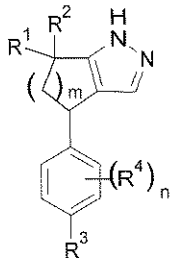
We claim:

1. A compound of the formula:



wherein

n is 0 or 1;

m is 1 or 2;

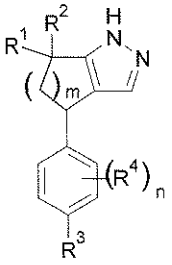
R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from hydrogen, $-CH_3$, and $-CH_2CH_3$;

R^3 is –CN;

R^4 is at each instance independently selected from –F, –Cl, –Br, $-CH_3$, and $-OCH_3$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of the formula:



wherein

n is 0, 1, or 2;

m is 1 or 2;

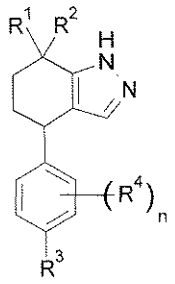
R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from hydrogen and $-CH_3$;

R^3 is –F or –Cl;

R^4 is at each instance independently selected from –F, –Cl, –Br, $-CH_3$, and $-CF_3$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A compound of the formula:



wherein

n is 0 or 1;

R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from hydrogen and $-CH_3$;

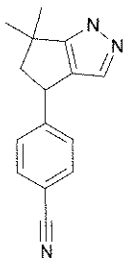
R^3 is hydrogen, –CN, –Cl, $-OCH_3$, or $-CH_3$;

R^4 is at each instance independently selected from –F, $-CH_3$, and $-OCH_3$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

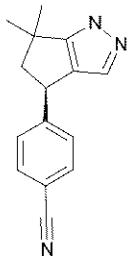
4. A compound of Claim 1 wherein m is 1; R^1 and R^2 are $-CH_3$; R^3 is –CN; n is 0 or 1; R^4 is –F, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. A compound of Claim 1 or 4 wherein the compound is 4-(6,6-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-cyclopenta[c]pyrazol-4-yl)benzonitrile:



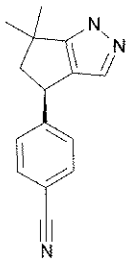
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. A compound of Claim 5 wherein the compound is 4-[(4R)-(6,6-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-cyclopenta[c]pyrazol-4-yl)]benzonitrile:

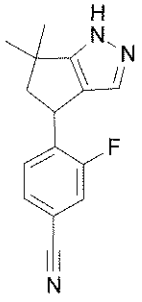


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. A compound of Claim 6 wherein the compound is 4-[(4R)-(6,6-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-cyclopenta[c]pyrazol-4-yl)]benzonitrile:

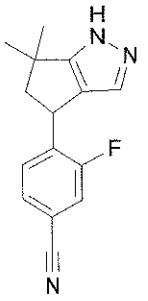


8. A compound of Claim 1 or 4 wherein the compound is 4-(6,6-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-cyclopenta[c]pyrazol-4-yl)-3-fluoro-benzonitrile:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. A compound of Claim 8 wherein the compound is 4-(6,6-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-cyclopenta[c]pyrazol-4-yl)-3-fluoro-benzonitrile:



10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any of Claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents, or excipients.

11. A compound of any of Claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in therapy.

12. A compound of any of Claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of chronic kidney disease.

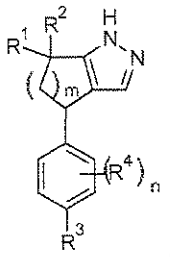
13. A compound of Claim 14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of diabetic nephropathy.

14. A compound of any of Claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of chronic kidney disease.

15. A compound of any of Claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of diabetic nephropathy.

We claim:

1. A compound of the formula:



wherein

n is 0, 1, or 2;

m is 1 or 2;

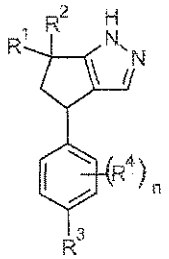
R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from hydrogen, $-CH_3$, and $-CH_2CH_3$;

R^3 is hydrogen, –CN, –F, –Cl, $-CH_3$, $-OCH_3$, or $-CF_3$;

R^4 is at each instance independently selected from –F, –Cl, –Br, $-CH_3$, $-OCH_3$, $-CF_3$, and –CN;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of Claim 1 of the formula:



wherein

n is 0, 1, or 2;

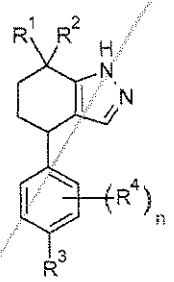
R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from hydrogen, $-CH_3$, and $-CH_2CH_3$;

R^3 is hydrogen, –CN, –F, –Cl, or $-CF_3$;

R^4 is at each instance independently selected from –F, –Cl, –Br, $-CH_3$, $-CF_3$, and –CN;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A compound of Claim 1 of the formula:



wherein

n is 0 or 1;

R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from hydrogen and $-CH_3$;

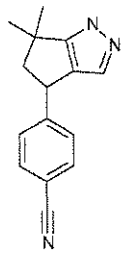
R^3 is hydrogen, –CN, –Cl, $-OCH_3$, or $-CH_3$;

R^4 is at each instance independently selected from –F, $-CH_3$, and $-OCH_3$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

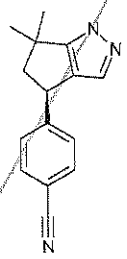
4. A compound of any of Claims 1 or 2 wherein m is 1; R^1 and R^2 are $-CH_3$; R^3 is –CN; n is 0 or 1; R^4 is –F, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. A compound of any of Claims 1 to 2 or 4 wherein the compound is 4-(6,6-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-cyclopenta[c]pyrazol-4-yl)benzonitrile:



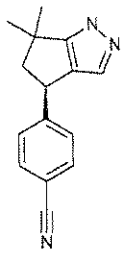
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. A compound of Claim 5 wherein the compound is 4-[(4R)-(6,6-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-cyclopenta[c]pyrazol-4-yl)]benzonitrile:

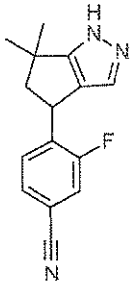


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. A compound of Claim 6 wherein the compound is 4-[(4R)-(6,6-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-cyclopenta[c]pyrazol-4-yl)]benzonitrile:

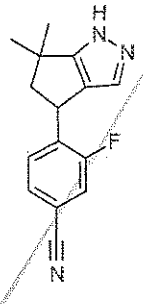


8. A compound of any of Claims 1 to 2 or 4 wherein the compound is 4-(6,6-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-cyclopenta[c]pyrazol-4-yl)-3-fluoro-benzonitrile:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. A compound of Claim 8 wherein the compound is 4-(6,6-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-cyclopenta[c]pyrazol-4-yl)-3-fluoro-benzonitrile:



10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any of Claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents, or excipients.

11. A method for treating chronic kidney disease comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of any of Claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to a patient in need thereof.

12. A method for treating diabetic nephropathy comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of any of Claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to a patient in need thereof.

13. A compound of any of Claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in therapy.

14. A compound of any of Claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of chronic kidney disease.

15. A compound of Claim 14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of diabetic nephropathy.

16. A compound of any of Claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of chronic kidney disease.

17. A compound of any of Claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of diabetic nephropathy.