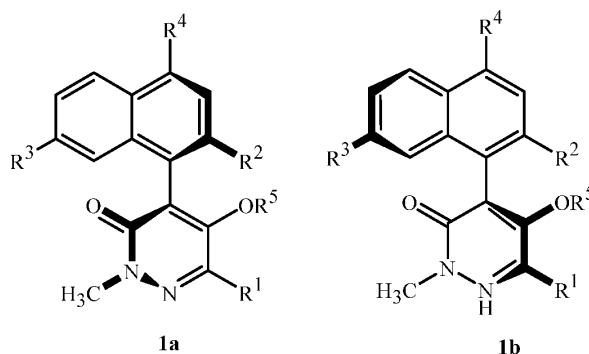


CLAIMS

1. An optically active compound selected from atropisomers of Formula **1a** and Formula **1b**, all stereoisomers, *N*-oxides, and salts thereof, compositions containing them
 5 and their use as herbicides:



wherein

- R^1 is Me or halogen;
 10 R^2 is CH_3 , CH_2CH_3 , halogen, trifluoromethyl or difluoromethoxy;
 R^3 is hydrogen, CH_3 or halogen;
 R^4 is hydrogen, CH_3 or halogen; and
 R^5 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy carbonyl or C_1 - C_4 alkylcarboxymethyl;

15 wherein

the atropisomer of Formula **1a** or **1b**, an *N*-oxide or salt thereof, is present in excess of its corresponding enantiomer or an *N*-oxide or salt thereof:

2. The compound of Claim 1 comprising an atropisomer of a compound of Formula **1a** or an *N*-oxide or salt thereof which is present in excess of its corresponding
 20 enantiomer of Formula **1b** or an *N*-oxide or salt thereof.

3. The compound of Claim 1 wherein

- R^1 is Cl or CH_3 ;
 R^2 is CH_3 or difluoromethoxy;
 R^3 is CH_3 or H;
 25 R^4 is H; and
 R^5 is H or $-(C=O)CH_2CH_3$.

4. The compound of Claim 1 wherein

- R^1 is Cl;
 R^2 is CH_3 ;
 30 R^3 is CH_3 or H;

R^4 is H; and

R^5 is H or $-(C=O)CH_2CH_3$.

5. The compound of Claim 4 wherein

R^1 is Cl;

5 R^2 is CH_3 ;

R^3 is CH_3 ;

R^4 is H; and

R^5 is H.

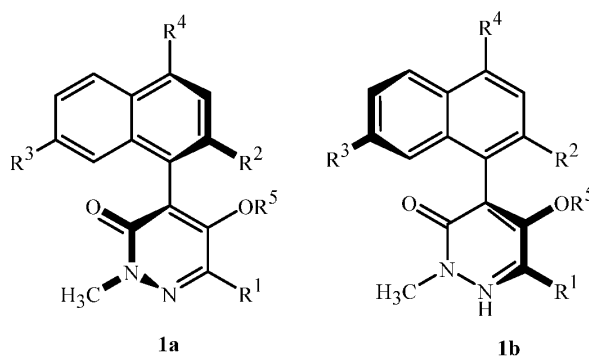
6. The compound of Claim 1 comprising an atropisomer of a compound of
10 Formula **1b** or an *N*-oxide or salt thereof which is present in excess of its corresponding enantiomer of Formula **1a** or an *N*-oxide or salt thereof.

7. The compound of any of Claims 1 through 6 has a plus (+) rotation value.

8. The compound of any of Claims 1 through 6 has a minus (-) rotation value.

9. The compound of any of Claims 1 through 6 wherein one atropisomer is more
15 herbicidally active than the corresponding enantiomer.

10. A process for preparing a compound of Formula **1a** or **1b**



wherein

R^1 is CH_3 or halogen;

20 R^2 is CH_3 , CH_2CH_3 , halogen, trifluoromethyl or difluoromethoxy;

R^3 is H, CH_3 or halogen;

R^4 is H, CH_3 or halogen;

R^5 is H, C_1-C_4 alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy carbonyl or C_1-C_4 alkylcarboxymethyl;

the process comprising:

25 1) loading a racemic mixture of a compound of Formula 1 comprising the atropisomers of Formulae **1a** and **1b** onto a chiral supported chromatography column and eluting with a mobile phase;

2) isolating two separate fractions with different retention times; one containing an atropisomer with a positive optical rotation value $[\alpha]_D^{25}(+)$; and one atropisomer with a negative optical rotation value $[\alpha]_D^{25}(-)$,

11. The process of Claim 10 wherein

- 5 R^1 is Cl or CH_3 ;
 R^2 is CH_3 or difluoromethoxy;
 R^3 is CH_3 or H;
 R^4 is H; and
 R^5 is H or $-(C=O)CH_2CH_3$.

10 12. The process of Claim 11 wherein

- R^1 is Cl;
 R^2 is CH_3 ;
 R^3 is CH_3 or H;
 R^4 is H; and
15 R^5 is H or $-(C=O)CH_2CH_3$.

 13. The process of Claim 12 wherein

- R^1 is Cl;
 R^2 is CH_3 ;
 R^3 is CH_3 ;
20 R^4 is H; and
 R^5 is H.

 14. A herbicidal composition comprising the compound of any of Claims 1 through 9 and at least one component selected from the group consisting of surfactants, solid diluents, and liquid diluents.

25 15. A herbicidal composition comprising a compound of any one of Claims 1 through 9, at least one additional active ingredient selected from the group consisting of other herbicides and herbicide safeners, and at least one component selected from the group consisting of surfactants, solid diluents and liquid diluents.

30 16. A herbicidal mixture comprising (a) a compound of any of Claims 1 through 9, and (b) at least one additional active ingredient.

 17. A method for controlling the growth of undesired vegetation comprising contacting the vegetation or its environment with a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of any one of Claims 1 through 9.