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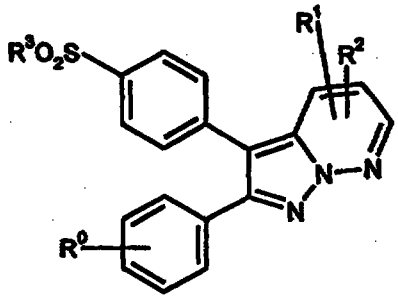
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(54) Title: 2,3–DIARYL–PYRAZOLO[1,5–B]PYRIDAZINES DERIVATIVES, THEIR PREPARATION AND THEIR USE AS CYCLOOXYGENASE 2 (COX–2) INHIBITORS

(57) Abstract

The invention provides the compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof in which: R^0 is halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, or $O(CH_2)_nNR^4R^5$; R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}hydroxyalkyl, SC_{1-6}alkyl, C(O)H, $C(O)C_{1-6}$alkyl,



(I)

C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, $O(CH_2)_nCO_2C_{1-6}$alkyl, $O(CH_2)_nSC_{1-6}$alkyl, $(CH_2)_nNR^4R^5$, $(CH_2)_nSC_{1-6}$alkyl or $C(O)NR^4R^5$; with the proviso that when R^0 is at the 4–position and is halogen, at least one of R^1 and R^2 is C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, $O(CH_2)_nCO_2C_{1-6}$alkyl, $O(CH_2)_nSC_{1-6}$alkyl, $(CH_2)_nNR^4R^5$ or $(CH_2)_nSC_{1-6}$alkyl, $C(O)NR^4R^5$; R^3 is C_{1-6}alkyl or NH_2; R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from H, or C_{1-6}alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 4–8 membered saturated ring; and n is 1–4. Compounds of formula (I) are potent and selective inhibitors of COX–2 and are of use in the treatment of the pain, fever, inflammation of a variety of conditions and diseases.