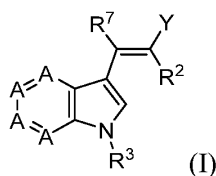


CLAIMS

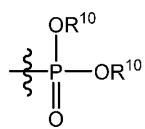
What is claimed is:

1. A method for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)



wherein:

each A is independently CH, CR⁴, or N;



Y is carboxyl, ester, amide, or

R² is CN or carboxyl;

R³ is H, aryl, aralkyl, or aralkylacyl, and is optionally substituted by one or more R⁵;

each instance of R⁴ is independently alkyl, carboxyl, halo, hydroxy, ester, or CN;

each instance of R⁵ is independently selected from alkyl, alkoxy, or halo;

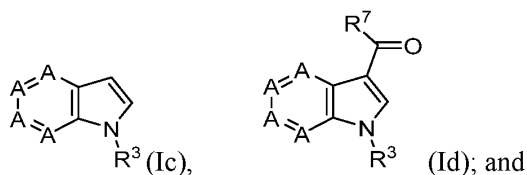
R⁷ is hydrogen, alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxy, or acyloxy; and

R¹⁰ is hydrogen or alkyl;

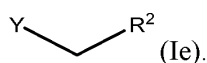
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

said method comprising:

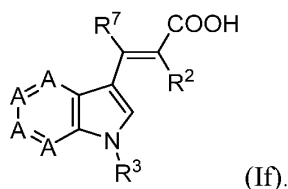
reacting the compound of formula (Ic) with an acylation (e.g., formylation) reagent to produce a compound of formula (Id):



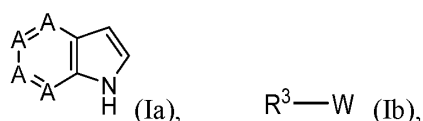
reacting the compound of formula (Id) with a condensation agent of formula (Ie) to produce the compound of formula (I):



2. The method of claim 1, further comprising hydrolyzing the compound of formula (I) to produce a compound of formula (If):

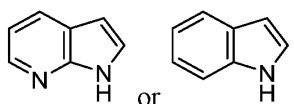


3. The method of any one of claims 1-2, further comprising reacting a compound of formula (Ia) with an alkylation reagent of formula (Ib) to produce a compound of formula (Ic):

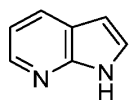


wherein W is a leaving group (e.g., halo).

4. The method of any one of claims 1-3, wherein at least one A is N.
5. The method of any one of claims 1-4, wherein exactly one A is N.
6. The method of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the compound of formula I(a) is

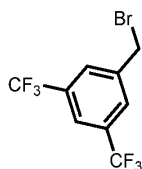


7. The method of any one of claims 1-4, wherein compound (Ia) is

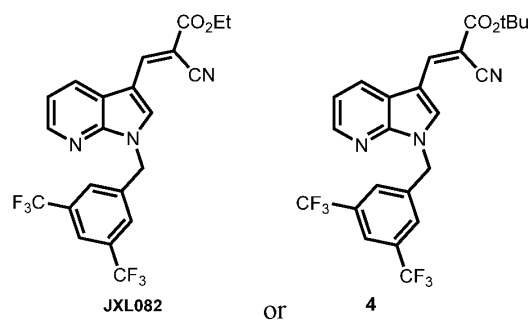


8. The method of any one of claims 1-7, wherein R² is CN.
9. The method of any one of claims 1-7, wherein R³ is benzyl.
10. The method of any one of claims 1-7, wherein R³ is benzyl and is substituted by one or more R⁵.

11. The method of any one of claims 1-10, wherein R^3 is substituted by one or two R^5 , and wherein each R^5 is independently selected from fluoroalkyl or fluoro.
12. The method of any one of claims 1-10, wherein R^3 is substituted by two R^5 , and wherein each R^5 is trifluoromethyl.
13. The method of claims 1-12, wherein R^7 is hydrogen, hydroxyl, halo (e.g., chloro), or acyloxy (e.g., acetyloxy).
14. The method of claims 1-13, wherein R^7 is hydrogen.
15. The method of any one of claims 3-14, wherein the leaving group W of the alkylation reagent is halo.
16. The method of any one of claims 3-15, wherein the leaving group W of the alkylation reagent is bromide.
17. The method of any one of claims 3-16, wherein the alkylation reagent is



18. The method of any one of claims 1-17, wherein the acylation reagent is phosphorus oxychloride.
19. The method of any one of claims 1-18, wherein the condensation agent is ethyl 2-cyanoacetate or *tert*-butyl 2-cyanoacetate.
20. The method of any one of claims 1-19, wherein the compound of formula (I) is



21. The method of any one of claims 2-20, wherein the compound of formula (If) is

