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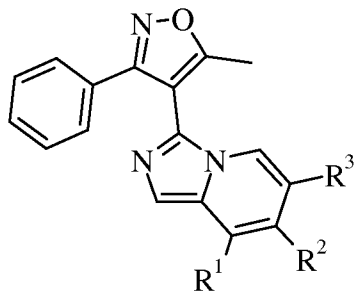
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(54) **Title:** ARYL-ISOXAZOL-4-YL-IMIDAZO[1, 5-A]PYRIDINE DERIVATIVES



(I)

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention is concerned with aryl-isoxazol-4-yl-imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine derivatives of formula (I) wherein: R^1 is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, benzyloxy or -O-(CH_2)-(CO)-5 or 6 membered heteroaryl optionally substituted by aryl and lower alkyl; R^2 is hydrogen, lower alkyl, or -(CO)-R^a; R^3 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, or -(CO)-R^a; R^a is hydroxy, lower alkoxy, NR'R", wherein R' and R" are each independently hydrogen, cycloalkyl, 5 or 6-membered heterocycloalkyl or lower alkyl optionally substituted by cycloalkyl, cyano, 5 or 6-membered heterocycloalkyl or 5 or 6-membered heteroaryl; as well as pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof. It has been found that this class of compounds show high affinity and selectivity for GABA A α5 receptor binding sites and might be useful as cognitive enhancer or for the treatment of cognitive disorders like Alzheimer's disease.

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