such as those described above. The reaction is conducted at a temperature ranging from about 20° to about 80°C., preferably from 50° to about 60°C. and for a period of time sufficient to complete the reaction, ranging from about 2 hours to about 16 hours.

Hydrolysis of the ester (10), as described above (e.g., 3→4), affords the 5- and 7-(lower alkylthio)-acid compounds (11).

Compound (10) can be oxidized with a peracid, such as peracetic acid, m - chloroperbenzoic acid, p - nitroperbenzoic acid, perphthalic acid, and so forth, to give compounds (12) which can be hydrolyzed, as above described, to give the corresponding 5- and 7-lower alkyl-sulfinyl acid compounds (14). The oxidation is preferably conducted in liquid reaction media such as a chlorinated hydrocarbon, e.g. chloroform, methylene chloride, and carbon tetrachloride. The reaction is conducted at temperatures ranging from about 0° to about 60°C., preferably from 20° to about 30°C. and for a period of time sufficient to complete the reaction, ranging from about 1 hour to about 6 hours. In the preferred embodiments, the reaction is conducted by reaction of from about 1 to about 1.1 moles of peracid.

Alternatively, compounds (10) are oxidized with excess hydrogen peroxide to give compounds (13) which can be hydrolyzed as above described to give the 5- and 7-lower alkylsulfonyl acid compounds (15). The peroxide oxidation is preferably conducted in liquid reaction media such as a lower carboxylic acid, e.g. acetic acid and propionic acid. The reaction is further conducted at temperatures ranging from about 20° to about 100°C., preferably from 80° to about 90°C and for a period of time sufficient to complete the reaction, ranging from about 30 minutes to about 3 hours.

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The reaction scheme illustrates the synthesis of various coumarins. It begins with a substituted phenol (1) reacting with a substituted phenyl ether (2') to form an intermediate (3). This intermediate then reacts to form a coumarin derivative (4), which can further be converted into various other coumarin derivatives (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15).

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R6O-c1ccc(O)cc1 (2) + Haloc1cc(C)cc(C)c1 (19) $\longrightarrow$ R6O-c1ccc(Oc2cc(C)cc(C)c2)cc1 (20)

R6O-c1ccc(Oc2cc(C)cc(C)c2)cc1 (20) $\longrightarrow$ R6O-c1ccc2c(c1)oc3cc(C(=O)O)cc3C2=O (5)

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With reference to Sequence C, an appropriate phenol (2) is treated with 1,3 - dimethyl - 4 - halo- (preferably iodo) benzene (19), as described above, to prepare the corresponding 1,3 - dimethyl - 4 - phenyloxybenzene (20). This compound is then oxidized such as with potassium permanganate in aqueous t - butanol (21). This compound is then cyclized, as described above, to give the corresponding xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid (5) which can be treated as described above, to prepare the compounds of the present invention.

The acid esters of the xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acids hereof are prepared as described above (e.g., 5→6).

The amides of the xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acids hereof are prepared by treatment of the acids with thionyl chloride followed by treatment with anhydrous ammonia or lower alkyl or dilower alkyl amine. In the lower alkyl sulfinyl series, the carboxylic acid amides are preferably prepared at the corresponding (lower alkylthio) stage followed by oxidation thereof, as described above.

The salts of the xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acids hereof are prepared by treating the corresponding acids with pharmaceutically acceptable base. Representative salts derived from such pharmaceutically acceptable bases include the sodium, potassium, lithium, ammonia, calcium, magnesium, ferrous, ferric, zinc, manganous, aluminum, manganic, trimethylamine, triethylamine, tripropylamine, β - (dimethylamino)ethanol, triethanolamine, β - (diethylamino)ethanol, arginine, lysine, histidine, N - ethylpiperidine, hydrabamine, (N,N' - bis(dehydroabietyl) - ethylenediamine), choline, betaine, ethylenediamine, glucosamine, methyl glucamine, theobromine, purines, piperazine, piperidine, polyamine resins, caffeine, procaine salts. The reaction is conducted in an aqueous solution, alone or in combination with an inert, water miscible organic solvent, at a temperature of from about 0°C. to about 100°C., preferably at room temperature. Typical inert, water miscible organic solvents include methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, butanol, acetone, dioxane, or tetrahydrofuran. When divalent metal salts are prepared, such as the calcium salts or magnesium salts of the acids the free acid starting material is treated with about one molar equivalent of pharmaceutically acceptable base. When the aluminum salts of the acids are prepared, about one molar equivalent of the pharmaceutically acceptable base are employed.

In the preferred embodiments of the present invention, the calcium salts and magnesium salts of the acids are prepared by treating the corresponding sodium or potassium salts of the acids with at least one molar equivalent of calcium chloride or magnesium chloride, respectively, in an aqueous solution, alone or in combination with an inert water miscible organic solvent, at a temperature of from about 20°C. to about 100°C.

In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the aluminum salts of the acids are prepared by treating the acids with at least one molar equivalent of an aluminum alkoxide, such as aluminum triethoxide, aluminum tripropoxide, and the like, in a hydrocarbon solvent, such as benzene, xylene, cyclohexane, and the like at a temperature of from 20°C. to about 115°C.

In the foregoing description, for simplicity, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy and lower alkylthio compounds have been referred to, but it should be understood that, where the definitions so admit, the description applies equally to the corresponding cycloalkyl, cycloalkoxy and cycloalkylthio compounds.

In the present specification and claims, by the term "lower alkyl" is intended a lower alkyl group containing 1 to 5 carbon atoms including straight and branched chain groups, for example, methyl, ethyl, n - propyl, isopropyl, n - butyl, isobutyl, sec - butyl, t - butyl, n - pentyl, isopentyl, sec - pentyl and t - pentyl. The term "cycloalkyl" means cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, and cyclopentyl. By the term "lower alkoxy" and "cycloalkoxy" are intended the group "O-lower alkyl" wherein "lower alkyl" is as defined above, and the group "O-cycloalkyl" wherein cycloalkyl is as defined above.

By the term "pharmaceutically acceptable, non-toxic esters, amides, and salts" is respectively intended a "lower alkyl" or "cycloalkyl" ester, "lower alkyl" and "cycloalkyl" being as defined above; an unsubstituted, mono(lower)alkyl, monocycloalkyl, (di)lower alkyl or dicycloalkyl substituted amide, "lower alkyl" and "cycloalkyl" being as defined above; and a salt as defined above.

In the lower alkyl sulfinyl series, the compounds possess a chiral center. The methods hereof generate each of the d and l and dl forms and each is thus included within the scope hereof. If desired, the isomers can be separated by conventional means such as forming the alkaloid salts of the products and employing fractional crystallization.

The nomenclature herein is employed in accordance with *Chemical Abstracts* 56 Subject Index (1962, January-June).

The cyclisation step described above forms the subject of our copending patent application No. 40699/74, (Serial No. 1398100) which is divided out of the present application.

The following Examples illustrate the method by which the present invention can be practiced.

Example 1

A mixture of 4.188 g. of 1,3 - dicarbomethoxy - 4 - bromobenzene, 2.85 g. of p - methoxyphenol, 1.32 g. of cuprous oxide in 20 ml. of dimethylacetamide is heated to 160°C. and maintained thereat with stirring and under a nitrogen atmosphere. After monitoring via t.l.c. indicates the reaction is substantially complete, the reaction mixture is diluted with water and extracted with diethylether:methylene chloride (3:1). The extracts are chromatographed on 150 g. of alumina and the uniform fractions combined to give 1,3 - dicarbomethoxy - 4 - (p - methoxyphenyloxy) - benzene.

1,3 - Dicarbomethoxy - 4 - (p - methoxyphenyloxy) - benzene (3 g.) is combined with 150 ml. of 5% potassium hydroxide in methanol. The resultant mixture is refluxed for 1 hour after which time it is acidified, cooled, and filtered, to give 1,3 - dicarboxy - 4 - (p - methoxyphenyloxy) - benzene.

Two grams of 1,3 - dicarboxy - 4 - (p - methoxyphenyloxy) - benzene in 20 ml. of concentrated sulfuric acid is stirred at 80°C. for 1 hour. After this time, the reaction mixture is poured into 200 ml. of ice water and the resultant mixture is heated on a steam bath for 15 minutes. The mixture is cooled and filtered with the precipitate being washed with water and then recrystallized from acetic acid to give 7 - methoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

The foregoing procedure can be practiced using an alternative 1,3 - dicarbo-loweralkoxy - 4 - halo starting compound, such as 1,3 - dicarbomethoxy - 4 - chloro- (or iodo) benzene, 1,3 - dicarboethoxy - 4 - fluoro - benzene, 1,3 - dicarboethoxy - 4 - bromo - benzene, and the like, with similar results. Likewise, the foregoing procedure can be practiced using an alternate 4-loweralkoxyphenol starting compound to prepare the corresponding 7-lower alkoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acids, e.g. 7 - ethoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - n - propoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - isopropoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - n - butoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - isobutoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - sec - butoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - t - butoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - n - pentyloxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, and 7 - cyclopentyloxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

Likewise prepared are the corresponding C-5 substituted compounds, i.e. 5 - methoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - ethoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - n - propoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, and so forth.

The foregoing procedure can also be practiced upon the corresponding 4 - (lower-alkylthio) - phenol starting compounds to prepare the corresponding C-5 and C-7 (lower alkylthio) substituted compounds, i.e. 7 - (methylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - (methylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - (ethylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - (ethylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - (n - propylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - (n - propylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - (isopropylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - (isopropylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - (n - butylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - (n - butylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - (isobutylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - (isobutylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - (sec - butylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - (sec - butylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - (t - butylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - (t - butylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - (n - pentylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - (n - pentylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - (cyclopentylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, and 5 - (cyclopentylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

Example 2

The procedures of Example 1 are repeated using o - hydroxyphenol and p - hydroxyphenol as starting compounds to respectively prepare 5 - hydroxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid and 7 - hydroxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

Alternatively, the hydroxy compounds can be prepared from the lower alkoxy compounds of Example 1 according to the following representative procedure.

Example 3

A mixture of 11 grams of 7 - methoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid in 100 ml.

of concentrated aqueous hydrogen iodide and 100 ml. of acetic acid is refluxed for 4 hours. After this time, the mixture is cooled, diluted with water, and filtered. The precipitate is washed and dried to give 7 - hydroxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

Example 4

A mixture of 4 grams of 7 - hydroxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 10 g. of methyl iodide, and 10 g. of lithium carbonate in 50 ml. of dimethylformamide is stirred at room temperature for a period of 16 hours. After this period of time, the reaction mixture is poured into dilute hydrochloric acid-ice and the resultant mixture extracted with ethyl acetate. The extracts are filtered through alumina to give methyl 7 - hydroxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylate which can be recrystallized from methanol.

Example 5

To a solution of 6.2 g. of methyl 7 - hydroxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylate in 100 ml. of dimethylformamide are added 1 g. of sodium hydride. The mixture is stirred for 10 minutes at room temperature under nitrogen. Dimethylthiocarbamoyl chloride (3 g.) is then added thereto and the resultant mixture stirred at 70°C. for 6 hours and then at room temperature for 16 hours. The mixture is then poured into 200 ml. of water containing 1 ml. of acetic acid, the resultant mixture is filtered and the solid dried to give methyl 7 - dimethylthiocarbamoyloxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylate.

Methyl 7 - dimethylthiocarbamoyloxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylate (8 g.) in 150 ml. of sulfolane is stirred at 230°C. under nitrogen. After a total of 6 hours under these conditions, t.l.c. indicates the absence of starting material. The mixture is cooled to 80°C. and 150 ml. of hot water are slowly added. The mixture is then cooled and the filtered solid washed with water and dried to give methyl 7 - (dimethylcarbamoylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylate.

Methyl 7 - (dimethylcarbamoylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylate (7.5 g.), 10 g. of potassium hydroxide and 250 ml. of 80% aqueous ethanol is refluxed for 1 hour. After this time, 250 ml. of water are added and the mixture is treated with charcoal, filtered, acidified. The product is filtered off and dried to give 7 - mercaptioxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

In like manner, 5 - mercaptioxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid is prepared from methyl 5 - hydroxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylate.

Example 6

A mixture of 3 g. of 7 - mercaptioxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid in 150 ml. of dimethylformamide, 5 ml. of methyl iodide and 5 ml. of potassium carbonate is stirred for 16 hours at 60°C. The mixture is then poured into dilute hydrochloric acid and the resultant mixture extracted with ethyl acetate. The extracts are chromatographed on alumina (methylene chloride) to give methyl 7 - (methylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylate (i.e. methyl 7 - thiomethoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylate) which can be recrystallized from methylene chloride/methanol.

A mixture of 580 mg. of methyl 7 - (methylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylate, 30 ml. of ethanol, 5 ml. of saturated sodium carbonate solution and 5 ml. of water is refluxed for 1 hour. The mixture is then cooled, acidified and the precipitate filtered off to give 7 - (methylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid (i.e. 7 - thiomethoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid) as also prepared in the alternative method described in Example 1.

A mixture of 0.8 g. of 7 - mercaptioxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 2 ml. of 2 - bromopropane, and excess potassium carbonate in 50 ml. of dimethylformamide is stirred for 24 hours at 75°C. Dilute hydrochloric acid and ethanol are added, the solid filtered off and washed. The solid is saponified with sodium carbonate in aqueous methanol (30 minutes reflux). The alkaline solution is diluted with water, treated with charcoal, filtered, and acidified to give 7 - (isopropylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid which can be recrystallized from tetrahydrofuran/ethyl acetate.

In a similar manner (and alternative to the method of Example 1), the following are prepared from the respective starting compounds:

- 5 - (methylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
- 5 - (isopropylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
- 7 - (ethylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
- 5 - (ethylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
- 7 - (n - propylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
- 5 - (n - propylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
- 7 - (n - butylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,

- 5 - (n - butylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 7 - (sec - butylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 5 - (sec - butylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 7 - (isobutylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 5 - (isobutylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 7 - (t - butylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 5 - (t - butylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 7 - (n - pentylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 5 - (n - pentylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 7 - (cyclopentylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, and
 5 - (cyclopentylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

Example 7

Methyl 7 - (methylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylate (764 mg.), 2 ml. of hydrogen peroxide (30%), and 40 ml. of acetic acid are heated on the steam bath (80°C.) for 90 minutes. Tlc indicates the absence of starting material. The mixture is diluted with 60 ml. of hot water, and the mixture is cooled, the solid is filtered off and dried to give methyl 7 - methylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate which can be recrystallized from acetic acid/water.

Methyl 7 - methylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate (660 mg.), 1 g. of potassium hydroxide, and 60 ml. of 80% aqueous ethanol are refluxed for 30 minutes. The mixture is filtered, acidified, and the solid filtered off to give 7 - methylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

In like manner, 5 - methylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid is prepared.

Likewise, from the respective starting compounds are prepared the following compounds:

- 7 - isopropylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 5 - isopropylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 7 - ethylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 5 - ethylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 7 - n - propylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 5 - n - propylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 7 - n - butylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 5 - n - butylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 7 - sec - butylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 5 - sec - butylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 7 - isobutylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 5 - isobutylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 7 - t - butylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 5 - t - butylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 7 - n - pentylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 5 - n - pentylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 7 - cyclopentylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, and
 5 - cyclopentylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

Example 8

Methyl 7 - (methylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylate (927 mg.) in 60 ml. of methylene chloride is cooled to 0°C. (ice). m - Chloroperbenzoic acid (555 mg.) is then added and the mixture is stirred at 0°C. for 75 minutes. The reaction mixture is then filtered through alumina and washed with methylene chloride to give methyl 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate which can be recrystallized from benzene/heptane.

Methyl 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate (720 mg.), 75 ml. of ethanol, and 10 ml. of 5% sodium hydroxide are refluxed for 30 minutes. The mixture is cooled, partially evaporated and acidified. The precipitate is filtered off, washed and dried to give 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid which can be recrystallized from acetic acid.

In like manner, 5 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid is prepared.

Likewise from the respective starting compounds are prepared the following compounds:

- 7 - isopropylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 5 - isopropylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,
 7 - ethylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,

	5 - ethylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,	21
	7 - n - propylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,	
	5 - n - propylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,	
5	7 - n - butylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,	5
	5 - n - butylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,	
	7 - sec - butylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,	
	5 - sec - butylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,	
	7 - isobutylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,	
10	5 - isobutylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,	10
	7 - t - butylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,	
	5 - t - butylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,	
	7 - n - pentylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,	
	5 - n - pentylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid,	
15	7 - cyclopentylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, and	15
	5 - cyclopentylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.	

The procedures of Examples 7 and 8 can be practiced upon the corresponding acid starting compounds to give the same products without the need of the hydrolysis step.

Example 9

20 A mixture of 51.5 g. of 1,3 - dimethyl - 4 - iodobenzene (4 - iodo - m - xylene),
40 g. of p - methoxyphenol, 16 g. of cuprous oxide in 300 ml. of dimethylacetamide
is heated to the boiling point and maintained under reflux (190°C.) for 144 hours
with stirring and under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture is then poured
25 into ice water and extracted with ether and the extracts are filtered through 500 g.
of alumina in hexane to give 1,3 - dimethyl - 4 - (p - methoxyphenyloxy) - benzene. 25

A mixture of 41 g. of 1,3 - dimethyl - 4 - (p - methoxyphenyloxy) - benzene,
300 g. of potassium permanganate, 500 ml. of t - butanol, and 750 ml. of water is
heated to the boiling point and maintained thereat for a period of 3 hours. After
distilling off the t - butanol, the reaction mixture is filtered, the clear filtrate acidified
30 and the precipitate of 1,2 - dicarboxy - 4 - (p - methoxyphenyloxy) - benzene is
isolated by suction filtration and washed with water. 30

The 1,3 - dicarboxy - 4 - (p - methoxyphenyloxy) - benzene thus prepared is
then cyclized as described in Example 1 or 10 to give 7 - methoxyxanthone - 2 -
35 carboxylic acid which can be converted to 7 - hydroxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic
acid. 35

In a similar manner, the foregoing procedure can be practiced utilizing other
p - lower alkoxyphenol or p - lower alkylthiophenol starting compounds to prepare
the corresponding products, for example, 7 - (methylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic
acid, 7 - ethoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - (ethylthio) - xanthone - 2 -
40 carboxylic acid, 7 - n - propoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - (n - propylthio) -
xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - isopropoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 -
(isopropylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 7 - n - butoxyxanthone - 2 -
carboxylic acid, 7 - (n - butylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, and so forth,
45 which can each be converted to 7 - hydroxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid. 45

These compounds can then be treated as described in Examples 4 to 8 to
prepare the corresponding 7 - substituted compounds of the present invention.

Example 10

A mixture of 15.5 g. of 1,3 - dimethyl - 4 - bromobenzene, 10.5 g. of o -
methoxyphenol, 4.65 g. of cuprous oxide, 40 ml. of tetramethylurea, and 75 ml. of
50 N - methylpyrrolidone is stirred at 165° for 86 hours. The resultant mixture is
diluted with water and extracted with methylene chloride. The methylene chloride
extracts are chromatographed on 300 g. of alumina with gradient elution using
hexane:ether to give 1,3 - dimethyl - 4 - (o - methoxyphenyloxy) - benzene. 50

A mixture of 12 g. of 1,3 - dimethyl - 4 - (o - methoxyphenyloxy) - benzene,
72 g. of potassium permanganate, 200 ml. of t - butanol and 350 ml. of water is
55 refluxed for 4 1/2 hours. After this time, the t - butanol is distilled off, and the
reaction mixture is filtered. The filtrate is acidified to give 1,3 - dicarboxy - 4 - (o -
methoxyphenyloxy) - benzene which can be recrystallized from benzene:heptane - 55

A mixture of 3 g. of 1,3 - dicarboxy - 4 - (o - methoxyphenyloxy) - benzene,
75 ml. of polyphosphoric acid, and 75 ml. of sulfolane is stirred at 125°C. for a
60 period of 2 hours. After this time, the reaction mixture is poured into water, filtered
and the precipitate washed. The precipitate is recrystallized from acetic acid 60

(charcoal) to give 5 - methoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid which can be converted to 5 - hydroxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

In a similar manner, the foregoing procedure can be practiced utilizing other o - lower alkoxyphenol or o - lower alkylthiophenol starting compounds to prepare the corresponding products, for example, 5 - (methylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - ethoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - (ethylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - n - propoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - (n - propylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - isopropoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - (isopropylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - n - butoxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 5 - (n - butylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, and so forth, which can each be converted to 5 - hydroxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

These compounds can then be treated as described in Examples 4 to 8 to prepare the corresponding 5 - substituted compounds of the present invention.

Example 11

A mixture of 4.5 g. of 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, 10 g. of methyl iodide, and 10 g. of lithium carbonate in 75 ml. of dimethylformamide is stirred at room temperature for a period of 18 hours. After this period of time, the reaction mixture is poured into dilute hydrochloric acid-ice and the resultant precipitate is filtered off and washed to give methyl 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate.

The foregoing procedure is repeated using the alternate lower alkyl iodides so as to prepare the corresponding lower alkyl acid esters hereof, e.g. ethyl 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, n - propyl 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, isopropyl 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, n - propyl 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, isobutyl 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, sec - butyl 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, t - butyl 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, n - pentyl 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, and so forth.

In like manner, the other xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acids hereof containing substituents at the C-5 or C-7 positions, prepared as described above, can be converted to the corresponding acid esters, e.g. methyl 7 - methylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, ethyl 5 - methylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, and so forth.

Example 12

To a solution of 10 g. of 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid in 200 ml. of ethanol is added the theoretical amount of sodium hydroxide dissolved in 200 ml. of 90% ethanol. The reaction mixture is then concentrated in vacuum to give sodium 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate.

In a similar manner, the potassium and lithium salts are prepared. Similarly, by replacing the sodium salt by means of an appropriate metal salt reagent, e.g. calcium chloride, manganese chloride, and so forth, the other xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid salts are prepared, e.g. magnesium 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, calcium 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, aluminum 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, ferrous 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, zinc 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, manganese 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, ferric 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, and so forth.

In a similar manner, the xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid salts of the other C-5 or C-7 substituted xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acids hereof are prepared, e.g. potassium 5 - methylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylate, and so forth.

Example 13

Example 5 of our copending Patent application No. 38515/74 (Serial No. 1398099) describes the preparation of ammonium salts and amides of substituted xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acids by reaction with ammonia.

In like manner, the lower alkyl amides can be prepared using monoalkylamine or dialkylamine in lieu of ammonia. Thus prepared, e.g. are:

N - methyl 7 - n - propylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid amide,

N,N - diethyl 7 - ethylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid amide,

N - n - propyl 7 - propylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid amide, and so forth.

Example 14

To a mixture of 20 g. of procaine and 500 ml. of aqueous methanol are added 20 g. of 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid. The resultant mixture is

stirred at room temperature for 16 hours. It is then evaporated under reduced pressure, to give the procaine salt of 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

Similarly, the lysine, caffeine, and arginine salts thereof are obtained. In like manner, the e.g. procaine, lysine, caffeine, and arginine salts of the other 5- and 7-substituted xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acids are obtained, e.g. the procaine salt of 7 - ethylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, the caffeine salt of 5 - propylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, and the procaine salt of 5 - sec - butylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

Example 15

The following procedures illustrate the method by which the pharmaceutical compositions of the compounds hereof are prepared.

Sodium chloride (0.44 g.) is dissolved in 80 ml. of a (9.47 g/l. water) sodium hydrogen phosphate solution. A sodium dihydrogen phosphate (8.00 g/l. water) solution (20 ml.) is then added thereto. The resultant solution having a pH of 7.38 is sterilized in an autoclave. This vehicle is then added to solid, dry 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid to give a preparation suitable for intravenous injection containing 2.5 mg. of 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid per ml. of total composition.

Example 16

The following procedure illustrates a test procedure for the compounds hereof.

Normal female (Sprague-Dawley) rats of 150 to 200 grams each are passively sensitized intradermally by injection of rat anti-egg albumin reaginic sera. After 24 hours, each rat is challenged intravenously with 1 ml. of 0.5% Evans blue, 1 mg. egg albumin plus 0.20 mg. of 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid. Control rats receive no 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid. The dermal bluing is recorded 15 to 25 minutes later. The rats which receive the 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid exhibit a 100 percent inhibition of allergic reaction whereas the control rats exhibit no inhibition.

The above procedure is repeated using 7 - methylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, with similar results. The above procedure is repeated using oral administration, with similar results.

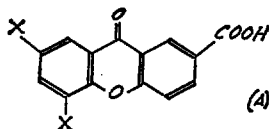
The C-5 and C-7 substituted xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid compounds are administered by gavage at a dose of 5 mg. per animal 15 minutes prior to challenge. Twenty to thirty minutes after challenge the degree of dermal bluing is read, with similar results.

Inhibition of reaginic antigen-antibody reactions in rats is regarded as representative of inhibition of human reaginic antigen-antibody reactions which occur during allergic episodes.

Subjects challenged by antigen inhalation are measured for the extent of provoked degree of asthma condition by changes in airway resistance on expiration. The present compounds are administered as an aerosol by inhalation before antigen challenge. Prevention of asthmatic conditions upon the administration of the compounds is evidenced by a decrease in airway resistance and other, subjective improvements, e.g. reduced cough.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A compound selected from those represented by the following formula:



and the pharmaceutically acceptable, non-toxic esters, amides and salts thereof; wherein one of X is hydrogen and the other X is a group of the formula



in which n is the integer 1 or 2 and R is lower alkyl or cycloalkyl.



stirred at room temperature for 16 hours. It is then evaporated under reduced pressure, to give the procaine salt of 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

Similarly, the lysine, caffeine, and arginine salts thereof are obtained. In like manner, the e.g. procaine, lysine, caffeine, and arginine salts of the other 5- and 7-substituted xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acids are obtained, e.g. the procaine salt of 7 - ethylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, the caffeine salt of 5 - propylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, and the procaine salt of 5 - sec - butylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.

Example 15

The following procedures illustrate the method by which the pharmaceutical compositions of the compounds hereof are prepared.

Sodium chloride (0.44 g.) is dissolved in 80 ml. of a (9.47 g/l. water) sodium hydrogen phosphate solution. A sodium dihydrogen phosphate (8.00 g/l. water) solution (20 ml.) is then added thereto. The resultant solution having a pH of 7.38 is sterilized in an autoclave. This vehicle is then added to solid, dry 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid to give a preparation suitable for intravenous injection containing 2.5 mg. of 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid per ml. of total composition.

Example 16

The following procedure illustrates a test procedure for the compounds hereof.

Normal female (Sprague-Dawley) rats of 150 to 200 grams each are passively sensitized intradermally by injection of rat anti-egg albumin reaginic sera. After 24 hours, each rat is challenged intravenously with 1 ml. of 0.5% Evans blue; 1 mg. egg albumin plus 0.20 mg. of 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid. Control rats receive no 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid. The dermal bluing is recorded 15 to 25 minutes later. The rats which receive the 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid exhibit a 100 percent inhibition of allergic reaction whereas the control rats exhibit no inhibition.

The above procedure is repeated using 7 - methylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid, with similar results. The above procedure is repeated using oral administration, with similar results.

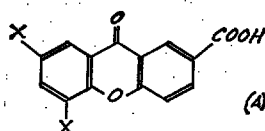
The C-5 and C-7 substituted xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid compounds are administered by gavage at a dose of 5 mg. per animal 15 minutes prior to challenge. Twenty to thirty minutes after challenge the degree of dermal bluing is read, with similar results.

Inhibition of reaginic antigen-antibody reactions in rats is regarded as representative of inhibition of human reaginic antigen-antibody reactions which occur during allergic episodes.

Subjects challenged by antigen inhalation are measured for the extent of provoked degree of asthma condition by changes in airway resistance on expiration. The present compounds are administered as an aerosol by inhalation before antigen challenge. Prevention of asthmatic conditions upon the administration of the compounds is evidenced by a decrease in airway resistance and other, subjective improvements, e.g. reduced cough.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A compound selected from those represented by the following formula:



and the pharmaceutically acceptable, non-toxic esters, amides and salts thereof; wherein one of X is hydrogen and the other X is a group of the formula



in which n is the integer 1 or 2 and R is lower alkyl or cycloalkyl.



2. A C-5 substituted compound according to Claim 1.
3. A compound according to Claim 2 wherein n is 1 and R is lower alkyl.
4. The compound according to Claim 3 wherein R is methyl.
5. A C-7 substituted compound according to Claim 1.
6. A compound according to Claim 5 wherein n is 1 and R is lower alkyl.
7. A compound according to Claim 6 wherein R is methyl.
8. A compound according to Claim 5 wherein n is 2 and R is lower alkyl.
9. A compound according to Claim 8 wherein R is methyl.
10. 7 - methylsulfinylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.
11. 7 - ethylsulfinylxanthone - carboxylic acid.
12. 7 - methylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.
13. 7 - ethylsulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid.
14. The sodium salts of the compounds according to Claim 1.
15. The salts according to Claim 14 of the C-7 substituted compounds.
16. A method useful for inhibiting the effects of the allergic reaction which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound selected from those of claim 1 and the pharmaceutically acceptable, non-toxic esters, amides and salts thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic composition incorporating said acids, esters, amides or salts as an essential ingredient.
17. A composition useful for inhibiting the effects of the allergic reaction comprising an effective amount of a compound selected from those of claim 1 and the pharmaceutically acceptable, non-toxic esters, amides and salts thereof; in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic carrier.
18. A process for preparing a compound selected from those of claim 1 and the pharmaceutically acceptable, non-toxic esters, amides and salts thereof; which comprises:
 - 1) oxidizing a 5- or 7 - (alkylthio or cycloalkylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid or an ester thereof with peracid, optionally followed by hydrolysis to give the corresponding 5- or 7 - alkylsulfinyl or cycloalkylsulfinyl - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acids or the alkyl esters thereof; or
 - 2) oxidizing a 5- or 7 - (alkylthio or cycloalkylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid or an ester thereof with hydrogen peroxide, optionally followed by hydrolysis, to give the corresponding 5- or 7 - alkyl or cycloalkyl - sulfonylxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acids or the esters thereof; or
 - 3) optionally converting a product of steps 1) or 2) to its corresponding pharmaceutically acceptable, non-toxic ester, amide or salt.
19. The process according to Claim 18 wherein the starting 5- or 7 - (alkylthio or cycloalkylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acids or esters thereof are prepared by a process which comprises:
 - 1) condensing an o- or p - (alkylthio or cycloalkylthio)phenol with a 1,3 - dicarboalkoxy or dicarbocycloalkoxy - 4 - halobenzene in the presence of cuprous oxide to give the corresponding 1,3 - dicarboalkoxy or dicarbocycloalkoxy - 4 - (o- or p - alkylthio or cycloalkylthio - phenyloxy) - benzene, base hydrolyzing the latter to give the corresponding 1,3 - dicarboxy - 4 - (o- or p - alkylthio or cycloalkylthio - phenyloxy) - benzene, and cyclizing the latter to give the corresponding 5- or 7 - (alkylthio or cycloalkylthio) - xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid; or
 - 2) condensing a o- or p-substituted phenol wherein the substituent is hydroxy, (lower)alkoxy or cycloalkoxy with a 1,3 - dicarboalkoxy or dicarbocycloalkoxy - 4 - halobenzene in the presence of cuprous oxide to give the corresponding 1,3 - dicarboalkoxy or dicarbocycloalkoxy - 4 - (o- or p-substituted phenyloxy) - benzene, base hydrolyzing the latter to give the corresponding 1,3 - dicarboxy - 4 - (o- or p-substituted phenyloxy) - benzene, and cyclizing the latter to give the corresponding 5- or 7-substituted xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid; or
 - 3) condensing a o- or p-substituted phenol wherein the substituent is hydroxy, (lower)alkoxy or cycloalkoxy with a 1,3 - dimethyl - 4 - halobenzene to give the corresponding 1,3 - dimethyl - 4 - (o- or p-substituted phenyloxy) - benzene, oxidizing the latter to give the corresponding 1,3 - dicarboxy - 4 - (o- or p-substituted phenyloxy) - benzene, and cyclizing the latter to give the corresponding 5- or 7-substituted xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid; and
 - 4) converting any 5- or 7-lower alkoxy or cycloalkoxy xanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid of steps 2) and 3) to the corresponding 5- or 7-hydroxy compound; and
 - 5) converting any 5- or 7 - hydroxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid of steps 2), 3), and 4) to its (lower)alkyl or cycloalkyl ester; and
 - 6) treating a 5- or 7 - hydroxyxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acid ester of step 5) with a dialkylthiocarbonyl chloride in the presence of base, rearranging the pro-



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duct thereof, and base hydrolyzing the rearranged product thereof to give the corresponding 5- or 7 - mercaptoxanthone - 2 - carboxylic acids; and

7) treating a product of step 6) with an alkyl halide in the presence of base optionally followed by hydrolysis.

20. A compound according to Claim 1, substantially as described and exemplified herein.

21. A process according to Claim 18, substantially as described and exemplified herein.

22. A compound as defined in Claim 1 whenever prepared by a process of any one of Claims 18, 19 and 21.

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of any one of Claims 1 to 14, 20 and 22 in a pharmaceutical excipient.

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