

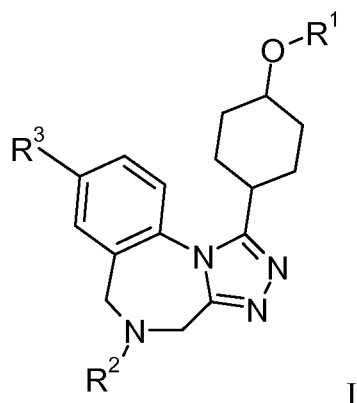
ALKYLCYCLOHEXYLETHERS OF DIHYDROTETRAAZABENZOAZULENES

5 The present invention is concerned with alkylcyclohexylethers of dihydro-tetraazabenzazulene derivatives, i.e. alkylcyclohexylethers of 5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene derivatives, which act as V1a receptor modulators, and in particular as V1a receptor antagonists, their manufacture, pharmaceutical compositions containing them and their use as medicaments.

Technical Field

10 The active compounds of the present invention are useful as therapeutics acting peripherally and centrally in the conditions of dysmenorrhea, male or female sexual dysfunction, hypertension, chronic heart failure, inappropriate secretion of vasopressin, liver cirrhosis, nephrotic syndrome, anxiety, depressive disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, autistic spectrum disorders, schizophrenia, and aggressive behavior.

In particular, the present invention is concerned with alkylcyclohexylethers of dihydro-tetraazabenzazulene derivatives of formula I



wherein R¹, R² and R³ are as described in herewithin.

Background Art

Vasopressin is a 9 amino acid peptide mainly produced by the paraventricular nucleus of the hypothalamus. In the periphery vasopressin acts as a neurohormone and stimulates vasoconstriction, glycogenolysis and antidiuresis.

25 Three vasopressin receptors, all belonging to the class I G-protein coupled receptors, are known. The V1a receptor is expressed in the brain, liver, vascular smooth muscle, lung, uterus

and testis, the V1b or V3 receptor is expressed in the brain and pituitary gland, the V2 receptor is expressed in the kidney where it regulates water reabsorption and mediates the antidiuretic effects of vasopressin (Robben, et al. (2006). *Am J Physiol Renal Physiol.* 291, F257-70, "Cell biological aspects of the vasopressin type-2 receptor and aquaporin 2 water channel in nephrogenic diabetes insipidus"). Compounds with activity at the V2 receptor may therefore cause side-effects on blood homeostasis.

The oxytocin receptor is related to the Vasopressin receptor family and mediates the effects of the neurohormone oxytocin in the brain and the periphery. Oxytocin is believed to have central anxiolytic effects (Neumann (2008). *J Neuroendocrinol.* 20, 858-65, "Brain oxytocin: a key regulator of emotional and social behaviours in both females and males"). Central oxytocin receptor antagonism might therefore lead to anxiogenic effects, which are regarded as undesired side-effects.

In the brain vasopressin acts as a neuromodulator and is elevated in the amygdala during stress (Ebner, et al. (2002). *Eur J Neurosci.* 15, 384-8., "Forced swimming triggers vasopressin release within the amygdala to modulate stress-coping strategies in rats"). It is known that stressful life events can trigger major depression and anxiety (Kendler, et al. (2003). *Arch Gen Psychiatry.* 60, 789-96, "Life Event Dimensions of Loss, Humiliation, Entrapment, and Danger in the Prediction of Onsets of Major Depression and Generalized Anxiety") and that both have very high comorbidity, with anxiety often preceding major depression (Regier, et al. (1998). *Br J Psychiatry Suppl.* 24-8, "Prevalence of anxiety disorders and their comorbidity with mood and addictive disorders"). The V1a receptor is extensively expressed in the brain and particularly in limbic areas like the amygdala, lateral septum and hippocampus which are playing an important role in the regulation of anxiety. Indeed V1a knock-out mice show a reduction in anxious behavior in the plus-maze, open field and light-dark box (Bielsky, et al. (2004). *Neuropsychopharmacology.* 29, 483-93, "Profound impairment in social recognition and reduction in anxiety-like behavior in vasopressin V1a receptor knockout mice"). The downregulation of the V1a receptor using antisense oligonucleotide injection in the septum also causes a reduction in anxious behavior (Landgraf, et al. (1995). *Regul Pept.* 59, 229-39., "V1 vasopressin receptor antisense oligodeoxynucleotide into septum reduces vasopressin binding, social discrimination abilities, and anxiety-related behavior in rats"). Vasopressin or the V1a receptor are also implicated in other neuropsychological disorders: genetic studies recently linked sequence polymorphism in the promoter of the human V1a receptor to autistic spectrum disorders (Yirmiya, et al. (2006). 11, 488-94, "Association between the arginine vasopressin 1a receptor (AVPR1a) gene and autism in a family-based study: mediation by socialization skills"), intranasal administration of vasopressin was shown to influence aggression in human males (Thompson, et al. (2004). *Psychoneuroendocrinology.* 29, 35-48, "The effects of vasopressin on human facial responses related to social communication") and vasopressin levels were found to be elevated in schizophrenic patients (Raskind, et al. (1987). *Biol Psychiatry.* 22, 453-62,

"Antipsychotic drugs and plasma vasopressin in normals and acute schizophrenic patients") and patients with obsessive-compulsive disorder (Altemus, et al. (1992). Arch Gen Psychiatry. 49, 9-20, "Abnormalities in the regulation of vasopressin and corticotropin releasing factor secretion in obsessive-compulsive disorder").

5 The V1a receptor is also mediating the cardiovascular effects of vasopressin in the brain by centrally regulating blood pressure and heart rate in the solitary tract nucleus (Michelini and Morris (1999). Ann N Y Acad Sci. 897, 198-211, "Endogenous vasopressin modulates the cardiovascular responses to exercise"). In the periphery it induces the contraction of vascular smooth muscles and chronic inhibition of the V1a receptor improves hemodynamic parameters
10 in myocardial infarcted rats (Van Kerckhoven, et al. (2002). Eur J Pharmacol. 449, 135-41, "Chronic vasopressin V(1A) but not V(2) receptor antagonism prevents heart failure in chronically infarcted rats"). Hence, V1a antagonists with improved penetration through the blood-brain barrier are expected to be of advantage.

 A vasopressin V1a receptor antagonist was shown to be effective in reducing
15 dysmenorrhea in the clinic (Brouard, et al. (2000). Bjog. 107, 614-9, "Effect of SR49059, an orally active V1a vasopressin receptor antagonist, in the prevention of dysmenorrhoea"). V1a receptor antagonism has also been implicated in the treatment of female sexual dysfunction (Aughton, et al. (2008). Br J Pharmacol. doi:10.1038/bjp.2008.253, "Pharmacological profiling of neuropeptides on rabbit vaginal wall and vaginal artery smooth muscle in vitro"). In a recent
20 study V1a receptor antagonists were suggested to have a therapeutic role in both erectile dysfunction and premature ejaculation (Gupta, et al. (2008). Br J Pharmacol. 155, 118-26, "Oxytocin-induced contractions within rat and rabbit ejaculatory tissues are mediated by vasopressin V(1A) receptors and not oxytocin receptors").

Detailed description of the invention

25 It is an object of the present invention to provide compounds which act as V1a receptor modulators, and in particular as V1a receptor antagonists. It is a further object of the invention to provide selective inhibitors of the V1a receptor since it is expected that selectivity affords a low potential to cause unwanted off-target related side effects such as discussed above.

 Such V1a antagonists are useful as therapeutics acting peripherally and centrally in the
30 conditions of dysmenorrhea, male or female sexual dysfunction, hypertension, chronic heart failure, inappropriate secretion of vasopressin, liver cirrhosis, nephrotic syndrome, anxiety, depressive disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, autistic spectrum disorders, schizophrenia, and aggressive behavior. The preferred indications with regard to the present invention are the treatment of anxiety, depressive disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, autistic spectrum
35 disorders, schizophrenia, and aggressive behavior.

The V1a activity may be detected as described in the pharmaceutical test section.

The following definitions of the general terms used in the present description apply irrespective of whether the terms in question appear alone or in combination.

As used herein, the term "alkyl", alone or in combination with other groups, denotes a saturated, i.e. aliphatic, hydrocarbon group including a straight or branched carbon chain. If not further specified, "alkyl" groups denote groups with 1 to 12 carbon atoms, like "C₁₋₁₂-alkyl". "C₁₋₄-alkyl" denotes alkyl groups with 1 to 4 carbon atoms and "C₁₋₇-alkyl" denotes alkyl groups with 1 to 7 carbon atoms. Examples for "alkyl" are methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, *iso*-butyl, *sec*-butyl, *tert*-butyl and the like. Preferred are methyl and *i*-propyl.

The term "alkoxy", alone or in combination with other groups, denotes a group -O-R' wherein R' is alkyl as defined above. "C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy" denotes alkoxy groups with 1 to 12 carbon atoms, "C₁₋₄-alkoxy" denotes alkoxy groups with 1 to 4 carbon atoms and "C₁₋₇-alkoxy" denotes alkoxy groups with 1 to 7 carbon atoms. Examples for "alkoxy" are methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, *tert*-butoxy and the like. Preferred is methoxy.

The term "aromatic" means the presence of an electron sextet in a ring, according to Hückel's rule.

The term "cyano" denotes the group -CN.

The term "hydroxy" denotes the group -OH.

The term "halo" or "halogen" denotes chloro, iodo, fluoro and bromo. Preferred are chloro and fluoro.

The terms "halo-C_{1-n}-alkyl" and "C_{1-n}-haloalkyl", alone or in combination with other groups, denote a C_{1-n}-alkyl group as defined above, with 1 to n carbon atoms as defined in the specification, wherein at least one of the hydrogen atoms of the alkyl group is replaced by a halogen atom, preferably fluoro or chloro, most preferably fluoro. Examples of halo-C_{1-n}-alkyl include but are not limited to methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, *sec*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, pentyl or n-hexyl substituted by one or more Cl, F, Br or I atom(s), in particular one, two or three fluoro or chloro, as well as those groups specifically illustrated by the examples herein below. Among the preferred halo-C_{1-n}-alkyl groups are difluoro- or trifluoro-methyl or -ethyl as well as -CF₃, -CH(CH₃)CH₂CF₃, -CH(CH₃)CH₂F.

The term "heterocycloalkyl", alone or in combination with other groups, as defined herein refers to a monovalent 3 to 7 membered or 4 to 7 membered saturated ring containing one or two heteroatoms selected from N, O or S. The term "3- to 7-membered heterocycloalkyl", alone or in combination with other groups, as defined herein refers to a monovalent 3 to 7

membered ring containing one or two heteroatoms selected from N, O or S. The term "4-7 membered heterocycloalkyl", alone or in combination with other groups, refers to a 4 to 7 membered saturated ring containing one or two heteroatoms selected from N, O or S. Examples for heterocycloalkyl moieties are oxetanyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, piperidinyl, or piperazinyl. Preferred heterocycloalkyl are oxetanyl and tetrahydrofuranyl. Heterocycloalkyl is optionally substituted as described herein.

The terms "heteroaryl" and "5- or 6-membered heteroaryl", alone or in combination with other groups, refer to a monovalent aromatic 5- or 6-membered monocyclic ring containing one or two ring heteroatoms selected from N, O, or S, the remaining ring atoms being C. 6-Membered heteroaryl are preferred. Examples for heteroaryl moieties include but are not limited to pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, or pyrazinyl. Preferred is pyridinyl.

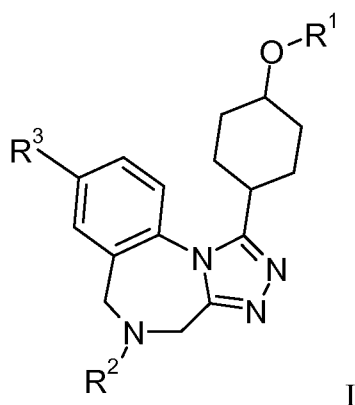
The terms "cycloalkyl" and "C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl", alone or in combination with other groups, refer to a 3 to 7 membered carbon ring, for example cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl.

The term "oxo" when referring to substituents on heterocycloalkyl means that an oxygen atom is attached to the heterocycloalkyl ring. Thereby, the "oxo" may either replace two hydrogen atoms on a carbon atom, or it may simply be attached to sulfur, so that the sulfur exists in oxidized form, i.e. bearing one or two oxygens like the group -SO₂.

When indicating the number of substituents, the term "one or more" means from one substituent to the highest possible number of substitution, i.e. replacement of one hydrogen up to replacement of all hydrogens by substituents. Thereby, one, two or three substituents are preferred. Even more preferred are one or two substituents or one substituent.

The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salt" or "pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt" embraces salts with inorganic and organic acids, such as hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, citric acid, formic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, tartaric acid, methane-sulfonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid and the like. Preferred is the hydrochloric acid salt.

In detail, the present invention is concerned with alkylcyclohexylethers of dihydro-tetraazabenzazulene derivatives of formula I



wherein

R^1 is C_{1-12} -alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, hydroxy, cyano or C_{1-12} -alkoxy,
 C_{3-7} -cycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from B,
 4-7 membered heterocycloalkyl containing one or two heteroatoms selected from O, N or S, which heterocycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from B,

R^2 is H,
 C_{1-12} -alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH, halo, cyano or C_{1-12} -alkoxy,
 $-(CH_2)_q-R^a$, wherein R^a is phenyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, each unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from A,
 $-(CH_2)_rNR^iR^{ii}$,
 $-C(O)-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH, halo, cyano or C_{1-12} -alkoxy,
 $-C(O)(CH_2)_qOC(O)-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl,
 $-C(O)(CH_2)_qNR^iR^{ii}$,
 $-C(O)O-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH, halo, cyano or C_{1-12} -alkoxy,
 $-S(O)_2-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl,
 $-S(O)_2NR^iR^{ii}$, R^i and R^{ii} are each independently H, C_{1-12} -alkyl, or form together with the nitrogen to which they are bound a 3- to 7-membered heterocycloalkyl containing one or two heteroatoms selected from N, O or S, which heterocycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from B,

q is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

r is 2, 3 or 4,

A is halo, cyano, OH, C₁₋₇-alkyl, halo-C₁₋₇-alkyl, or C₁₋₇-alkoxy,

B is oxo, halo, OH, C₁₋₇-alkyl or C₁₋₇-alkoxy,

R³ is Cl or F,

5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

The terms “pharmaceutically acceptable carrier” and “pharmaceutically acceptable auxiliary substance” refer to carriers and auxiliary substances such as diluents or excipients that are compatible with the other ingredients of the formulation.

10 The term "pharmaceutical composition" encompasses a product comprising specified ingredients in pre-determined amounts or proportions, as well as any product that results, directly or indirectly, from combining specified ingredients in specified amounts. Preferably it encompasses a product comprising one or more active ingredients, and an optional carrier comprising inert ingredients, as well as any product that results, directly or indirectly, from combination, complexation or aggregation of any two or more of the ingredients, or from
15 dissociation of one or more of the ingredients, or from other types of reactions or interactions of one or more of the ingredients.

The following table lists abbreviations used within the present document.

(BOC) ₂ O	di-tert-butyl dicarbonate
AcOH	acetic acid
brine	saturated sodium chloride solution in water
CH ₂ Cl ₂	dichloromethane
CH ₃ I	methyl iodide
CS ₂	carbon disulfide
DMAP	4-(dimethylamino)-pyridine
DMF	N,N-dimethylformamide
EDTA	ethylenediamine-tetraacetate
EI	Electron ionization
Et ₃ N	triethylamine
Et ₃ SiH	triethylsilane
HEPES	4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid
HF	hydrofluoric acid
HPLC	high performance liquid chromatography
Lawesson's	2,4-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3,2,4-dithiadiphosphetane-2,4-disulfide

reagent	
MeOH	methanol
MgClO ₄	magnesium perchlorate
MS	mass spectroscopy
NaH	sodium hydride
NaOH	sodium hydroxide
NBS	N-bromosuccinimide
n-BuOH	n-butanol
NMR	nuclear magnetic resonance
RNA	ribonucleic acid
RT	room temperature
RT-PCR	reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction
SOCl ₂	thionyl chloride
T-BuOK, KOtBu	potassium tert butanolat
THF	tetrahydrofurane
TMSCl	trimethylsilyl chloride
TMSOTf	trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate
Tris	aluminium-tris(8-hydroxychinolin
TsCl	toluene-2-sulfonyl chloride
ZnBr ₂	zinc bromide

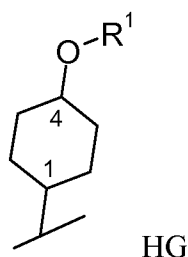
Table 1: abbreviations

The invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions, methods of using, and methods of preparing the aforementioned compounds.

The compounds of formula I may contain asymmetric carbon atoms. Accordingly, the present invention includes all stereoisomeric forms of the compounds of formula I, including each of the individual stereoisomer and mixtures thereof, i.e. their individual optical isomers and mixtures thereof. Additional asymmetric centers may be present depending upon the nature of the various substituents on the molecule. Each such asymmetric centre will independently produce two optical isomers and it is intended that all of the possible optical isomers and diastereomers in mixtures and as pure or partially purified compounds are included within this invention. The present invention is meant to comprehend all such isomeric forms of these compounds. The independent syntheses of these diastereomers or their chromatographic separations may be achieved as known in the art by appropriate modification of the methodology disclosed herein. Their absolute stereochemistry may be determined by the x-ray crystallography of crystalline products or crystalline intermediates which are derivatized, if necessary, with a reagent containing an asymmetric centre of known absolute configuration. If desired, racemic mixtures of the compounds may be separated so that the individual enantiomers are isolated. The

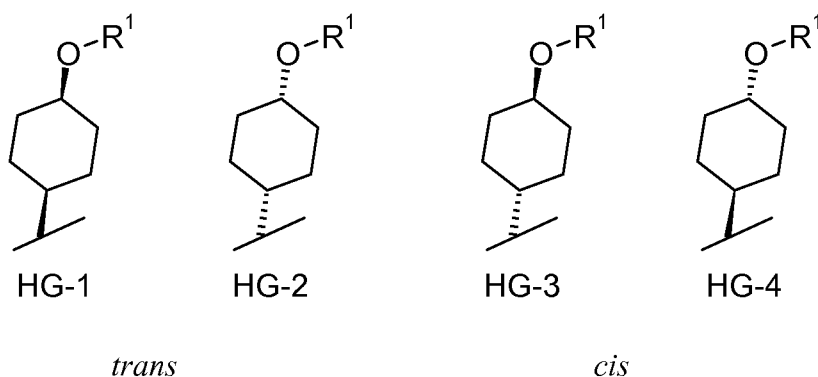
separation can be carried out by methods well known in the art, such as the coupling of a racemic mixture of compounds to an enantiomerically pure compound to form a diastereomeric mixture, followed by separation of the individual diastereomers by standard methods, such as fractional crystallization or chromatography.

- 5 This applies in particular to the alkylcyclohexylether-head group (HG) of the compounds of formula I, namely



- wherein at least the carbon atoms 1 and 4 are asymmetric carbon atoms and R¹ could further comprise asymmetric carbon atoms. It is to be understood that present invention includes
 10 all individual stereoisomers of head groups and mixtures thereof.

In particular, these head groups HG are



It is further understood that all embodiments of the invention as described herein may be combined with each other.

- 15 In certain embodiments, R¹ is as described above.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, hydroxy, cyano or C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy. In certain embodiments, R¹ is C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, hydroxy or C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy.

- 20 In certain embodiments, R¹ is C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from B, wherein B is oxo, halo, OH, C₁₋₇-alkyl or C₁₋₇-alkoxy. In certain embodiments, R¹ is C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is 4-7 membered heterocycloalkyl containing one or two heteroatoms selected from O, N or S, which heterocycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more B and B is oxo, halo, OH, C₁₋₇-alkyl or C₁₋₇-alkoxy. In certain embodiments, the 4-7 membered heterocycloalkyl contains one or two heteroatoms selected from O or S, preferably one O, which heterocycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more oxo, halo, OH, C₁₋₇-alkyl or C₁₋₇-alkoxy. In certain embodiments, the heterocycloalkyl is oxetanyl or tetrahydro-pyranyl.

In certain embodiments,

R¹ is C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, hydroxy or C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, 4-7 membered heterocycloalkyl containing one or two heteroatoms selected from O or S, preferably one O, which heterocycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more oxo, halo, OH, C₁₋₇-alkyl or C₁₋₇-alkoxy, preferably unsubstituted.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is -CF₃, -CH(CH₃)CH₂CF₃, -CH(CH₃)CH₂F, -CH(CH₃)CH₂OH, -CH(CH₃)CH₂OMe, cyclobutyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, ethyl, i-propyl, methyl, oxetanyl, sec-butyl, t-butyl or tetrahydro-pyranyl.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is C₁₋₁₂-alkyl or C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is i-propyl, cyclobutyl or cyclopentyl.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is unsubstituted C₁₋₁₂-alkyl.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is methyl.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is ethyl.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is isopropyl.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is sec-butanyl.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is t-butanyl.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is C₁₋₁₂-alkyl substituted with one or more halo.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is CF₃.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is CH(CH₃)CH₂CF₃.

In certain embodiments, R¹ is -CH(CH₃)CH₂CF₃.

In certain embodiments, R^1 is C_{1-12} -alkyl substituted with one or more hydroxy.

In certain embodiments, R^1 is $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$.

In certain embodiments, R^1 is C_{1-12} -alkyl substituted with one or more C_{1-12} -alkoxy.

In certain embodiments, R^1 is $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$.

5 In certain embodiments, R^1 is C_{3-7} cycloalkyl.

In certain embodiments, R^1 is cyclobutyl.

In certain embodiments, R^1 is cyclohexyl.

In certain embodiments, R^1 is cyclopentyl.

10 In certain embodiments, R^1 is 4-7 membered heterocycloalkyl containing one or two heteroatoms selected from O or S, preferably one O, which heterocycloalkyl is unsubstituted.

In certain embodiments, R^1 is oxetanyl.

In certain embodiments, R^1 is tetrahydro-pyranyl.

In certain embodiments, R^2 is as described above.

15 In certain embodiments, R^2 is H, C_{1-12} -alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH, $-(\text{CH}_2)_q\text{-R}^a$, wherein R^a is phenyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl and q is 1, 2, 3 or 4, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{-C}_{1-12}\text{-alkyl}$, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH, $-\text{C}(\text{O})(\text{CH}_2)_q\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{-C}_{1-12}\text{-alkyl}$, wherein q is 1, 2, 3 or 4, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O-C}_{1-12}\text{-alkyl}$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{-C}_{1-12}\text{-alkyl}$, or $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{NR}^i\text{R}^{ii}$, wherein R^i and R^{ii} are each independently H or C_{1-12} -alkyl.

In certain embodiments, R^2 is C_{1-12} -alkyl.

20 In certain embodiments, R^2 is 2-hydroxy-ethyl, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{methyl}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{hydroxymethyl}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{methyl}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O-t-butyl}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-pyridin-2-yl}$, H, i-propyl, methyl, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{methyl}$ or $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{N(methyl)}_2$.

25 In certain embodiments, R^2 is H. Thereby, forming either the free base or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt with an inorganic or organic acid such as hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, citric acid, formic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, tartaric acid, methane-sulfonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid and the like. The free base and a hydrochloric salt are preferred.

In certain embodiments, R^2 is C_{1-12} -alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH, halo, cyano or C_{1-12} -alkoxy. In certain embodiments, R^2 is C_{1-12} -alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH.

In certain embodiments, R^2 is unsubstituted C_{1-12} -alkyl.

5 In certain embodiments, R^2 is methyl.

In certain embodiments, R^2 is isopropyl.

In certain embodiments, R^2 is C_{1-12} -alkyl, substituted with one or more OH.

In certain embodiments, R^2 is 2-hydroxy-ethyl.

10 In certain embodiments, R^2 is $-(CH_2)_q-R^a$, wherein R^a is phenyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, each unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from A, and A is halo, cyano, OH, C_{1-7} -alkyl, halo- C_{1-7} -alkyl, or C_{1-7} -alkoxy; and q is 1, 2, 3 or 4, preferably 1. In certain embodiments, R^2 is $-(CH_2)_q-R^a$, wherein R^a is phenyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl and q is 1, 2, 3 or 4, preferably 1. In certain embodiments, R^2 is $-CH_2$ -pyridinyl or benzyl, preferably R^2 is $-CH_2$ -pyridin-2-yl.

15 In certain embodiments, R^2 is $-C(O)-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH, halo, cyano or C_{1-12} -alkoxy. In certain embodiments, R^2 is $-C(O)-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH.

In certain embodiments, R^2 is $-C(O)$ hydroxymethyl.

In certain embodiments, R^2 is $-C(O)$ methyl.

20 In certain embodiments, R^2 is $-C(O)(CH_2)_qOC(O)-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl, wherein q is 1, 2, 3 or 4, preferably 1.

In certain embodiments, R^2 is $-C(O)CH_2OC(O)$ methyl

25 In certain embodiments, R^2 is $-C(O)O-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH, halo, cyano or C_{1-12} -alkoxy. In certain embodiments, R^2 is $-C(O)O-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl.

In certain embodiments, R^2 is $-C(O)O$ -t-butyl.

In certain embodiments, R^2 is $-S(O)_2-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl.

In certain embodiments, R^2 is $-S(O)_2NR^iR^{ii}$, wherein R^i and R^{ii} are each independently H, C_{1-12} -alkyl, or form together with the nitrogen to which they are bound a 3- to 7-membered

heterocycloalkyl containing one or two heteroatoms selected from N, O or S, which heterocycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from B, and B is oxo, halo, OH, C₁₋₇-alkyl or C₁₋₇-alkoxy. In certain embodiments, R² is -S(O)₂NRⁱRⁱⁱ, wherein Rⁱ and Rⁱⁱ are each independently H or C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, preferably C₁₋₁₂-alkyl.

5 In certain embodiments, R² is -S(O)₂methyl.

In certain embodiments, -S(O)₂N(methyl)₂.

R² is H,

C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH,
 10 -(CH₂)_q-R^a, wherein R^a is phenyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl and q is 1, 2, 3 or 4, preferably 1,

-C(O)-C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH,

-C(O)(CH₂)_qOC(O)-C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, wherein q is 1, 2, 3 or 4, preferably 1,

-C(O)O-C₁₋₁₂-alkyl,

15 -S(O)₂-C₁₋₁₂-alkyl,

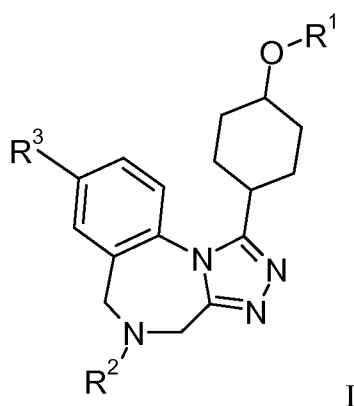
-S(O)₂NRⁱRⁱⁱ, wherein Rⁱ and Rⁱⁱ are each independently H or C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, preferably C₁₋₁₂-alkyl.

In certain embodiments, R³ is Cl or F.

In a certain embodiment, R³ is Cl.

20 In a certain embodiment, R³ is F.

In a certain embodiment of the invention, the compound of formula I is provided



wherein

25 R¹ is C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, hydroxy or C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy,

C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl,

4-7 membered heterocycloalkyl containing one or two heteroatoms selected from O or S, preferably one O, which heterocycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more oxo, halo, OH, C₁₋₇-alkyl or C₁₋₇-alkoxy, preferably unsubstituted,

R² is H,

C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH,

-(CH₂)_q-R^a, wherein R^a is phenyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl and q is 1, 2, 3 or 4, preferably 1,

-C(O)-C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH,

-C(O)(CH₂)_qOC(O)-C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, wherein q is 1, 2, 3 or 4, preferably 1,

-C(O)O-C₁₋₁₂-alkyl,

-S(O)₂-C₁₋₁₂-alkyl,

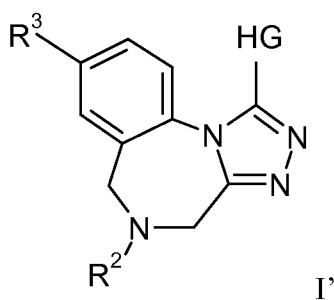
-S(O)₂NRⁱRⁱⁱ, wherein Rⁱ and Rⁱⁱ are each independently H or C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, preferably C₁₋₁₂-alkyl,

R³ is Cl or F,

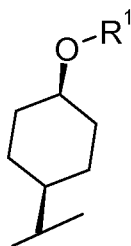
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In a certain embodiment of the invention, the compound of formula I is provided as a

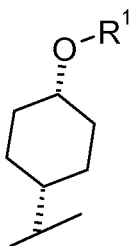
subset of formula I'



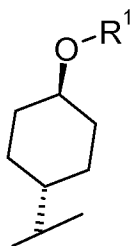
Wherein HG is selected from



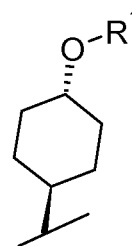
HG-1



HG-2



HG-3

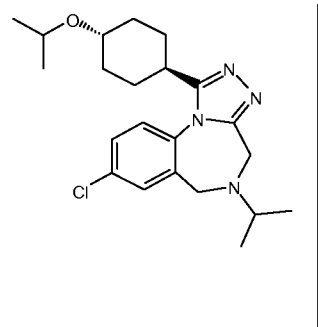
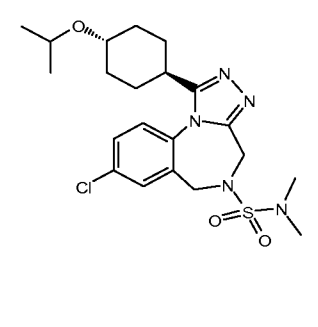
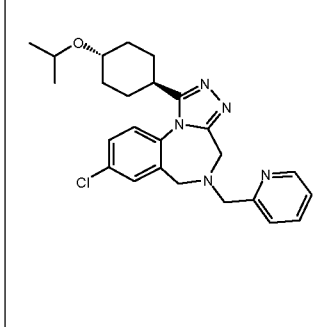
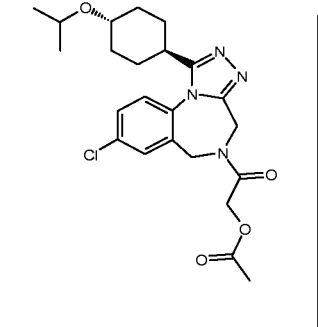
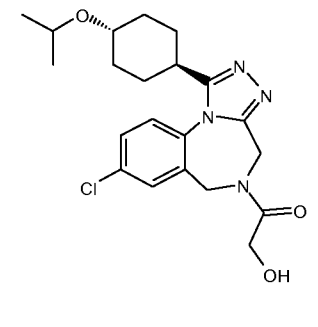
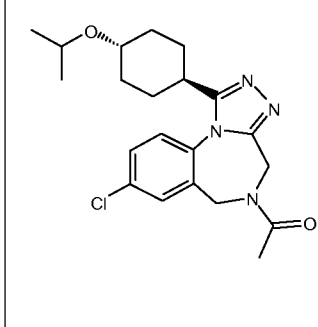
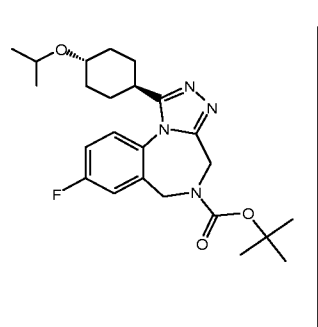
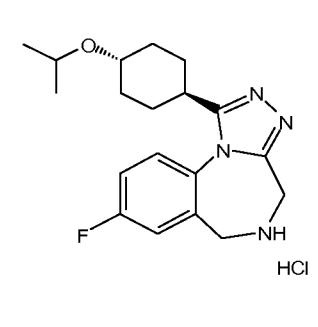
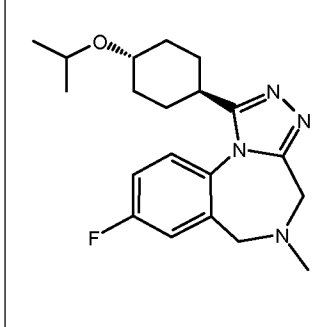
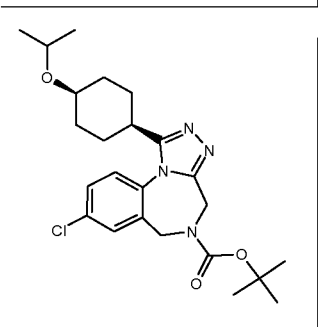
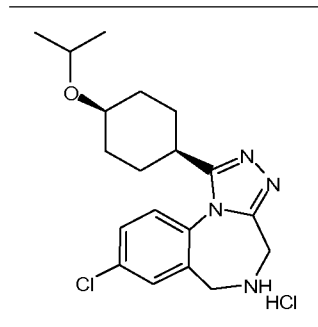
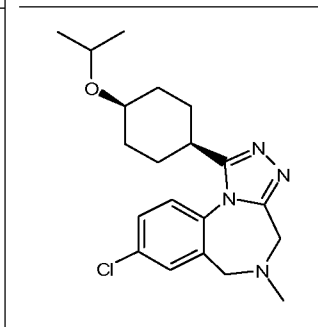
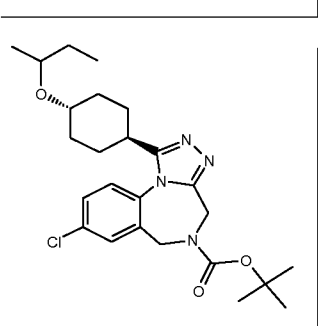
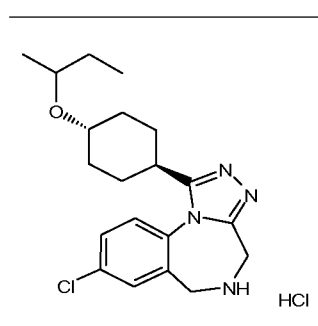
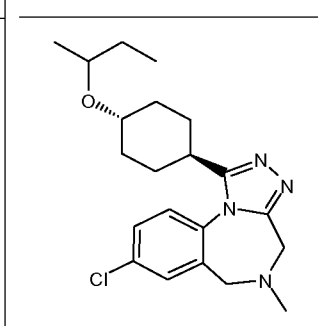


HG-4

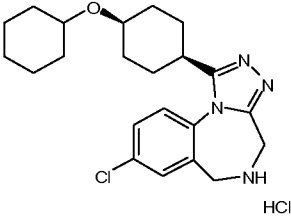
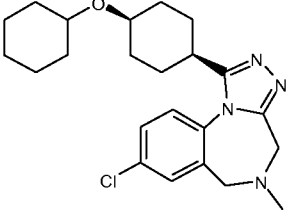
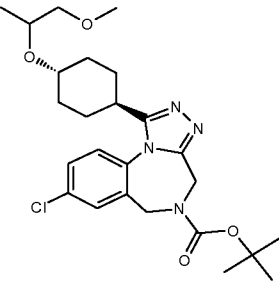
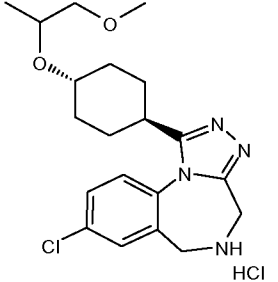
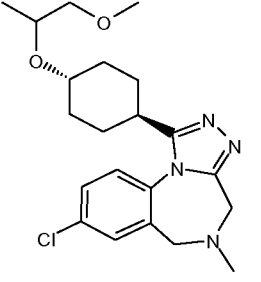
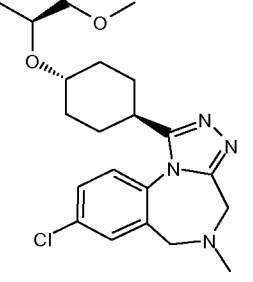
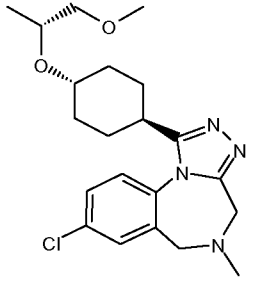
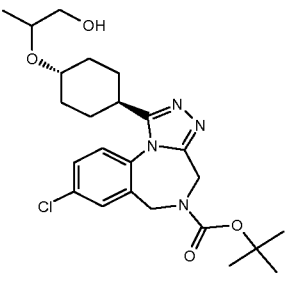
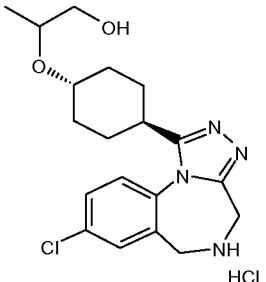
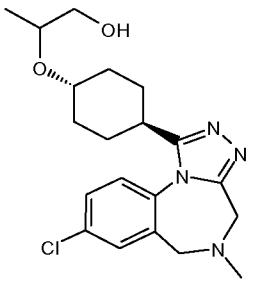
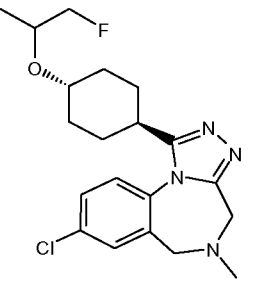
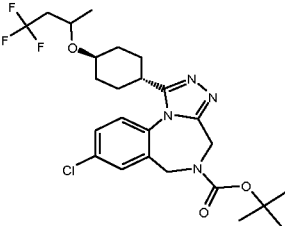
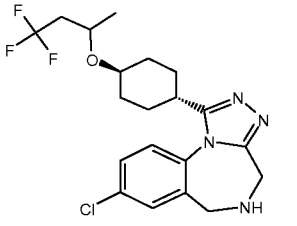
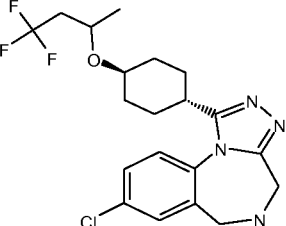
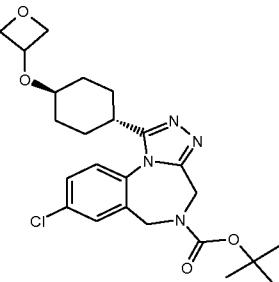
and R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as described above, including all combinations thereof.

Examples for the compound according to the invention are shown in the experimental part and the table below.

Ex. #	Structure	Ex. #	Structure	Ex. #	Structure
1		2		3	
4		5		6	
7		8		9	
10		11		12	

Ex. #	Structure	Ex. #	Structure	Ex. #	Structure
13		14		15	
16		17		18	
19		20		21	
22		23		24	
25		26		27	

Ex. #	Structure	Ex. #	Structure	Ex. #	Structure
28		29		30	
31		32		33	
34		35		36	
37		38		39	
40		41		42	

Ex. #	Structure	Ex. #	Structure	Ex. #	Structure
43		44		45	
46		47		48	
49		50		51	
52		53		54	
55		56		57	

Ex. #	Structure	Ex. #	Structure	Ex. #	Structure
58		59		60	
61		62		63	
64		65		66	
67		68		69	

Table 2: structures of selected examples

Preferred compounds of the invention are shown in the examples. Particularly preferred are
 trans-8-chloro-1-(4-ethoxy-cyclohexyl)-4*H*,6*H*-2,3,5,10*b*-tetraaza-benzo[*e*]azulene-5-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester;

- 5 trans-8-chloro-1-(4-ethoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-2,3,5,10*b*-tetraaza-benzo[*e*]azulene;

trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

5 trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methanesulfonyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene;

trans-2-[8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulen-5-yl]-ethanol;

10 trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-isopropyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene;

trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-sulfonic acid dimethylamide;

trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-pyridin-2-ylmethyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene;

15 trans-acetic acid 2-[8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulen-5-yl]-2-oxo-ethyl ester;

trans-1-[8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulen-5-yl]-2-hydroxy-ethanone;

20 trans-1-[8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulen-5-yl]-ethanone;

trans-8-fluoro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

cis-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

25 (RS)-trans-1-(4-sec-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

(RS)-trans-1-(4-sec-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride;

30 (RS)-trans-1-(4-sec-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

(+)-trans-1-(4-sec-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

(-)-trans-1-(4-sec-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

35 trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride;

trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

cis-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

5 cis-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

10 trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride;

trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

15 trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene;

(RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

20 (RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

(-)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

(RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

25 (RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-fluoro-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

(RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(3,3,3-trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

30 (RS)-trans-8-chloro-5-methyl-1-[4-(3,3,3-trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(oxetan-3-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

35 cis-8-chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester, or

trans-1-(4-tert-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester.

Particularly preferred are trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene, trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene, or trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene.

5 Most preferred is trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene.

A certain embodiment of the invention is a compound as described in any of the embodiments obtainable by a process according as described herewithin.

10 A certain embodiment of the invention is a compound as described in any of the embodiments, whenever obtained by a process according as described herewithin.

A certain embodiment of the invention is a compound as described in any of the embodiments for the use as therapeutically active substance.

15 A certain embodiment of the invention is a compound as described in any of the embodiments for a use in the prevention or treatment of dysmenorrhea, male or female sexual dysfunction, hypertension, chronic heart failure, inappropriate secretion of vasopressin, liver cirrhosis, nephrotic syndrome, anxiety, depressive disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, autistic spectrum disorders, schizophrenia, and aggressive behavior.

A certain embodiment of the invention is a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as described in any of the embodiments.

20 A certain embodiment of the invention is a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as described in any of the embodiments, wherein it is useful for the prevention or treatment of dysmenorrhea, male or female sexual dysfunction, hypertension, chronic heart failure, inappropriate secretion of vasopressin, liver cirrhosis, nephrotic syndrome, anxiety, depressive disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, autistic spectrum disorders, schizophrenia,
25 and aggressive behavior.

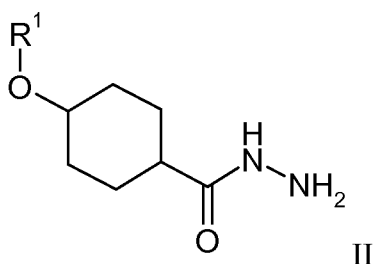
A certain embodiment of the invention is the use of a compound as described in any of the embodiments for the preparation of a medicament.

30 A certain embodiment of the invention is the use of a compound as described in any of the embodiments for the preparation of a medicament, wherein the medicament is useful for the prevention or treatment of dysmenorrhea, male or female sexual dysfunction, hypertension, chronic heart failure, inappropriate secretion of vasopressin, liver cirrhosis, nephrotic syndrome, anxiety, depressive disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, autistic spectrum disorders, schizophrenia, and aggressive behavior.

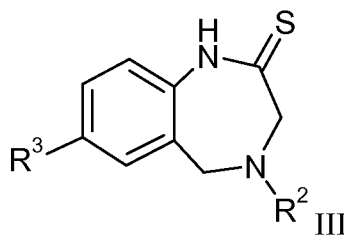
A certain embodiment of the invention is the use of a compound as described in any of the embodiments for the prevention or treatment of dysmenorrhea, male or female sexual dysfunction, hypertension, chronic heart failure, inappropriate secretion of vasopressin, liver cirrhosis, nephrotic syndrome, anxiety, depressive disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, autistic spectrum disorders, schizophrenia, and aggressive behavior.

A certain embodiment of the invention is a method for the therapeutic and/or prophylactic treatment of dysmenorrhea, male or female sexual dysfunction, hypertension, chronic heart failure, inappropriate secretion of vasopressin, liver cirrhosis, nephrotic syndrome, anxiety, depressive disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, autistic spectrum disorders, schizophrenia, and aggressive behavior, which method comprises administering a compound as defined in any of the embodiments to a human being or animal.

In a certain embodiment, the compounds of formula (I) of the invention can be manufactured according to a process comprising the step of reacting a compound of formula (II)

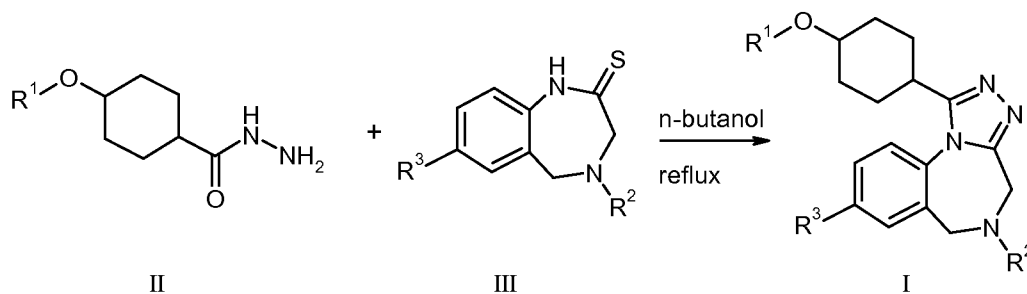


with a compound of formula (III)



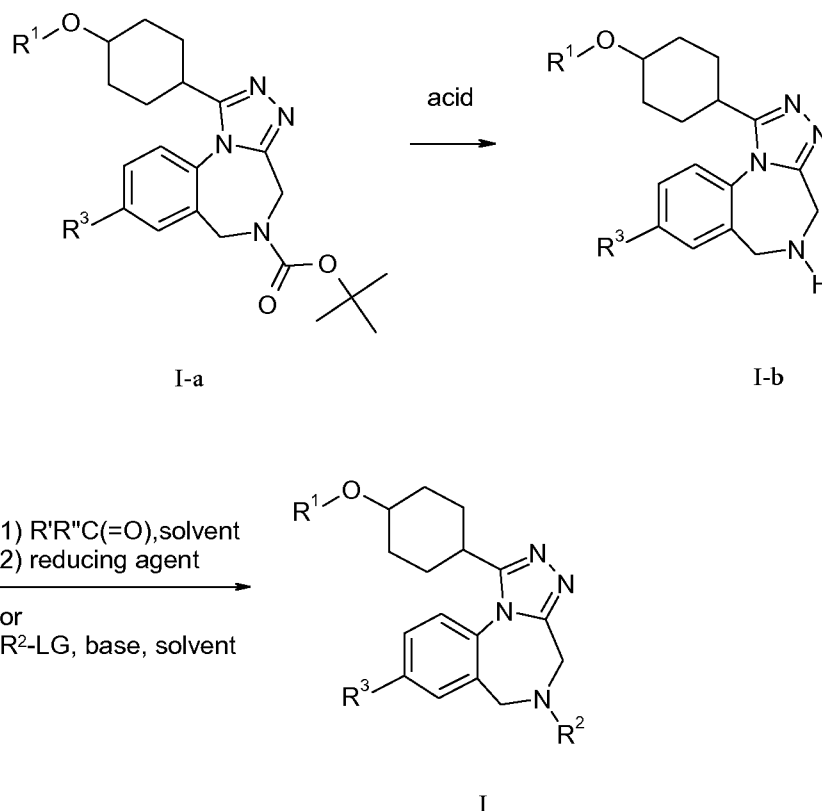
to obtain a compound of formula (I) wherein R¹, R² and R³ are as defined hereinabove for formula (I).

The processes are described in more detail with the following general schemes and procedures A to I.



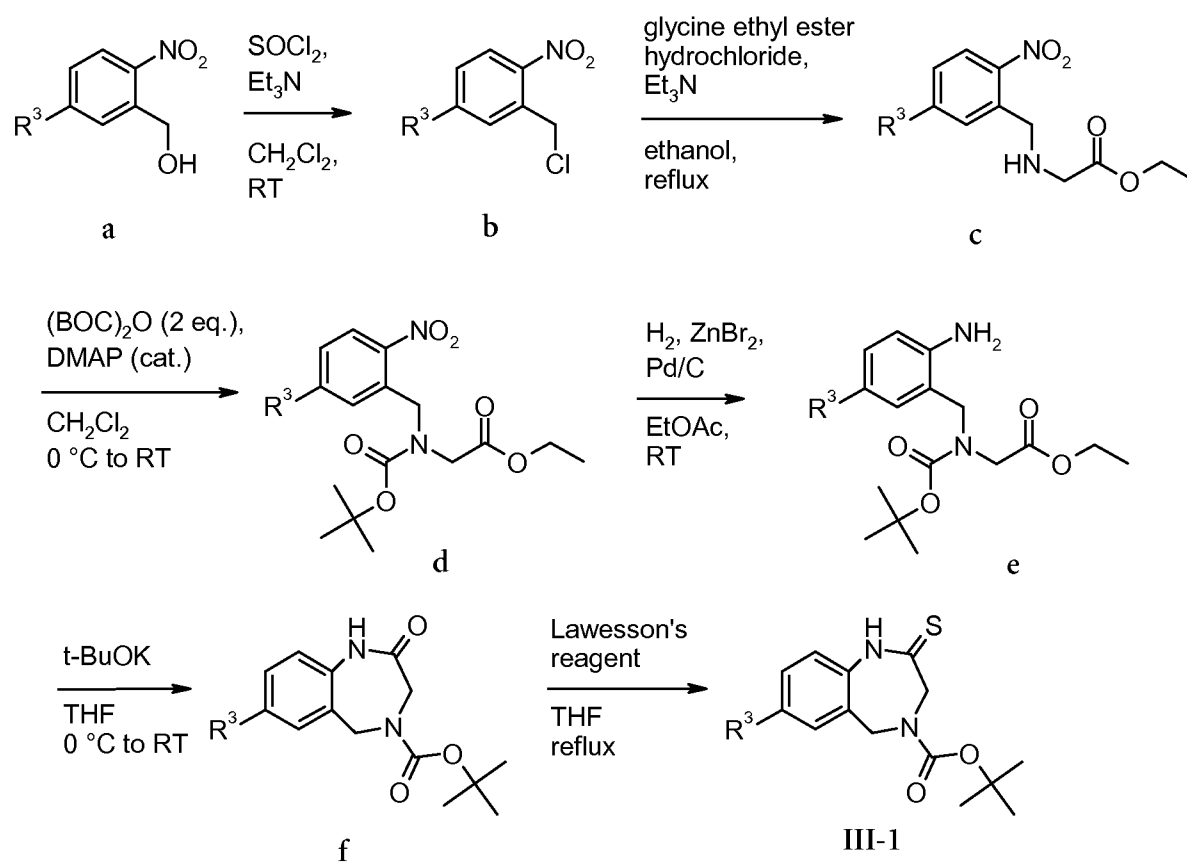
Scheme 1: General Scheme A

Compounds of formula (I) can be prepared by thermal condensation of a hydrazide derivative of formula (II) and a thiolactam derivative of formula (III). The synthesis of compounds of formula (II) is outlined in general schemes D-I hereinafter. Compounds of formula (III) can be prepared following the general scheme C as described hereinafter. General scheme A is hereinafter further illustrated with general procedure IV.



Scheme 2: General Scheme B Compounds of formula (I) with R² different from H can be prepared from compounds of formula (I-b) (compounds of formula (I) wherein R² is H) according to methods known in the art, e.g. by treating a compound of formula (I-b) with an inorganic base such as a carbonate salt or an organic base such as a tertiary amine and an electrophilic reactant R²-LG (wherein LG is a leaving group, e.g. halogen or sulfonyl) which is either commercially available or easily prepared according to methods and starting materials well known in the art. Alternatively, compounds of formula (I) can be obtained via reductive

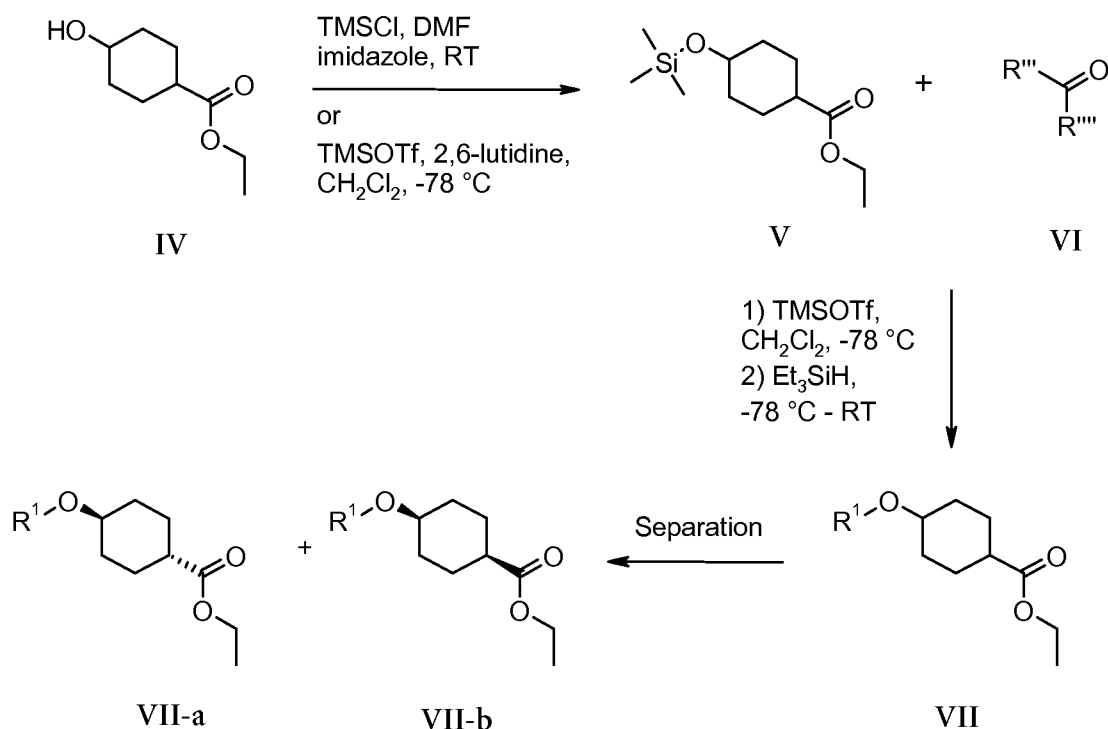
alkylation by consecutively treating a compound of formula (I-b) with a ketone or aldehyde and a suitable reducing agent, e.g. a borohydride derivative such as sodium borohydride, sodium cyanoborohydride or sodium triacetoxyborohydride. Compounds of formula (I-b) can be obtained by cleavage of the substituent R^2 of compound of formula I using methods known in the art. Compounds of formula (I-b) are conveniently obtained as the salt or the free base after basic aqueous work-up by treatment of compounds of formula (I-a) (compounds of formula (I) in which R^2 is tert-butoxycarbonyl) with an acid in a suitable solvent, e.g. methanesulfonic acid in dichloromethane or tetrahydrofuran or hydrochloric acid in methanol. General scheme B is hereinafter further illustrated with general procedures V and VI.



Scheme 3: General Scheme C

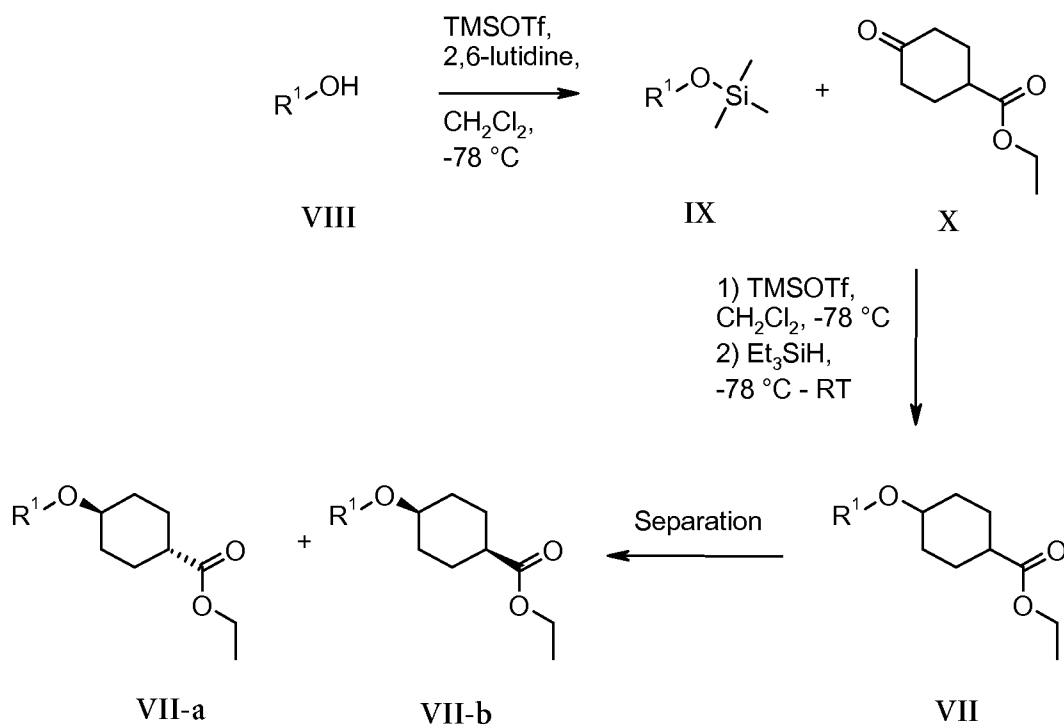
Thiolactam derivatives of formula (III-1) (compounds of formula (III) in which R^2 is tert-butoxycarbonyl) can be obtained as follows: Transformation of a 2-nitrobenzyl alcohol of formula (a) to a benzylic chloride of formula (b) can be effected by a chlorinating reagent such as thionyl chloride in the presence of an organic tertiary amine base. Alkylation of a compound of formula (b) with glycine ethyl ester hydrochloride in the presence of an organic tertiary amine base and N-protection of the resulting compound of formula (c) using di-tert-butyl dicarbonate and a catalytic amount of 4-N,N-dimethylaminopyridine gives compounds of formula (d). The nitro group can be reduced selectively by hydrogenation over palladium on charcoal, which has been pretreated with a zinc halide such as zinc bromide, to give aniline intermediates of formula

(e). Cyclization to lactams of formula (f) is achieved by treatment of compounds of formula (e) with a suitable base, e.g. potassium tert-butoxide, in tetrahydrofuran. A thiolactam derivative of formula (III-1) is obtained by treatment of a compound of formula (f) with Lawesson's reagent (2,4-bis-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3,2,4-dithiadiphosphetane-2,4-disulfide) or phosphorous pentasulfide at elevated temperature.



Scheme 4: General Scheme D

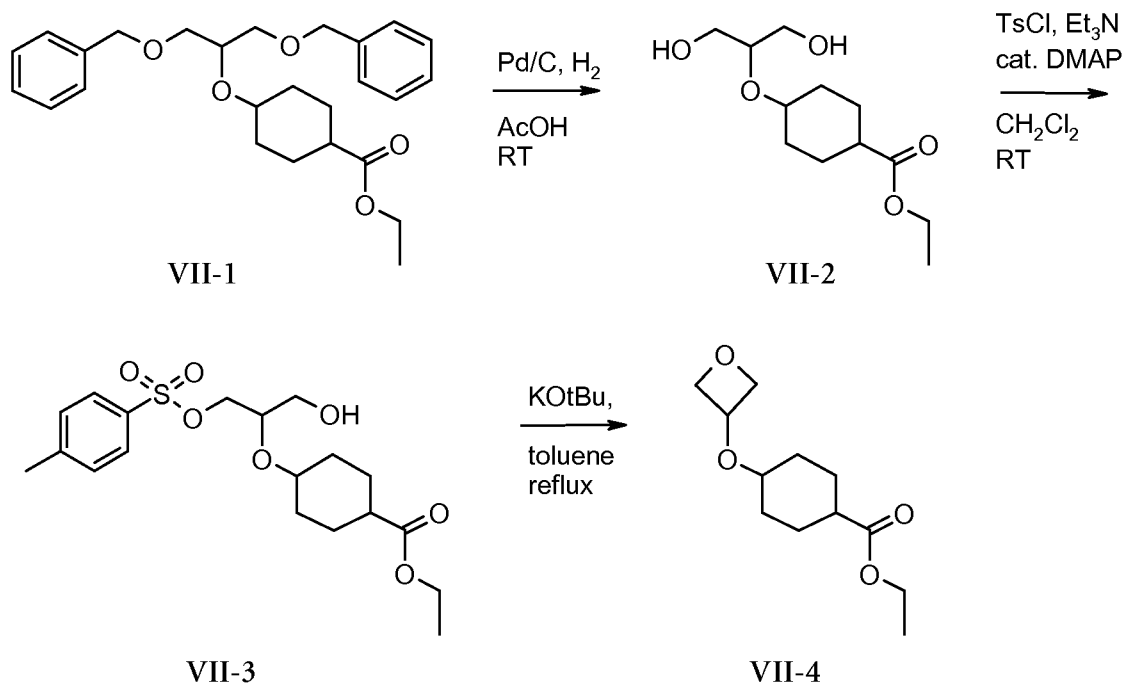
4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester derivatives of formula (VII) can be obtained by reductive etherification as follows: 4-Hydroxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (IV) is converted to 4-trimethylsilanyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (V) by O-silylation methods known in the art, e.g. by treatment with a silylating agent such as trimethylsilyl chloride or trimethylsilyl triflate in the presence of a base such as imidazole or 2,6-lutidine in a suitable solvent such as N,N-dimethylformamide or dichloromethane. Consecutive treatment of 4-trimethylsilanyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (V) and a ketone or aldehyde of formula (VI) with trimethylsilyl triflate in dichloromethane and a reducing agent such as triethylsilane leads to 4-alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester derivatives of formula (VII). Compounds of formula (VII) are usually obtained as a mixture of cis- and trans-isomers, which can in some cases be separated chromatographically to give the pure trans-4-alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester of formula (VII-a) and cis-4-alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester of formula (VII-b). General scheme D is hereinafter further illustrated by general procedure I.



Scheme 5: General Scheme E

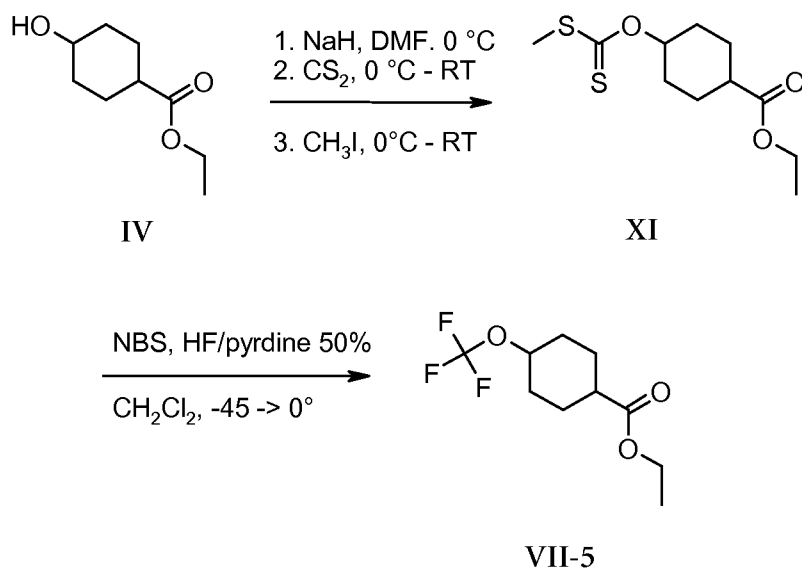
Alternatively, 4-alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester derivatives of formula (VII) can be obtained by reductive etherification as follows: Consecutive treatment of an alkoxy-trimethyl-silane of formula (IX) and 4-cyclohexanonecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (X) with trimethylsilyl triflate in dichloromethane and a reducing agent such as triethylsilane gives 4-alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester derivatives of formula (VII). Compounds of formula (VII) are usually obtained as a mixture of cis- and trans-isomers, which can in some cases be separated chromatographically to give the pure trans-4-alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester of formula (VII-a) and cis-4-alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester of formula (VII-b). Alkoxy-trimethyl-silane derivatives of formula (IX) are either commercially available or are prepared using O-silylation methods known in the art, e.g. by treating an alcohol of general formula (VIII) with a silylating agent such as trimethylsilyl chloride or trimethylsilyl triflate in the presence of a base such as imidazole or 2,6-lutidine in a suitable solvent such as N,N-dimethylformamide or dichloromethane. Alternatively, alkoxy-trimethyl-silane derivatives of formula (IX) can be prepared in situ without isolation prior to the reductive etherification step with 4-cyclohexanonecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (X) by treating an alcohol of general formula (VIII) with trimethylsilyl triflate and 2,6-lutidine in dichloromethane. General scheme E is hereinafter further illustrated by general procedures IIA and IIB.

28



Scheme 6: General Scheme F

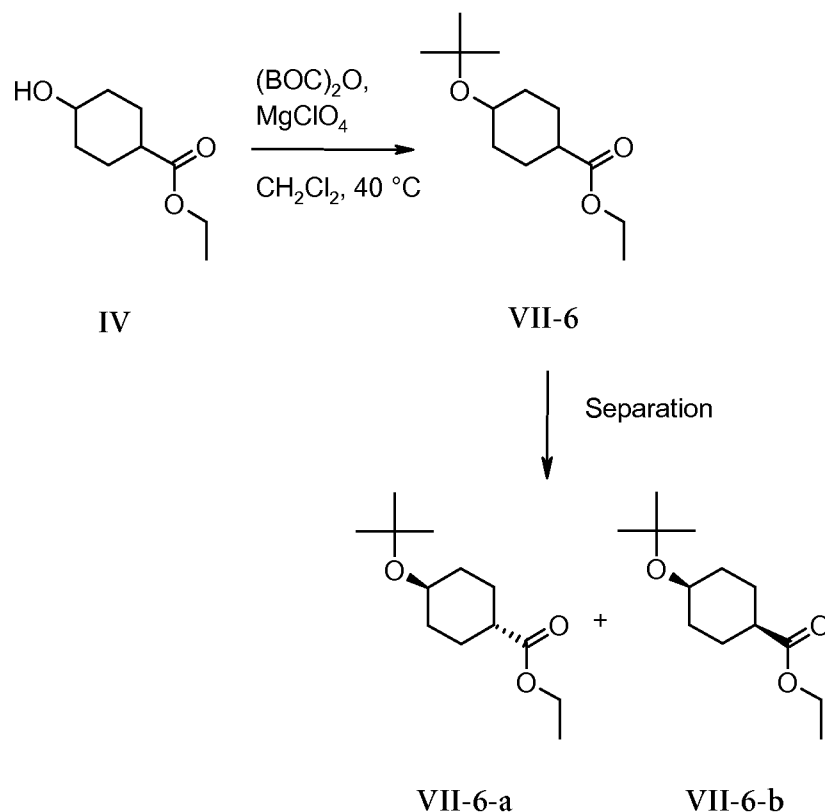
An oxetan-3-yloxy derivatives of formula (VII-4) can be obtained by treatment of the compound of formula (VII-3) with potassium tert-butoxide in toluene at reflux. The compound of formula (VII-3) is formed by monotosylation of the dihydroxy derivative of formula (VII-2), which is prepared by hydrogenolytic double-O-debenzylation of the compound of formula (VII-1). The compound of formula (VII-1) can be obtained from 1,3-dibenzyloxy-2-propanol according to the reductive etherification procedure described in general scheme E.



10 Scheme 7: General Scheme G

4-Trifluoromethoxycyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (VII-5) can be prepared by treatment of intermediate (XI) with N-bromosuccinimide and HF-pyridine in dichloromethane.

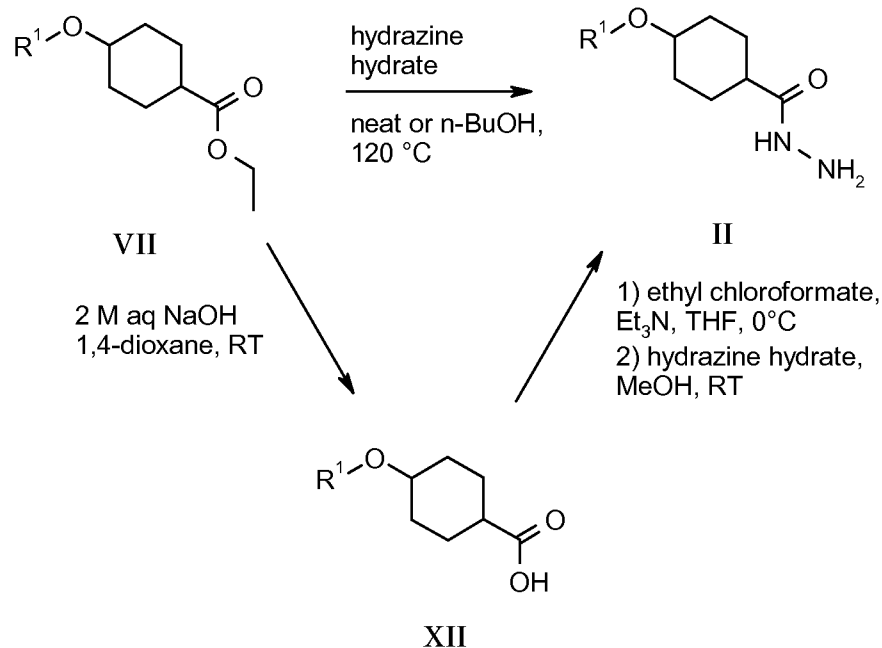
Compound (XI) is obtained by O-deprotonation of 4-hydroxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester with sodium hydride followed by sequential addition of carbon disulfide and methyl iodide.



Scheme 8: General Scheme H

- 5 cis/trans-4-tert-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (VII-6) can be prepared by treating cis/trans-4-hydroxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (IV) with di-tert-butyl dicarbonate in the presence of magnesium chloride. The pure trans isomer (VII-6-a) and the pure cis isomer (VII-6-b) can be obtained by chromatographic separation.

30



Scheme 9: General Scheme I

A 4-aryloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester of formula (VII) can be converted to a hydrazide derivative of formula (II) by heating with hydrazine hydrate. Alternatively, an ester derivative of formula (VII) can be hydrolyzed to a carboxylic acid derivative of formula (XII) using a biphasic mixture of aqueous sodium or potassium hydroxide solution and an ethereal solvent such as dioxan. A hydrazide derivative of formula (II) can be obtained by activating an acid intermediate of formula (XII), e.g. with ethyl chloroformate, thionyl chloride, oxalylchloride or a peptide coupling reagent, and subsequent coupling with hydrazine. General scheme I is hereinafter further illustrated by general procedures IIIA and IIIB.

The corresponding pharmaceutically acceptable salts with acids can be obtained by standard methods known to the person skilled in the art, e.g. by dissolving the compound of formula I in a suitable solvent such as e.g. dioxan or THF and adding an appropriate amount of the corresponding acid. The products can usually be isolated by filtration or by chromatography.

The conversion of a compound of formula I into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt with a base can be carried out by treatment of such a compound with such a base. One possible method to form such a salt is e.g. by addition of 1/n equivalents of a basic salt such as e.g. $\text{M}(\text{OH})_n$, wherein M = metal or ammonium cation and n = number of hydroxide anions, to a solution of the compound in a suitable solvent (e.g. ethanol, ethanol-water mixture, tetrahydrofuran-water mixture) and to remove the solvent by evaporation or lyophilisation.

Insofar as their preparation is not described in the examples, the compounds of formula I as well as all intermediate products can be prepared according to analogous methods or according to the methods set forth herewithin. Starting materials are commercially available, known in the art or can be prepared by methods known in the art or in analogy thereto.

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.

Pharmacological Tests

5 The compounds of the present invention exhibit V1a activity. They are selective inhibitors of the V1a receptor and are therefore likely to have a low potential to cause unwanted off-target related side-effects. The V1a activity may be detected as described below.

10 The human V1a receptor was cloned by RT-PCR from total human liver RNA. The coding sequence was subcloned in an expression vector after sequencing to confirm the identity of the amplified sequence. To demonstrate the affinity of the compounds from the present invention to the human V1a receptor binding studies were performed. Cell membranes were prepared from HEK293 cells transiently transfected with the expression vector and grown in 20 liter fermenters with the following protocol.

15 50g of cells are resuspended in 30ml freshly prepared ice cold Lysis buffer (50mM HEPES, 1mM EDTA, 10mM magnesium dichloride adjusted to pH= 7.4 + complete cocktail of protease inhibitor (Roche Diagnostics)). Homogenized with Polytron for 1min and sonicated on ice for 2x 2 minutes at 80% intensity (Vibracell sonicator). The preparation is centrifuged 20 min at 500 g at 4°C, the pellet is discarded and the supernatant centrifuged 1hour at 43'000g at 4°C (19'000rpm). The pellet is resuspended in 12.5 ml Lysis buffer+12.5ml Sucrose 20% and
20 homogenized using a Polytron for 1-2 min. The protein concentration is determined by the Bradford method and aliquots are stored at -80°C until use. For binding studies 60mg Yttrium silicate SPA beads (Amersham) are mixed with an aliquot of membrane in binding buffer (50 mM Tris, 120mM sodium chloride, 5 mM potassium chloride, 2 mM Calcium dichloride, 10 mM magnesium dichloride) for 15 minutes with mixing. 50µl of bead/membrane mixture is then
25 added to each well of a 96 well plate, followed by 50µl of 4 nM 3H-Vasopressin (American Radiolabeled Chemicals). For total binding measurement 100µl of binding buffer are added to the respective wells, for non-specific binding 100µl of 8.4mM cold vasopressin and for compound testing 100µl of a serial dilution of each compound in 2% dimethyl sulfoxide. The plate is incubated 1h at room temperature, centrifuged 1 min at 1000g and counted on a Packard
30 Top-Count. Non-specific binding counts are subtracted from each well and data is normalized to the maximum specific binding set at 100%. To calculate an IC 50 the curve is fitted using a non-linear regression model (XLfit) and the Ki is calculated using the Cheng-Prussoff equation.

The following representative data show the antagonistic activity against human V1a receptor of compounds according to present invention.

Ex.#	pKi (hV1a)	Ex.#	pKi (hV1a)	Ex.#	pKi (hV1a)
1	7.03	24	7.57	47	7.95
2	8.62	25	8.43	48	7.32
3	7.20	26	7.90	49	8.26
4	8.17	27	8.68	50	8.57
5	7.85	28	8.80	51	6.73
6	6.05	29	8.80	52	7.72
7	7.26	30	8.55	53	8.55
8	8.89	31	7.97	54	8.07
9	7.76	32	8.89	55	7.12
10	8.55	33	8.12	56	8.17
11	8.96	34	6.84	57	8.21
12	8.64	35	8.10	58	7.33
13	8.82	36	8.49	59	8.25
14	9.00	37	8.46	60	8.15
15	8.85	38	9.10	61	6.35
16	8.46	39	8.19	62	7.70
17	8.46	40	7.46	63	6.54
18	8.60	41	8.54	64	7.77
19	8.42	42	7.75	65	7.84
20	6.60	43	6.76	66	6.71
21	7.53	44	7.85	67	7.58
22	8.05	45	8.43	68	8.42
23	6.44	46	6.93		

Table 3: human V1a pKi of selected examples

Pharmaceutical Compositions

The compounds of formula I as well as their pharmaceutically usable acid addition salts can be used as medicaments, e.g. in the form of pharmaceutical preparations. The pharmaceutical preparations can be administered orally, e.g. in the form of tablets, coated tablets, dragées, hard and soft gelatine capsules, solutions, emulsions or suspensions. The administration can, however, also be effected rectally, e.g. in the form of suppositories, or parenterally, e.g. in the form of injection solutions.

The compounds of formula I and their pharmaceutically usable acid addition salts can be processed with pharmaceutically inert, inorganic or organic excipients for the production of tablets, coated tablets, dragées and hard gelatine capsules. Lactose, corn starch or derivatives thereof, talc, stearic acid or its salts etc can be used as such excipients e.g. for tablets, dragées

and hard gelatine capsules. Suitable excipients for soft gelatine capsules are e.g. vegetable oils, waxes, fats, semisolid and liquid polyols etc.

Suitable excipients for the manufacture of solutions and syrups are e.g. water, polyols, saccharose, invert sugar, glucose etc. Suitable excipients for injection solutions are e.g. water, 5 alcohols, polyols, glycerol, vegetable oils etc. Suitable excipients for suppositories are e.g. natural or hardened oils, waxes, fats, semi-liquid or liquid polyols etc..

Moreover, the pharmaceutical preparations can contain preservatives, solubilizers, stabilizers, wetting agents, emulsifiers, sweeteners, colorants, flavorants, salts for varying the osmotic pressure, buffers, masking agents or antioxidants. They can also contain still other 10 therapeutically valuable substances.

The dosage can vary within wide limits and will, of course, be fitted to the individual requirements in each particular case. In general, in the case of oral administration a daily dosage of about 10 to 1000 mg per person of a compound of general formula I should be appropriate, although the above upper limit can also be exceeded when necessary.

15 The following examples illustrate the present invention without limiting it. All temperatures are given in degrees Celsius.

Examples of compositions according to the invention are, but are not limited to:

Example A

Tablets of the following composition are manufactured in the usual manner:

ingredient	mg/tablet			
	5	25	100	500
1. Compound of formula I	5	25	100	500
2. Lactose	45	105	30	150
3. Corn Starch	15	6	6	60
4. Microcrystalline Cellulose	34	30	30	450
5. Magnesium Stearate	1	1	1	1
Total	100	167	167	831

20 Table 4: possible tablet composition

Manufacturing Procedure

1. Mix ingredients 1, 2, 3 and 4 and granulate with purified water.
2. Dry the granules at 50°C.

3. Pass the granules through suitable milling equipment.
4. Add ingredient 5 and mix for three minutes; compress on a suitable press.

Example B-1

Capsules of the following composition are manufactured:

ingredient	mg/capsule				
	5	10	25	100	500
1. Compound of formula I	5	10	25	100	500
2. Lactose	159	155	123	148	-
3. Corn Starch	25	30	35	40	70
4. Talc	10	5	15	10	25
5. Magnesium Stearate	1	-	2	2	5
Total	200	200	200	300	600

5 Table 5: possible capsule ingredient composition

Manufacturing Procedure

1. Mix ingredients 1, 2 and 3 in a suitable mixer for 30 minutes.
 2. Add ingredients 4 and 5 and mix for 3 minutes.
 3. Fill into a suitable capsule.
- 10 The compound of formula I, lactose and corn starch are firstly mixed in a mixer and then in a comminuting machine. The mixture is returned to the mixer, the talc (and magnesium stearate) is added thereto and mixed thoroughly. The mixture is filled by machine into suitable capsules, e.g. hard gelatine capsules.

Example B-2

- 15 Soft Gelatine Capsules of the following composition are manufactured:

ingredient	mg/capsule
Compound of formula I	5
Yellow wax	8
Hydrogenated Soya bean oil	8
Partially hydrogenated plant oils	34
Soya bean oil	110
Total	165

Table 6: possible soft gelatine capsule ingredient composition

ingredient	mg/capsule
Gelatin	75
Glycerol 85 %	32
Karion 83	8 (dry matter)
Titan dioxide	0.4
Iron oxide yellow	1.1
Total	116.5

Table 7: possible soft gelatine capsule composition

Manufacturing Procedure

- The compound of formula I 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 C

Suppositories of the following composition are manufactured:

ingredient	mg/supp.
Compound of formula I	15
Suppository mass	1285
Total	1300

Table 8: possible suppository composition

Manufacturing Procedure

- The suppository mass is melted in a glass or steel vessel, mixed thoroughly and cooled to 45°C. Thereupon, the finely powdered compound of formula I is added thereto and stirred until it has dispersed completely. The mixture is poured into suppository moulds of suitable size, left to cool, the suppositories are then removed from the moulds and packed individually in wax paper or metal foil.

15 Example D

Injection solutions of the following composition are manufactured:

ingredient	mg/injection solution.
Compound of formula I	3
Polyethylene Glycol 400	150
acetic acid	q.s. ad pH 5.0

water for injection solutions	ad 1.0 ml
-------------------------------	-----------

Table 9: possible injection solution composition

Manufacturing Procedure

The compound of formula I is dissolved in a mixture of Polyethylene Glycol 400 and water for injection (part). The pH is adjusted to 5.0 by acetic acid. The volume is adjusted to 1.0 ml by addition of the residual amount of water. The solution is filtered, filled into vials using an appropriate overage and sterilized.

Example E

Sachets of the following composition are manufactured:

ingredient	mg/sachet
Compound of formula I	50
Lactose, fine powder	1015
Microcrystalline cellulose (AVICEL PH 102)	1400
Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose	14
Polyvinylpyrrolidone K 30	10
Magnesiumstearate	10
Flavoring additives	1
Total	2500

Table 10: possible sachet composition

10 *Manufacturing Procedure*

The compound of formula I is mixed with lactose, microcrystalline cellulose and sodium carboxymethyl cellulose and granulated with a mixture of polyvinylpyrrolidone in water. The granulate is mixed with magnesiumstearate and the flavoring additives and filled into sachets.

Examples

15 The following examples 1 – 69 are provided for illustration of the invention. They should not be considered as limiting the scope of the invention, but merely as being representative thereof.

Intermediate of formula (V)**cis/trans-4-Trimethylsilyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (2:1)**

20 To a solution of cis/trans-4-hydroxycyclohexane carboxylic acid ethyl ester (2:1) (5.0 g, 29 mmol) and imidazole (4.4 g, 64 mmol) in N,N-dimethylformamide (90 ml) was added trimethylsilyl chloride (4.0 ml, 32 mmol) at 0-5 °C. Stirring for 1 h at room temperature was

followed by partitioning between tert-butyl methyl ether(300 ml) and water (150 ml). The layers were separated. The organic layer was washed with two 150-ml portions of water and one 50-ml portion of brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo to give the title compound (6.7 g, 94%) as colorless oil. MS m/e: 245 ($M+H^+$).

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester intermediates of formula (VII)

Reductive Etherification

General procedure I:

To a solution of cis/trans-4-trimethylsilanyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (2:1) in dichloromethane (0.1 M) are added consecutively a ketone or an aldehyde of formula (VI) (0.85 eq) and trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.10 eq) at -78 °C. The reaction mixture is stirred for 1 h. After addition of triethylsilane (1 eq) the cooling bath is removed and the reaction mixture is allowed to warm to room temperature. Stirring is continued over night. The mixture is quenched with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution. The layers are separated. The organic layer is dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by flash-chromatography gives a 4-alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester intermediate of formula (VII).

General procedure IIA:

An alkoxy-trimethyl-silane intermediate of formula (IX) is formed in situ by adding trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (1 eq) to a solution of an alcohol derivative of formula (VIII) (1 eq) and 2,6-lutidine (1 eq) in dichloromethane (0.1 M) at -78 °C. After 1 h 4-cyclohexanonecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (X) (0.85 eq) and trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.1 eq) are added consecutively. The reaction mixture is stirred for 1 h. After addition of triethylsilane (2 eq) the cooling bath is removed and the reaction mixture is allowed to warm to room temperature. Stirring is continued over night. The mixture is quenched with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution. The layers are separated. The organic layer is dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by flash-chromatography gives a 4-alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester intermediate of formula (VII).

General procedure IIB:

A trimethylsilyloxy intermediate of formula (IX), which is commercially available or which can be prepared according to methods known in the art, is dissolved in dichloromethane (0.1 M). 4-Cyclohexanonecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (X) (0.85 eq) and trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.1 eq) are added consecutively at -78 °C. The reaction mixture is stirred for 1 h. After addition of triethylsilane (2 eq) the cooling bath is removed and the reaction mixture is allowed to warm to room temperature. Stirring is continued over night. The mixture is quenched with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution. The layers are separated. The organic layer is dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by

flash-chromatography gives a 4-alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester intermediate of formula (VII).

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 1
trans-4-Ethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

5 and

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 2
cis-4-Ethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

trans-4-Ethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester and cis-4-ethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester were obtained from acetaldehyde according to general procedure I after

10 separation by flash-column chromatography.

trans-4-Ethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as light yellow oil in 18% yield. MS m/e: 200 (M^+)

cis-4-Ethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as light yellow oil in 24% yield. MS m/e: 201 ($M+H^+$)

15 **4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 3**
trans-4-Isopropoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

and

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 4
cis-4-Isopropoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

20 trans-4-Isopropoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester and cis-4-isopropoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester were obtained from acetone according to general procedure I after separation by flash-column chromatography.

trans-4-Isopropoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as colorless oil in 23% yield. MS m/e: 214 (M^+)

25 cis-4-Isopropoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as light yellow oil in 57% yield. MS m/e: 215 ($M+H^+$)

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 5
trans-4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

and

30 **4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 6**
cis-4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

trans-4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester and cis-4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester were obtained from 2-butanone according to general procedure I after separation by flash-column chromatography.

35 trans-4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as colorless oil in 22% yield. MS (EI) m/e: 228 (M^+ , 1%), 199 ($[M-C_2H_5]^+$, 6%), 155 ($[M-C_4H_9O]^+$, 100%)

cis-4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as light yellow oil in 37% yield. MS m/e: 229 ($M+H^+$)

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 7

trans-4-Cyclobutoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

5 and

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 8

cis-4-Cyclobutoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

trans-4-Cyclobutoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester and cis-4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester were obtained from cyclobutanone according to general
10 procedure I after separation by flash-column chromatography.

trans-4-Cyclobutoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as colorless oil in 19% yield. MS (EI) m/e: 155 ($[M-C_4H_7O]^+$, 49%)

cis-4-Cyclobutoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as light yellow oil in 58% yield. MS m/e: 227 ($M+H^+$)

15 **4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 9**

trans-4-Cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

and

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 10

cis-4-Cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

20 trans-4-Cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester and cis-4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester were obtained from cyclopentanone according to general procedure I after separation by flash-column chromatography.

trans-4-Cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as colorless oil in 8% yield. MS (EI) m/e: 240 (M^+ , 1%), 155 ($[M-C_5H_9O]^+$, 30%)

25 cis-4-Cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as colorless oil in 29% yield. MS m/e: 241 ($M+H^+$)

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 11

trans-4-Cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

and

30 **4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 12**

cis-4-Cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

trans-4-Cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester and cis-4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester were obtained from cyclohexanone according to general
procedure I after separation by flash-column chromatography.

35 trans-4-Cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as colorless oil in 15% yield. MS (EI) m/e: 254 (M^+)

cis-4-Cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as colorless oil in 51% yield. MS m/e: 255 ($M+H^+$)

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 13

(RS)-trans-4-(2-Methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

and

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 14

(RS)-cis-4-(2-Methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

(RS)-trans-4-(2-Methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester and (RS)-cis-4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester were obtained from methoxyacetone according to general procedure I after separation by flash-column chromatography.

(RS)-trans-4-(2-Methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as colorless oil in 21% yield. MS m/e: 245 ($M+H^+$)

(RS)-cis-4-(2-Methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as colorless oil in 43% yield. MS m/e: 245 ($M+H^+$)

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 15

(RS)-trans-4-(2-Acetoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

and

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 16

(RS)-cis-4-(2-Acetoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

(RS)-trans-4-(2-Acetoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester and (RS)-cis-4-(2-acetoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester were obtained from acetoxyacetone according to general procedure I after separation by flash-column chromatography.

(RS)-trans-4-(2-Acetoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as light yellow oil in 13% yield. MS m/e: 273 ($M+H^+$)

(RS)-cis-4-(2-Acetoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as light yellow oil in 41% yield. MS m/e: 273 ($M+H^+$)

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 17

(RS)-trans-4-(3,3,3-Trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

and

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 18

(RS)-cis-4-(3,3,3-Trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

(RS)-trans-4-(3,3,3-Trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester and (RS)-cis-4-(3,3,3-trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester were obtained from acetoxyacetone according to general procedure I after separation by flash-column chromatography.

(RS)-trans-4-(3,3,3-Trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as colorless oil in 9% yield. MS (EI) m/e: 282 (M^+)

(RS)-cis-4-(3,3,3-Trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as colorless oil in 4% yield. MS m/e: 283 ($M+H^+$)

5 **4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 19**
cis/trans-4-(2-Benzyloxy-1-benzyloxymethyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester

The title compound was obtained as colorless oil in 49% yield from 1,3-dibenzyloxy-2-propanol according to general procedure IIA. MS m/e: 427 ($M+H^+$)

10 **4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 20**
cis/trans-4-(2-Hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (3:7)

To an argon purged solution of cis/trans-4-(2-benzyloxy-1-benzyloxymethyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (2.30 g, 5.39 mmol) in acetic acid (54 ml) was added
15 palladium on charcoal 10% (0.57 g). The reaction mixture was purged with hydrogen gas and stirred at room temperature for 3 h under an atmosphere of hydrogen gas. The catalyst was removed by filtration over Decalite. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. Flash-chromatography with n-heptane/ethyl acetate as eluent gave the title compound (0.74 g, 56%) as colorless oil. MS m/e: 247 ($M+H^+$)

20 **4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 21**
(RS)-cis/trans-4-[1-Hydroxymethyl-2-(toluene-4-sulfonyloxy)-ethoxy]-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (3:7)

To a solution of cis/trans-4-(2-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (3:7) (0.74 g, 3.0 mmol) and triethylamine (0.42 ml, 3.0 mmol) in dichloromethane
25 (30 ml) a catalytic amount of 4-N,N-dimethylaminopyridine was added. A solution of p-toluenesulfonyl chloride (0.57 g, 3.0 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 ml) was added dropwise at room temperature. Stirring for 16 h was followed by partitioning between ethyl acetate (100 ml) and 0.5 M aqueous hydrogen chloride solution (50 ml). The layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with two portions of ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed
30 with one portion of brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Flash-chromatography with n-heptane/ethyl acetate as eluent gave the title compound (0.46 g, 38%) as colorless oil. MS m/e: 401 ($M+H^+$)

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 22
cis/trans-4-(Tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (7:1)

35 The title compound was obtained as colorless oil in 49% yield from tetrahydro-pyran-4-one according to general procedure I. MS m/e: 257 ($M+H^+$)

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 23**cis/trans-4-Methylsulfanyltiocarboxyoxycyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester**

To a solution of ethyl 4-hydroxycyclohexane carboxylate (2:1) (3.0 g, 17 mmol) in N,N-dimethylformamide (35 ml) was added sodium hydride (1.0 g, 21 mmol, 50 % in mineral oil) at 0-5 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 minutes at 0 °C and for 45 minutes at room temperature. Carbon disulfide (2.1 ml, 35 mmol) was added dropwise at 0-5 °C over a period of 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was stirred for 7 h at room temperature. Iodomethane (1.3 ml, 21 mmol) was added dropwise at 0-5 °C. Stirring for 16 h at room temperature was followed by quenching with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (6 ml). The reaction mixture was partitioned between saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (150 ml) and tert-butyl methyl ether (150 ml). The layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with two 150-ml portions of tert-butyl methyl ether. The combined organic layers were washed with two 50-ml portions of water and one 50-ml portion of brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Flash-chromatography with n-heptane/ethyl acetate as eluent gave the title compound (0.46 g, 38%) as colorless oil. MS m/e: 263 (M+H⁺)

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 24**trans-4-tert-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester**

and

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester 25**cis-4-tert-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester**

To a solution of cis/trans-4-hydroxycyclohexane carboxylic acid ethyl ester (2:1) (1.0 g, 5.8 mmol) and di-tert-butyl dicarbonate (2.9 g, 13.4 mmol) in dichloromethane (6 ml) was added anhydrous magnesium perchlorate (0.13 g, 0.58 mmol) which was previously activated in high vacuo (ca. 1 mbar) at 150 °C for 1 h. Stirring for 16 h at 40 °C was followed by partitioning between dichloromethane (50 ml) and water (30 ml). The layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with one 50-ml portion of dichloromethane. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by flash-chromatography with n-heptane/tert-butyl methyl ether as eluent gave pure trans-4-tert-butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester and cis-4-tert-butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester.

trans-4-tert-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as colorless oil in 8% yield. MS (EI) m/e: 228 (M⁺, 1%), 155 [M-C₄H₉O]⁺, 61%)

cis-4-tert-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester was obtained as colorless oil in 8% yield. MS m/e: 229 (M+H⁺)

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid intermediates of formula (XII)**4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid 1****cis/trans-4-(Oxetan-3-yloxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (1:3)**

To a solution of cis/trans-4-[1-hydroxymethyl-2-(toluene-4-sulfonyloxy)-ethoxy]-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (3:7) (0.46 g, 1.2 mmol) in toluene (11.5 ml) was added potassium tert-butoxide (0.14 g, 1.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 20 h. After cooling to room temperature the mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate (50 ml) and
5 1 M aqueous hydrogen chloride solution (30 ml). The layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with two 50-ml portions of ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in 1,4-dioxane (12 ml) and 2 M aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (5.7 ml, 12 mmol). After stirring at room temperature for 16 h the mixture was partitioned between tert-butyl methyl ether (30 ml)
10 and 1 M aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (50 ml). The layers were separated. The organic layer was extracted with one 50-ml portion of 1 M aqueous sodium hydroxide solution. The combined aqueous layers were acidified by addition of concentrated hydrochloric acid solution and crushed ice (50 g) and extracted with three 50-ml portions of ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Flash-
15 chromatography with n-heptane/ethyl acetate as eluent gave the title compound (0.12 g, 50%) as off-white solid. MS m/e: 199 (M+H⁺)

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid 2

cis/trans-4-(Tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (1:2)

A mixture of cis/trans-4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (7:1)
20 (0.385 g, 1.50 mmol) and sodium ethoxide (0.204 g, 3.00 mmol) in dry toluene (1.5 ml) was heated at reflux for 20 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with 1,4-dioxane (7.5 ml) and 2 M aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (7.5 ml). Stirring for 16 h was followed by partitioning between 2 M aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (50 ml) and dichloromethane. The layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with one portion
25 of dichloromethane. The combined organic layers were washed with two 50 ml portions of 2 M aqueous sodium hydroxide solution. The combined aqueous layers were acidified to pH 1 by addition of concentrated hydrochloric acid solution (100 ml). The aqueous layer was extracted with two 150-ml portions of dichloromethane. The combined organic layers from the acidic extraction were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and dried in vacuo to give the title
30 compound (0.358 g, 93%) as yellow solid. MS m/e: 229 (M+H⁺)

4-Alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid 3

cis/trans-4-Trifluoromethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid

To a suspension of N-bromosuccinimide (4.95 g, 27.8 mmol) in dichloromethane (13 ml) were consecutively added dry pyridine (2.5 ml) and hydrogen fluoride pyridine complex 70% (5.80 ml,
35 223 mmol) at -45 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to 0 °C and stirred for 10 minutes. A solution of cis/trans-4-methylsulfanylthiocarboxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (1.46 g, 5.6 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 ml) was added dropwise. Stirring for 1 h at 0 °C was followed by partitioning between tert-butyl methyl ether (150 ml) and a mixture of saturated

aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (20 ml), 40% aqueous sodium hydrogen sulfite solution (20 ml) and 1 M aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (20 ml). The pH was adjusted to 9-10 by addition of further 1 M aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (210 ml). The layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with two 100-ml portions of tert-butyl methyl ether. The combined organic layers were washed with two 50-ml portions of 1 M aqueous hydrogen chloride solution and one 50-ml portion of brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The crude cis/trans-4-trifluoromethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester (0.57 g) was dissolved in 1,4-dioxane (18 ml) and 2 M aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (11.8 ml, 23.7 mmol). Stirring at room temperature for 18 h was followed by addition of 1 M aqueous hydrogen chloride solution (20 ml). The reaction mixture was extracted with three 100-ml portions of ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo to give the title compound (0.37 g, 73%) as amorphous light brown solid, which was used in the next step without further purification. MS m/e: 211 (M-H⁺)

Hydrazide intermediates of formula (II)

General procedure IIIA: Hydrazide formation from 4-alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester

A mixture of a 4-alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ester (1 eq) and hydrazine hydrate (2-6 eq) in n-butanol (0.2-1 M) is heated at reflux for 16-72 h. After cooling to room temperature the reaction mixture is partitioned between an organic solvent such as ethyl acetate or dichloromethane and water. The layers are separated and the aqueous layer is extracted with two portions of organic solvent. The combined organic layers are dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo to give the crude title compound, which is used in the next step without further purification.

General procedure IIIB: Hydrazide formation from 4-alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid

To a solution of a 4-alkoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (1 eq) and triethylamine (1 eq) in tetrahydrofuran (0.2 M) is added ethyl chloroformate at 0 °C. The reaction mixture is stirred for 1 h. The ammonium salts are removed by filtration. The filtrate is added to a cold solution of hydrazine hydrate (2 eq) in methanol (0.2 M). The reaction mixture is stirred at room temperature for 2-16 h. The solvent is evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue is partitioned between an organic solvent such as ethyl acetate or dichloromethane and water. The organic layer is separated. The aqueous layer is extracted with two or three portions of organic solvent. The combined organic layers are dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo to give the crude title compound which is used in the next step without further purification.

Hydrazide 1

cis/trans-4-Methoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide (1:1)

The title compound was obtained as colorless amorphous solid in 55% yield from cis/trans-4-methoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid according to general procedure IIIB. MS m/e: 173 ($M+H^+$)

Hydrazide 2**5 trans-4-Ethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 70 % yield from trans-4-ethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure IIIA. MS m/e: 187 ($M+H^+$)

Hydrazide 3**cis-4-Ethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

10 The title compound was obtained as white solid in 76 % yield from cis-4-ethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure IIIA. MS m/e: 187 ($M+H^+$)

Hydrazide 4**trans-4-Isopropoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

15 The title compound was obtained as off-white solid in 70 % yield from trans-4-isopropoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure IIIA. MS m/e: 201 ($M+H^+$)

Hydrazide 5**cis-4-Isopropoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

20 The title compound was obtained as white solid in 86 % yield from cis-4-isopropoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure IIIA. MS m/e: 201 ($M+H^+$)

Hydrazide 6**(RS)-trans-4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

25 The title compound was obtained as white solid in 93 % yield from (RS)-trans-4-sec-butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure IIIA. MS (EI) m/e: 214 (M^+)

Hydrazide 7**trans-4-Cyclobutoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

30 The title compound was obtained as white solid in 93 % yield from trans-4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure IIIA. MS m/e: 213 ($M+H^+$)

Hydrazide 8**cis-4-Cyclobutoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

35 The title compound was obtained as white solid in 91 % yield from cis-4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure IIIA. MS m/e: 213 ($M+H^+$)

Hydrazide 9**trans-4-Cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 80 % yield from trans-4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure IIIA.

5 MS (EI) m/e: 226 (M^+)

Hydrazide 10**trans-4-Cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 88 % yield from trans-4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure IIIA.

10 MS m/e: 241 ($M+H^+$)

Hydrazide 11**cis-4-Cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 88 % yield from cis-4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure IIIA.

15 MS m/e: 241 ($M+H^+$)

Hydrazide 12**(RS)-trans-4-(2-Methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 75% yield from (RS)-trans-4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure IIIA. MS

20 m/e: 231 ($M+H^+$)

Hydrazide 13**(RS)-trans-4-(2-Hydroxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

The title compound was obtained as colorless amorphous solid in 97% yield from (RS)-4-(2-acetoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure

25 IIIA. MS m/e: 217 ($M+H^+$)

Hydrazide 14**(RS)-trans-4-(3,3,3-Trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 84% yield from (RS)-trans-4-(3,3,3-trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure IIIA.

30 MS m/e: 269 ($M+H^+$)

Hydrazide 15**cis/trans-4-(Oxetan-3-yloxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide (1:3)**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 53% yield from cis/trans 4-(oxetan-3-yloxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (1:3) according to general procedure IIIB. MS m/e: 215 ($M+H^+$)

Hydrazide 16**cis/trans-4-(Tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide (1:2)**

The title compound was obtained as yellow solid in 88% yield from cis/trans- 4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (1:2) according to general procedure IIIB.

5 MS m/e: 243 (M+H⁺)

Hydrazide 17**cis/trans-4-Trifluoromethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

The title compound was obtained as yellow solid in 86% yield from cis/trans-4-trifluoromethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid according to general procedure IIIB.

10 MS m/e: 227 (M+H⁺)

Hydrazide 18**trans-4-tert-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 81 % yield from trans-4-tert-butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure IIIA.

15 MS m/e: 215 (M+H⁺)

Hydrazide 19**cis-4-tert-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide**

The title compound was obtained as light yellow solid in quantitative yield from cis-4-tert-butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid ethyl ester according to general procedure IIIA.

20 MS m/e: 215 (M+H⁺)

Thiolactam intermediates of formula (III)**7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester****a) 4-Chloro-2-chloromethyl-1-nitro-benzene**

25 To a solution of 5-chloro-2-nitrobenzyl alcohol (80 g, 0.42 mol) and triethylamine (64 ml, 0.46 mol) in dichloromethane (840 ml) was added drop wise thionyl chloride (34 ml, 0.46 mol) during a period of 30 min while the internal temperature was kept below 32 °C by cooling with a water bath. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was trituated in warm tert-butyl methyl ether (970 ml). The ammonium salts were removed by
30 filtration and the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo to give the title compound (85 g, 99%) as brown oil which was used in the next step without purification. MS m/e: 205 (M⁺).

b) (5-Chloro-2-nitro-benzylamino)-acetic acid ethyl ester

A mixture of 4-chloro-2-chloromethyl-1-nitro-benzene (85 g, 0.41 mol), glycine ethyl ester hydrochloride (70 g, 0.50 mol) and triethylamine (121.4 ml, 0.8665 mol) in ethanol (1000 ml)
35 was heated at reflux for 8 h. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was trituated in warm tert-butyl methyl ether. The ammonium salts were removed by filtration and the filtrate was

concentrated in vacuo to give the title compound (111 g, 99%) as an amorphous brown solid which was used in the next step without purification. MS m/e: 273 (M+H⁺).

c) [tert-Butoxycarbonyl-(5-chloro-2-nitro-benzyl)-amino]-acetic acid ethyl ester

A solution of (5-chloro-2-nitro-benzylamino)-acetic acid ethyl ester (110 g, 0.403 mol), di-tert-butyl dicarbonate (180 g, 0.807 mol) and 4-N,N-dimethylaminopyridine (2.51 g, 0.0202 mol) in dichloromethane (1200 ml) was stirred for 2 h at 0 °C and further 16 h at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography with a cyclohexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent to give the title compound (76.4 g, 51%) as light yellow viscous oil. MS m/e: 373 (M+H⁺).

10 d) [(2-Amino-5-chloro-benzyl)-tert-butoxycarbonyl-amino]-acetic acid ethyl ester

To a solution of [tert-butoxycarbonyl-(5-chloro-2-nitro-benzyl)-amino]-acetic acid ethyl ester (69.0 g, 0.186 mol) in ethyl acetate (1200 ml) was added zinc bromide (8.5 g, 0.037 mol). The reaction mixture was purged with argon after 15 min. After addition of the palladium catalyst (10% on activated charcoal, 7.9 g, 0.0074 mol) the mixture was hydrogenated at ambient
15 pressure during a period of ca. 48 h until ca. 13 l of hydrogen gas had been consumed. The catalyst was removed by filtration and the filtrate was washed with two portions of saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution and brine, each. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo to give the title compound (60.6 g, 95.5%) as yellow waxy solid. MS m/e: 343 (M+H⁺).

20 e) 7-Chloro-2-oxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

To a solution of [(2-amino-5-chloro-benzyl)-tert-butoxycarbonyl-amino]-acetic acid ethyl ester (60 g, 0.18 mol) in tetrahydrofuran (600 ml) was added potassium tert-butoxide (22 g, 0.19 mol) in small portions at 5 °C under cooling on an ice-water bath. After completed addition the cooling bath was removed and reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature followed
25 by addition of water (400 ml), saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (280 ml) and ethyl acetate (800 ml). After 10 min the precipitate was collected by filtration. The layers were separated from the filtrate, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was combined with the precipitate, which had previously been collected by filtration, and crystallized from hot ethyl acetate to give the title compound (46 g, 88%) as white solid.
30 MS m/e: 295 (M-H⁺).

f) 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

A mixture of 7-chloro-2-oxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (41.1 g, 0.139 mol) and 2,4-bis-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3,2,4-dithiadiphosphetane-2,4-disulfide (31.5 g, 0.0763 mol) in tetrahydrofuran (1100 ml) was heated at reflux for 3 h. The
35 solvent was evaporated and the residue was triturated in tert-butyl methyl ether. The precipitate was removed by filtration and the filtrate was concentrated to dryness. The residue was

crystallized from hot ethanol to give the title compound (37.5 g, 86.4%) as light yellow solid. MS m/e: 311 ($M-H^+$).

7-Fluoro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

- 5 The title compound was obtained as light yellow solid in comparable yields according to the procedures described above for the synthesis of 7-chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using 5-fluoro-2-nitrobenzyl alcohol instead of 5-chloro-2-nitrobenzyl alcohol in step a). MS m/e: 297 ($M-H^+$).

General procedure IV: Condensation of hydrazide and thiolactam to triazole

- 10 A mixture of a hydrazide derivative of formula (II) (1-1.5 eq) and a thiolactam of formula (III) (1 eq) in n-butanol (0.1-0.2 M) is heated at reflux for 16-72 h. After cooling to room temperature the solvent is evaporated and the residue is purified by flash-chromatography to give a compound of formula (I). When a thiolactam of formula (III-1) (compounds of formula (III) in which R^2 is tert-butoxycarbonyl) is used the N-tert-butoxycarbonyl group of the resulting
15 triazole product of formula (I-a) may be partially or completely cleaved thermally, and a secondary amine derivative of formula (I-b) is obtained in addition or as the sole product.

General procedure V: Cleavage of N-tert-butoxycarbonyl (N-BOC) group

- A solution of an N-BOC derivative of general formula (I-a) (1 eq) in 1.25 M methanolic or 1.5 M ethanolic hydrogen chloride solution (10 - 20 eq HCl) is heated at 50 °C for 15-60 min. After
20 cooling to room temperature the reaction mixture is concentrated in vacuo to give a secondary amine derivative of general formula (I-b) as hydrochloride salt. Optionally the free base can be obtained by partitioning the hydrochloride salt between 1 M aqueous sodium hydroxide solution and an organic solvent, e.g. ethyl acetate or dichloromethane. The layers are separated and the aqueous layer is extracted with two portions of the organic solvent. The combined organic layers
25 are dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo to give the free base of a compound of formula (I-b).

General procedure VI: Reductive N-alkylation

- A mixture of a compound of formula (I-b) as free base or as hydrochloride salt (1 eq, 0.1-0.2 M), triethylamine (1 eq when the hydrochloride salt of a compound of formula (I-b) is used) and an
30 aldehyde or ketone (8 eq) in methanol is heated at reflux for 2-6 h. After cooling to 0 °C sodium cyanoborohydride (2-3 eq) is added. The reaction mixture is stirred for 3-16 h at room temperature and quenched with 1 M aqueous sodium hydroxide solution. The aqueous layer is extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers are dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Flash chromatography gives an N-alkyl derivative of formula
35 (I).

Example 1

cis-8-Chloro-1-(4-methoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

a) cis/trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-methoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (1:1)

5 Hydrazide: cis/trans-4-Methoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide (1:1)

Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was obtained as brown solid in 53% yield using general procedure IV.

MS m/e: 433 (M+H⁺)

10 b) cis/trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-methoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene (1:1)

The title compound was obtained as light brown solid in quantitative yield from cis/trans-8-chloro-1-(4-methoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (1:1) using general procedure V. MS m/e: 333 (M+H⁺)

15 c) cis-8-Chloro-1-(4-methoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 4% yield from cis/trans-8-chloro-1-(4-methoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene (1:1) and paraformaldehyde according to general procedure VI after purification by preparative HPLC on

20 a Chiralpak AD column with n-heptane/2-propanol (7:3) as eluent. MS m/e: 347 (M+H⁺).

Example 2

trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-ethoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 77% yield using general procedure IV.

25 Hydrazide: trans-4-Ethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

MS m/e: 447 (M+H⁺)

Example 3

30 **trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-ethoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in quantitative yield from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-ethoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 347 (M+H⁺)

35

Example 4

trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-ethoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 79% yield trans-8-chloro-1-(4-ethoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride and para-
5 formaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 361 ($M+H^+$).

Example 5

cis-8-Chloro-1-(4-ethoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 37% yield using general procedure IV.

10 Hydrazide: cis-4-Ethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

MS m/e: 447 ($M+H^+$)

Example 6

15 **cis-8-Chloro-1-(4-ethoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 91% yield from cis-8-chloro-1-(4-ethoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 347 ($M+H^+$)

20 **Example 7**

cis-8-Chloro-1-(4-ethoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 50% yield from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-ethoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride and
25 paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 361 ($M+H^+$).

Example 8

trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 38% yield using general procedure IV.

30 Hydrazide: trans-4-Isopropoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

MS m/e: 461 ($M+H^+$)

Example 9

35 **trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in quantitative yield from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 361 ($M+H^+$)

Example 10

5 **trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 78% yield from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 375 ($M+H^+$).

Example 11

10 **trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methanesulfonyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene**

To a solution of trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride (0.070 g, 0.18 mmol) and triethylamine (0.052 ml, 0.37 mmol) in
15 dichloromethane (5 ml) was added methanesulfonyl chloride (0.015 ml, 0.19 mmol) at room temperature. After stirring for 19 h the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo. Flash-chromatography with n-heptane/2-propanol as eluent gave the title compound (0.004 g, 5%) as yellow solid. MS m/e: 439 ($M+H^+$).

Example 12

20 **trans-2-[8-Chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulen-5-yl]-ethanol**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 50% yield from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride and glycolaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 405 ($M+H^+$)

Example 13

25 **trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-isopropyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 25% yield from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride and
30 acetone using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 403 ($M+H^+$)

Example 14

trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-sulfonic acid dimethylamide

To a solution of trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride (0.070 g, 0.18 mmol) and triethylamine (0.037 ml, 0.26 mmol) in
35 dichloromethane (3 ml) was added N,N-dimethylsulfamoyl chloride (0.028 ml, 0.26 mmol) at

room temperature. After stirring for 65 h the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo. Flash-chromatography with n-heptane/2-propanol as eluent gave the title compound (0.063 g, 77%) as white solid. MS m/e: 468 ($M+H^+$).

Example 15

trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-pyridin-2-ylmethyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene

To a mixture of trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride (0.070 g, 0.18 mmol) and potassium carbonate (0.073 ml, 0.53 mmol) in acetonitrile (1 ml) was added 2-(bromomethyl)pyridine hydrobromide (0.048 g, 0.18 mmol) at room temperature. Stirring for 20 h at 50 °C was followed by partitioning between 1 M aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (30 ml) and dichloromethane (30 ml). The layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with two 30-ml portions of dichloromethane. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by flash-chromatography with n-heptane/2-propanol as eluent gave the title compound (0.046 g, 58%) as yellow oil. MS m/e: 452 ($M+H^+$).

Example 16

trans-Acetic acid 2-[8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulen-5-yl]-2-oxo-ethyl ester

To a solution of trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride (0.090 g, 0.23 mmol) and triethylamine (0.066 ml, 0.48 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 ml) was added acetoxy acetyl chloride (0.031 g, 0.25 mmol) at room temperature. After stirring for 19 h the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo. Flash-chromatography with n-heptane/2-propanol as eluent gave the title compound (0.073 g, 70%) as white solid. MS m/e: 461 ($M+H^+$).

Example 17

trans-1-[8-Chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulen-5-yl]-2-hydroxy-ethanone

To a solution of trans-acetic acid 2-[8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulen-5-yl]-2-oxo-ethyl ester in methanol (5 ml) was added one drop of a 30 % methanolic sodium methoxide solution at room temperature. Stirring for 40 minutes was followed by quenching with water. The mixture was extracted with three portions of tert-butyl methyl ether. The combined org layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Flash-chromatography with n-heptane/2-propanol as eluent gave the title compound (0.033 g, 49%) as white solid. MS m/e: 419 ($M+H^+$).

Example 18

trans-1-[8-Chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulen-5-yl]-ethanone

To a solution of trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride (0.080 g, 0.20 mmol) and triethylamine (0.059 ml, 0.42 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 ml) was added acetyl chloride (0.016 ml, 0.22 mmol) at room temperature. After stirring for 19 h the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo. Flash-chromatography with n-heptane/2-propanol as eluent gave the title compound (0.062 g, 77%) as white solid. MS m/e: 403 (M+H⁺).

Example 19

trans-8-Fluoro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 60% yield using general procedure IV.

Hydrazide: trans-4-Isopropoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

Thiolactam: 7-Fluoro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

MS m/e: 445 (M+H⁺)

Example 20

trans-8-Fluoro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride

The title compound was obtained as white solid in quantitative yield from trans-8-fluoro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 345 (M+H⁺)

Example 21

trans-8-Fluoro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 77% yield from trans-8-fluoro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 359 (M+H⁺).

Example 22

cis-8-Chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 64% yield using general procedure IV.

Hydrazide: cis-4-Isopropoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

MS m/e: 461 (M+H⁺)

Example 23**cis-8-Chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride**

5 The title compound was obtained as white solid in quantitative yield from cis-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 361 ($M+H^+$)

Example 24**cis-8-Chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene**

10 The title compound was obtained as white solid in 90% yield from cis-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 359 ($M+H^+$).

Example 25**(RS)-trans-1-(4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester**

15 The title compound was obtained as white solid in 71% yield using general procedure IV.
Hydrazide: (RS)-trans-4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide
Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester
20 MS m/e: 475 ($M+H^+$)

Example 26**(RS)-trans-1-(4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride**

The title compound was obtained as off-white solid in quantitative yield from (RS)-trans-1-(4-sec-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 375 ($M+H^+$)

Example 27**(RS)-trans-1-(4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene**

30 The title compound was obtained as white solid in 66% yield from (RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 389 ($M+H^+$).

Example 28**(+)-trans-1-(4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene**
and

35

Example 29**(-)-trans-1-(4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene**

(+)-trans-1-(4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene and (-)-trans-1-(4-sec-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene were obtained from (RS)-trans-1-(4-sec-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene by chiral HPLC separation on a Chiralpak AD column with n-heptane/ethanol (4:1) as eluent.

(+)-trans-1-(4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene (0.068 g, 36%) was obtained as white solid.

(MS m/e: 389 ($M+H^+$), $[\alpha]_D = +17.2$ (c = 0.414, $CHCl_3$, 20 °C)

(-)-trans-1-(4-sec-Butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene (0.035 g, 18%) was obtained as white solid.

(MS m/e: 389 ($M+H^+$), $[\alpha]_D = -15.5$ (c = 0.414, $CHCl_3$, 20 °C).

Example 30**trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 86% yield using general procedure IV.

Hydrazide: trans-4-Cyclobutoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

MS m/e: 473 ($M+H^+$)

Example 31**trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride**

The title compound was obtained as off-white solid in 87% yield from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 373 ($M+H^+$)

Example 32**trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 51% yield from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 387 ($M+H^+$).

Example 33

cis-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 95% yield using general procedure IV.

Hydrazide: cis-4-Cyclobutoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

5 Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

MS m/e: 473 ($M+H^+$)

Example 34

cis-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride

10

The title compound was obtained as off-white solid in quantitative yield from cis-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 373 ($M+H^+$)

Example 35

cis-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

15

The title compound was obtained as white solid in quantitative yield from cis-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 387 ($M+H^+$).

Example 36

trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

20

The title compound was obtained as light brown solid in 65% yield using general procedure IV.

Hydrazide: trans-4-Cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

25 Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

MS m/e: 487 ($M+H^+$)

Example 37

trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride

30

The title compound was obtained as light brown solid in 75% yield from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 387 ($M+H^+$)

Example 38

trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

35

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 56% yield from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 401 ($M+H^+$)

Example 39

5 **trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 74% yield using general procedure IV.

Hydrazide: trans-4-Cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

10 Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester.
MS m/e: 501 ($M+H^+$)

Example 40

15 **trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene hydrochloride**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 97% yield from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 401 ($M+H^+$).

Example 41

20 **trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene**

The title compound was obtained as off-white solid in 69% yield from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 415 ($M+H^+$).

Example 42

25 **cis-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester**

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 74% yield using general procedure IV.

Hydrazide: cis-4-Cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

30 Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester.
MS m/e: 501 ($M+H^+$)

Example 43

cis-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene hydrochloride

The title compound was obtained as white solid in quantitative yield from cis-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 401 ($M+H^+$).

Example 44

5 **cis-8-Chloro-1-(4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene**

The title compound was obtained as off-white solid in 75% yield from cis-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 415 ($M+H^+$).

Example 45

10

(RS)-trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 54% yield using general procedure IV.

Hydrazide: (RS)-trans-4-(2-Methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

15 Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

MS m/e: 491 ($M+H^+$)

Example 46

20

(RS)-trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride

The title compound was obtained as off-white solid in quantitative yield from (RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]-azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 391 ($M+H^+$).

Example 47

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(RS)-trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 79% yield from (RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]-azulene hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 405 ($M+H^+$).

Example 48

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(+)-trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

and

Example 49

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(-)-trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

(+)-trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene and (-)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene were obtained from (RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene by chiral HPLC separation on a Chiralpak AD column with n-heptane/ethanol (3:1) as eluent.

(+)-trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene (0.081 g, 39%) was obtained as white solid.

(MS m/e: 405 ($M+H^+$), $[\alpha]_D = +5.75$ ($c = 0.574$, $CHCl_3$, 20 °C)

(-)-trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene (0.078 g, 37%) was obtained as white solid

(MS m/e: 405 ($M+H^+$), $[\alpha]_D = -5.76$ ($c = 0.538$, $CHCl_3$, 20 °C).

Example 50

(RS)-trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(2-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was obtained as light yellow solid in 39% yield using general procedure IV. Hydrazide: (RS)-trans- 4-(2-Hydroxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

MS m/e: 477 ($M+H^+$).

Example 51

(RS)-trans-2-[4-(8-Chloro-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-1-yl)-cyclohexyloxy]-propan-1-ol hydrochloride

The title compound was obtained as light brown solid in quantitative yield from (RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V.

MS m/e: 377 ($M+H^+$).

Example 52

(RS)-trans-2-[4-(8-Chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-1-yl)-cyclohexyloxy]-propan-1-ol

The title compound was obtained as off-white solid in 59% yield from (RS)-trans-2-[4-(8-chloro-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-1-yl)-cyclohexyloxy]-propan-1-ol hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 391 ($M+H^+$).

Example 53

(RS)-trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(2-fluoro-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

To a solution of (RS)-trans-2-[4-(8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-1-yl)-cyclohexyloxy]-propan-1-ol (0.055 g, 0.14 mmol) in dichloromethane (2 ml) was added [bis(2-methoxyethyl)-amino]sulfur trifluoride (0.031 ml, 0.17 mmol) at 0-5 °C. Stirring at room temperature for 18 h was followed by addition of further [bis(2-methoxyethyl)-amino]sulfur trifluoride (0.016 ml, 0.08 mmol) and stirring for 4 h. The reaction mixture was partitioned between saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (30 ml) and ethyl acetate (30 ml). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with two 30-ml portions of ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Flash-chromatography with n-heptane/2-propanol as eluent gave the title compound (0.020 g, 36%) as white solid. MS m/e: 393 (M+H⁺).

Example 54

(RS)-trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(3,3,3-trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 28% yield using general procedure IV.

Hydrazide: trans-4-(3,3,3-Trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide
Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester
MS m/e: 529 (M+H⁺)

Example 55

(RS)-trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(3,3,3-trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride

The title compound was obtained as off-white solid in quantitative yield from (RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(3,3,3-trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 429 (M+H⁺).

Example 56

(RS)-trans-8-Chloro-5-methyl-1-[4-(3,3,3-trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 55% yield from (RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(3,3,3-trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 443 (M+H⁺).

Example 57

trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(oxetan-3-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 51% yield using general procedure IV.

Hydrazide: cis/trans-4-(Oxetan-3-yloxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

MS m/e: 475 (M+H⁺)

Example 58

trans-8-Chloro-5-methyl-1-[4-(oxetan-3-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

a) (RS)-trans-3-Chloro-2-[4-(8-chloro-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-1-yl)-cyclohexyloxy]-propan-1-ol hydrochloride

The title compound was obtained as off-white solid in quantitative yield from trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(oxetan-3-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 411 (M+H⁺).

b) (RS)-trans-3-Chloro-2-[4-(8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-
benzo[e]azulen-1-yl)-cyclohexyloxy]-propan-1-ol

The title compound was obtained as off-white solid in 87% yield from (RS)-trans-3-chloro-2-[4-(8-chloro-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-1-yl)-cyclohexyloxy]-propan-1-ol hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS *m/e*: 425 ($M+H^+$).

c) trans-8-Chloro-5-methyl-1-[4-(oxetan-3-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

To a solution of (RS)-trans-3-chloro-2-[4-(8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-1-yl)-cyclohexyloxy]-propan-1-ol (0.045 g, 0.11 mmol) in toluene (2 ml) was added potassium tert-butoxide (0.013 g, 0.12 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 2 h. After cooling to room temperature the mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with two portions of ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Flash-chromatography with n-heptane/2-propanol as eluent gave the title compound (0.10 g, 24%) as white solid. MS m/e: 389 (M+H⁺).

Example 59

**trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-
benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester**

and

Example 60

cis-8-Chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-

benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester and cis-8-chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

were obtained according to general procedure IV after separation by flash-column chromatography.

Hydrazide: cis/trans-4-(Tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide(1:2)

Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester was obtained as white foam in 26% yield.

MS m/e: 503 ($M+H^+$)

cis-8-Chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-

benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester was obtained as white foam in 14% yield.

MS m/e: 503 ($M+H^+$)

Example 61

trans-8-Chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene hydrochloride

The title compound was obtained as white solid in quantitative yield from trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 403 ($M+H^+$).

Example 62

trans-8-Chloro-5-methyl-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene

The title compound was obtained as white foam in 72% yield from trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 417 ($M+H^+$).

Example 63

cis-8-Chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene hydrochloride

The title compound was obtained as white solid in quantitative yield from cis-8-chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V. MS m/e: 403 ($M+H^+$).

Example 64

cis-8-Chloro-5-methyl-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene

The title compound was obtained as off-white solid in 72% yield from cis-8-chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI. MS m/e: 417 ($M+H^+$).

Example 65

trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-trifluoromethoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was obtained as light yellow solid in 33% yield using general procedure IV.

Hydrazide: cis/trans-4-Trifluoromethoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

5 Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

MS m/e: 487 (M+H⁺)

Example 66

trans-8-Chloro-1-(4-trifluoromethoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride

10

The title compound was obtained as light yellow solid in quantitative yield from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-trifluoromethoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure V.

MS m/e: 387 (M+H⁺).

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Example 67

trans-8-Chloro-5-methyl-1-(4-trifluoromethoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene

The title compound was obtained as white solid in 76% yield from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-trifluoromethoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde using general procedure VI.

20

MS m/e: 401 (M+H⁺).

Example 68

trans-1-(4-tert-Butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

25 The title compound was obtained as light yellow solid in 55% yield using general procedure IV.

Hydrazide: trans-4-tert-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

MS m/e: 475 (M+H⁺)

30

Example 69

cis-1-(4-tert-Butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

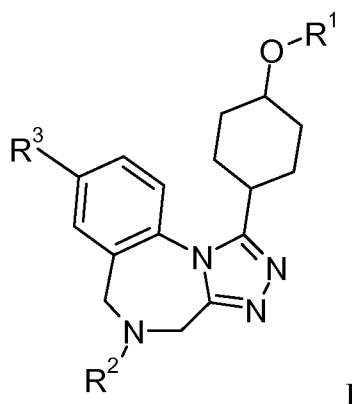
The title compound was obtained as light brown solid in 63% yield using general procedure IV.

Hydrazide: cis-4-tert-Butoxy-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydrazide

35 Thiolactam: 7-Chloro-2-thioxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester. MS m/e: 475 (M+H⁺)

Claims

1. The compound of the general formula I



wherein

- 5 R^1 is C_{1-12} -alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, hydroxy, cyano or C_{1-12} -alkoxy,
 C_{3-7} -cycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents
 independently selected from B,
 4-7 membered heterocycloalkyl containing one or two heteroatoms selected from
 10 O, N or S, which heterocycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more
 substituents independently selected from B,
- R^2 is H,
 C_{1-12} -alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH, halo, cyano or
 C_{1-12} -alkoxy,
 15 $-(CH_2)_q-R^a$, wherein R^a is phenyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl,
 each unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents independently
 selected from A,
 $-(CH_2)_rNR^iR^{ii}$,
 $-C(O)-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more
 20 OH, halo, cyano or C_{1-12} -alkoxy,
 $-C(O)(CH_2)_qOC(O)-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl,
 $-C(O)(CH_2)_qNR^iR^{ii}$,
 $-C(O)O-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more
 OH, halo, cyano or C_{1-12} -alkoxy,
 25 $-S(O)_2-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl,
 $-S(O)_2NR^iR^{ii}$,
 R^i and R^{ii} are each independently H, C_{1-12} -alkyl, or form together with the
 nitrogen to which they are bound a 3- to 7-membered heterocycloalkyl containing

one or two heteroatoms selected from N, O or S, which heterocycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from B,

q is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

5 r is 2, 3 or 4,

A is halo, cyano, OH, C₁₋₇-alkyl, halo-C₁₋₇-alkyl, or C₁₋₇-alkoxy,

B is oxo, halo, OH, C₁₋₇-alkyl or C₁₋₇-alkoxy,

R³ is Cl or F,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10 2. The compound of formula I according to claim 1, wherein

R¹ is C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, hydroxy or C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, or 4-7 membered heterocycloalkyl containing one or two heteroatoms selected from O or S, which heterocycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more oxo, halo, OH, C₁₋₇-alkyl or C₁₋₇-alkoxy.

15

3. The compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein R¹ is C₁₋₁₂-alkyl or C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl.

4. The compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein R¹ is -CF₃, -CH(CH₃)CH₂CF₃, -CH(CH₃)CH₂F, -CH(CH₃)CH₂OH, -CH(CH₃)CH₂OMe, cyclobutyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, ethyl, i-propyl, methyl, oxetanyl, sec-butyl, t-butyl or tetrahydro-pyranyl.

20

5. The compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein R¹ is i-propyl, cyclobutyl or cyclopentyl.

25 6. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein

R² is H, C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH, -(CH₂)_q-R^a, wherein R^a is phenyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl and q is 1, 2, 3 or 4, -C(O)-C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more OH,

-C(O)(CH₂)_qOC(O)-C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, wherein q is 1, 2, 3 or 4,
 -C(O)O-C₁₋₁₂-alkyl,
 -S(O)₂-C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, or
 -S(O)₂NRⁱRⁱⁱ, wherein Rⁱ and Rⁱⁱ are each independently H or C₁₋₁₂-alkyl.

- 5 7. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein R² is C₁₋₁₂-alkyl.
8. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein R² is 2-hydroxy-ethyl, -C(O)CH₂OC(O)methyl, -C(O)hydroxymethyl, -C(O)methyl, -C(O)O-t-butyl, -CH₂-pyridin-2-yl, H, i-propyl, methyl, -S(O)₂methyl or -S(O)₂N(methyl)₂.
9. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein R² is methyl.
- 10 10. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein R³ is Cl.
11. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the compound is selected from
 - trans-8-chloro-1-(4-ethoxy-cyclohexyl)-4*H*,6*H*-2,3,5,10*b*-tetraaza-benzo[*e*]azulene-5-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester;
 - 15 trans-8-chloro-1-(4-ethoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-2,3,5,10*b*-tetraaza-benzo[*e*]azulene;
 - trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4*H*,6*H*-2,3,5,10*b*-tetraaza-benzo[*e*]azulene-5-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester;
 - trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-2,3,5,10*b*-tetraaza-
 - 20 benzo[*e*]azulene;
 - trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methanesulfonyl-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-2,3,5,10*b*-tetraaza-benzoazulene;
 - trans-2-[8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4*H*,6*H*-2,3,5,10*b*-tetraaza-benzoazulen-5-yl]-ethanol;
 - 25 trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-isopropyl-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-2,3,5,10*b*-tetraaza-benzoazulene;
 - trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4*H*,6*H*-2,3,5,10*b*-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-sulfonic acid dimethylamide;
 - trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-pyridin-2-ylmethyl-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-
 - 30 2,3,5,10*b*-tetraaza-benzoazulene;
 - trans-acetic acid 2-[8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4*H*,6*H*-2,3,5,10*b*-tetraaza-benzoazulen-5-yl]-2-oxo-ethyl ester;
 - trans-1-[8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4*H*,6*H*-2,3,5,10*b*-tetraaza-benzoazulen-5-yl]-2-hydroxy-ethanone;

trans-1-[8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulen-5-yl]-ethanone;

trans-8-fluoro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

5 cis-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

(RS)-trans-1-(4-sec-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

10 (RS)-trans-1-(4-sec-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride;

(RS)-trans-1-(4-sec-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

(+)-trans-1-(4-sec-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

15 (-)-trans-1-(4-sec-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

20 trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride;

trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

cis-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

25 cis-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

30 trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene hydrochloride;

trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexyl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

35 trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclohexyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene;

(RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

(RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

(-)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-methoxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

5 (RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

(RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(2-fluoro-1-methyl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

10 (RS)-trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(3,3,3-trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

(RS)-trans-8-chloro-5-methyl-1-[4-(3,3,3-trifluoro-1-methyl-propoxy)-cyclohexyl]-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(oxetan-3-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

15 trans-8-chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester;

cis-8-chloro-1-[4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-cyclohexyl]-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzoazulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester, or

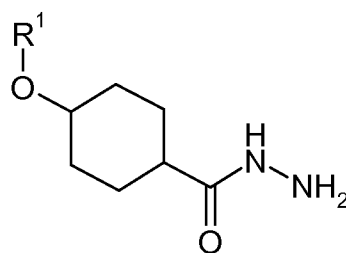
20 trans-1-(4-tert-butoxy-cyclohexyl)-8-chloro-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester.

12. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the compound is selected from trans-8-chloro-1-(4-isopropoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene, trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclobutoxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene, or trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene.

13. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the compound is trans-8-chloro-1-(4-cyclopentyloxy-cyclohexyl)-5-methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene.

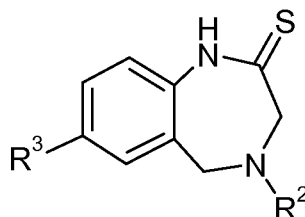
14. A process for the preparation of the compound of formula I according to any of claims 1 to 13, comprising the step of reacting a compound of formula II

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II

with a compound of formula (III):



III

to obtain a compound of formula (I) wherein R¹, R² and R³ are as defined in claim 1.

- 5 15. A compound formula I, whenever obtained by the process according to claim 14.
16. A compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 13 for use as therapeutically active substance.
17. A compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 13 for a use in the prevention or treatment of dysmenorrhea, male or female sexual dysfunction, hypertension, chronic heart failure, inappropriate secretion of vasopressin, liver cirrhosis, nephrotic syndrome, anxiety, depressive disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, autistic spectrum disorders, schizophrenia, and aggressive behavior.
18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 13.
- 15 19. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 18, wherein it is useful for the prevention or treatment of dysmenorrhea, male or female sexual dysfunction, hypertension, chronic heart failure, inappropriate secretion of vasopressin, liver cirrhosis, nephrotic syndrome, anxiety, depressive disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, autistic spectrum disorders, schizophrenia, and aggressive behavior.
- 20 20. Use of a compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 13 for the preparation of a medicament for the prevention or treatment of dysmenorrhea, male or female sexual dysfunction, hypertension, chronic heart failure, inappropriate secretion of vasopressin, liver

cirrhosis, nephrotic syndrome, anxiety, depressive disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, autistic spectrum disorders, schizophrenia, and aggressive behavior.

21. A method for the therapeutic and/or prophylactic treatment of dysmenorrhea, male or female sexual dysfunction, hypertension, chronic heart failure, inappropriate secretion of vasopressin,
5 liver cirrhosis, nephrotic syndrome, anxiety, depressive disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, autistic spectrum disorders, schizophrenia, and aggressive behavior, which method comprises administering a compound according to any of claims 1-13 to a human being or animal.

22. The invention as described hereinabove.
