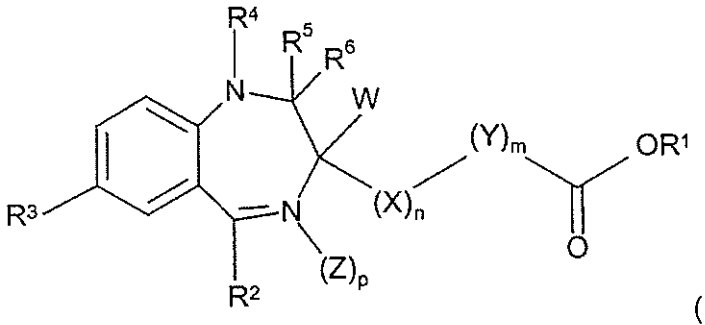
CLAIMS

1. A lyophilized or spray-dried composition comprising at least one benzodiazepine according to formula (I)



(I)

with
W is H;
X is CH_2; n is 1;
Y is CH_2; m is 1;
Z is O; ~~p is 0 or 1;~~
R^1 is CH_3, CH_2CH_3, $CH_2CH_2CH_3$, $CH(CH_3)_2$ or $CH_2CH(CH_3)_2$;
R^2 is 2-fluorophenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl;
R^3 is Cl or Br;
R^4, R^5 and R^6 form the group-CR^8=U-V= wherein R^8 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl, U is N or CR^9 wherein R^9 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy, V is N or CH and p is zero~~.~~

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the composition

comprises at least one pharmaceutically acceptable hygroscopic excipient, wherein the hygroscopic excipient is a carbohydrate selected from the group consisting of disaccharides and dextran and optionally the composition is at least in part amorphous.

2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the benzodiazepine according to formula (I) is methyl 3-[(4S)-8-bromo-1-methyl-6-(pyridin-2-yl)-4H-imidazo[1,2-a][1,4]benzodiazepin-4-yl]propanoate (remimazolam).

3. A composition according to claim 2, wherein in the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the benzodiazepine is formulated in cationic form and the counter ion is benzene sulfonate (besylate).

4. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the dextran possesses a molecular weight of less than 150 kD.

5. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the disaccharide is selected from the group consisting of lactose, maltose, sucrose and trehalose.

6. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the composition comprises a mixture of a first hygroscopic excipient and a second hygroscopic excipient.

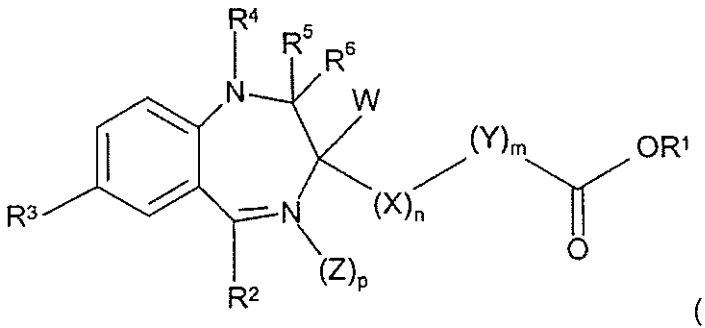
7. A composition according to claim 6, wherein the composition comprises a mixture of a disaccharide and dextran, preferably a mixture of lactose and dextran.

8. A composition according to claim 7, wherein the wt% ratio between lactose and dextran is from 1:1.0 to 1:10, preferably from 1:1.2 to 1:5, and more preferably is 1:1.5 or 1:4.

9. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the wt% ratio between the total amount of hygroscopic excipients and the total amount of benzodiazepines or salts thereof, calculated for the base, in the composition is from 20:1 to 1:1, preferably from 12:1 to 3:1, most preferably from 9:1 to 3:1.

10. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3, which is a pharmaceutical formulation.

11. A stable lyophilized or stable freeze-dried composition comprising at least one benzodiazepine according to formula (I)



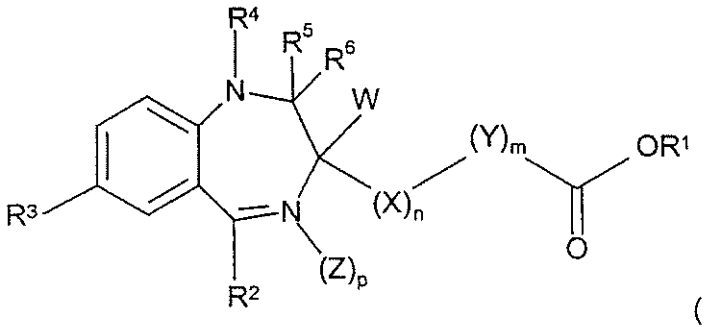
(I)

with
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X is CH_2; n is 1;
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Z is O; ~~p is 0 or 1;~~
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R^2 is 2-fluorohenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl;
R^3 is Cl or Br;
R^4, R^5 and R^6 form the group-CR^8=U-V= wherein R^8 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl, U is N or CR^9 wherein R^9 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy, V is N or CH and p is zero.

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the composition
comprises at least one pharmaceutically acceptable hygroscopic excipient, wherein the hygroscopic excipient is a carbohydrate and optionally the composition is at least in part amorphous.

12. A composition comprising at least one benzodiazepine according to formula (I)



(I)

with
W is H;
X is CH_2; n is 1;
Y is CH_2; m is 1;
Z is O; ~~p is 0 or 1;~~
R^1 is CH_3, CH_2CH_3, $CH_2CH_2CH_3$, $CH(CH_3)_2$ or $CH_2CH(CH_3)_2$;
R^2 is 2-fluorohenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl;
R^3 is Cl or Br;
R^4, R^5 and R^6 form the group-CR^8=U-V= wherein R^8 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl, U is N or CR^9 wherein R^9 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy, V is N or CH and p is zero.

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the composition
comprises at least one pharmaceutically acceptable hygroscopic excipient, wherein the hygroscopic excipient is a carbohydrate and optionally the composition is at least in part amorphous and
upon lyophilization or freeze-drying yields a stable lyophilized or stable freeze-dried composition.