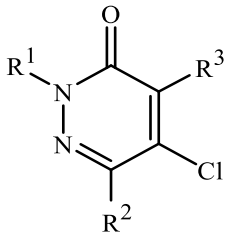
CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A compound of Formula **I** and *N*-oxides and/or salts thereof



I

wherein

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl or C_3–C_6 cycloalkyl;

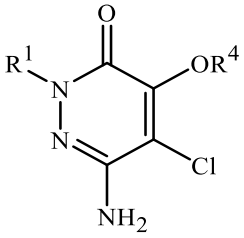
R^2 is Cl or NH_2;

R^3 is ~~Cl or~~ OR^4; and

R^4 is C_1–C_4 alkyl, SO_2CF_3 or SO_2(4-Me-Ph).

~~provided the compound of Formula **I** is other than 4,5,6-trichloro-2-methyl-3(2*H*)-pyridazinone and 6-amino-4,5-dichloro-2-methyl-3(2*H*)-pyridazinone.~~

2. The compound of Claim 1 that is a compound of Formula **I-A**



I-A

wherein

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl or C_3–C_6 cycloalkyl; and

R^4 is C_1–C_4 alkyl.

3. The compound of Claim 2 wherein

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl; and

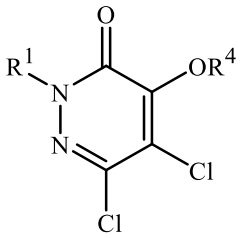
R^4 is methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl or *i*-propyl.

4. The compound of Claim 3 wherein

R^1 is methyl; and

R^4 is methyl.

5. The compound of Claim 1 that is a compound of Formula **I-B**



I-B

wherein

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl or C_3–C_6 cycloalkyl; and

R^4 is C_1–C_4 alkyl.

6. The compound of Claim 5 wherein

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl; and

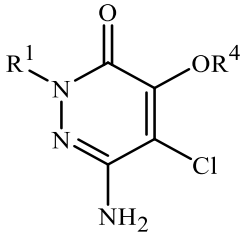
R^4 is methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl or *i*-propyl.

7. The compound of Claim 6 wherein

R^1 is methyl; and

R^4 is methyl.

8. A process for preparing a compound of Formula **I-A**



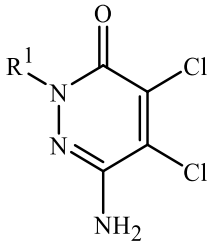
I-A

wherein

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl or C_3–C_6 cycloalkyl; and

R^4 is C_1–C_4 alkyl

comprising reacting a compound of Formula **II**



II

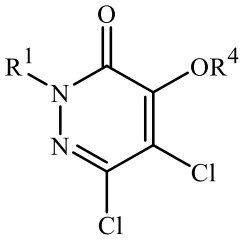
wherein

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl or C_3–C_6 cycloalkyl

with an alkoxylating agent.

9. The process of Claim 8 wherein R^1 is methyl.

10. A process for preparing a compound of Formula **I-B**



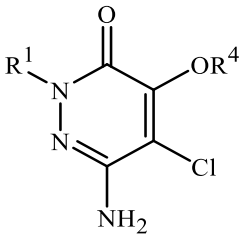
I-B

wherein

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl or C_3–C_6 cycloalkyl; and

R^4 is C_1–C_4 alkyl

comprising reacting a compound of Formula **I-A**



I-A

wherein

R^1 is C_1–C_4 alkyl or C_3–C_6 cycloalkyl; and

R^4 is C_1–C_4 alkyl

with an alkyl nitrite in the presence of CuCl or $CuCl_2$.

11. The process of Claim 10 wherein R^1 is methyl.

12. The process of Claim 10 wherein R^4 is methyl.