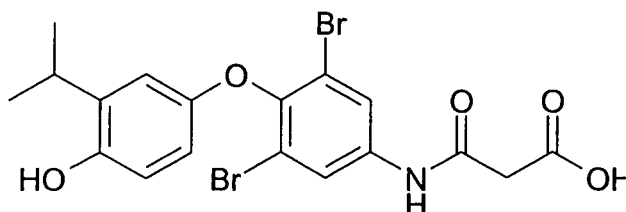


IMPROVED CRYSTALLINE MATERIAL

This invention relates to an improved crystalline material and its use in the treatment of conditions associated with
5 thyroid dysfunction.

WO 01/60784 relates to novel compounds which are agonists of the thyroid beta receptor. Example 1 describes the synthesis of 3-[[3,5-dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-phenoxy]-
10 phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid. This compound is hereinafter referred to as Compound I, and has the formula:



(I)

15

Synthesis of Compound I is rather difficult, and US 2003/0157671 relates to an improved method of synthesis. This method, and also the method of Example 1 of WO 01/60784, leads to a specific crystalline form, referred to herein as
20 the N-1 crystal form. Unfortunately, the N-1 crystal form has proved to be unstable.

It has now been found that Compound I can be synthesised in two novel crystalline forms which have improved properties
25 compared with the same compound in other forms.

Accordingly, in a first aspect, the present invention provides 3-[[3,5-dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid (Compound I) in a
30 crystalline form which is characterised by a powder X-ray

diffraction (XRD) pattern having major peaks at $2\theta =$
16.1 $\pm$ 0.2, 20.1 $\pm$ 0.2, 20.7 $\pm$ 0.2, and 24.2 $\pm$ 0.2. This first novel
crystalline material of the invention will be referred to as
Form N-6 throughout this Specification. Other significant
5 but less prominent peaks in the XRD may be found at $2\theta =$
8.9 $\pm$ 0.2, 23.0 $\pm$ 0.2, 25.9 $\pm$ 0.2, 29.1 $\pm$ 0.2, 29.4 $\pm$ 0.2, and
30.3 $\pm$ 0.2. A typical complete X-ray diffraction pattern is
shown in Figure 1. Table 1 gives those peaks having an
intensity of greater than 10% (normalised to the most intense
10 peak).

Table 1
XRD of Form N-6

2-Theta	I%
8.94	41.7
10.01	10.1
11.00	11.8
16.12	100.0
16.82	11.7
18.54	16.2
20.12	75.4
20.66	73.9
22.59	21.2
23.00	44.6
24.21	69.1
25.93	28.2
29.14	44.5
29.37	23.0
30.33	25.0

15

An additional way of characterising the novel crystalline
material Form N-6 of the invention is by its differential
scanning calorimetry (DSC) thermogram. Typically the

material has a DSC thermogram which exhibits a single exotherm with a maximum at $174\pm 6^{\circ}\text{C}$ (and an extrapolated onset of $170\pm 6^{\circ}\text{C}$). Complete melting occurs by $182\pm 6^{\circ}\text{C}$, and heat of fusion is about 88J/g. A typical DSC trace is shown in
5 Figure 2.

Further, the novel crystalline material Form N-6 of the invention may be characterised by its Fourier Transform infra-red (FTIR) spectrum. A typical FTIR spectrum is shown
10 in Figure 3.

Naturally, the exact details of any XRD, DSC or FTIR pattern will depend upon a number of factors, for example the instrument used and the degree of purity of the material.
15 DSC's in particular, may be instrument dependent. The numbers quoted throughout this Specification refer to the use of a TA instruments MDSC-2920 machine.

Preferably Form N-6 is provided according to the invention at
20 a level of purity in which at least 90%, especially at least 95%, most preferably substantially all, of the Compound I present, is Form N-6.

Compound I can itself be synthesised as described in either
25 WO 01/60784 or US 2003/0157671. Resulting Compound I having a different physical structure from Form N-6 may then be converted into Form N-6 by a method which comprises preparing a solution of Compound I in a suitable solvent, and seeding with crystals of either Form N-5 (see below) or Form N-6,
30 under conditions such that Form N-6 is obtained.

Alternatively, a solution of Compound I may be prepared *in situ* and this solution used directly to obtain crystals of Form N-6. It is a characteristic of Compound I that the thermodynamic equilibrium between Forms N-5 and N-6 is finely

balanced. Thus, at a temperature of less than about 50°C, crystals of either Form N-5 or Form N-6 may be used to seed a solution of Compound I to prepare crystals of N-6. Suitable solvents in this context include, for example, water, 5 alcohols, for example methanol, ethanol, isopropanol or hexanol, ketones, for example acetone, DMSO, esters, for example ethyl acetate, acids, for example acetic acids, nitriles, for example acetonitrile, amides, for example DMF, nitromethane or nitroethane, or hydrocarbons, for example 10 toluene or hexane; or mixtures thereof. Form N-5 may be prepared as described below.

When crystals of Form N-6 are already available, one preferred method of preparing further Form N-6 comprises 15 preparing a solution of Compound I in an alcohol or alcohol mixture, for example an ethanol/isopropanol mixture; adding water; optionally filtering the resulting solution; and seeding the resulting solution with crystals of Form N-6 to produce further crystals of Form N-6.

20

Although Form N-5 is generally very stable, under certain conditions it may convert to Form N-6. Accordingly, a further method of preparing Form N-6 comprises slurrying Form N-5 in an alcohol/water mixture for a sufficient period of 25 time to allow conversion to Form N-6. An extended period of time, typically from 6 to 10 days, is generally required.

Form N-6 has been found to have a number of advantageous properties. In particular, it is highly stable, being heat 30 stable up to at least 170°C, and is non-hygroscopic up to a relative humidity of 95%.

In a second aspect, the present invention provides 3-[[3,5-dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl]-

amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid (Compound I) in a crystalline form which is characterised by an X-ray diffraction (XRD) pattern having major peaks at $2\theta = 9.0 \pm 0.2$, 14.7 ± 0.2 , 19.6 ± 0.2 , 21.6 ± 0.2 , and 24.3 ± 0.2 . This second novel crystalline material of the invention will be referred to as Form N-5 throughout this Specification. Other significant but less prominent peaks may be found at $2\theta = 14.1 \pm 0.2$, 16.1 ± 0.2 , 18.6 ± 0.2 , 23.1 ± 0.2 , 23.5 ± 0.2 , 24.7 ± 0.2 , and 29.4 ± 0.2 . A typical complete X-ray diffraction pattern is shown in Figure 4. Table 2 gives those peaks having an intensity of greater than 8% (normalised to the most intense peak).

Table 2
XRD of Form N-5

2-Theta	I%
8.65	8.0
9.00	100.0
14.11	13.6
14.72	31.3
16.12	14.9
17.56	8.0
18.59	15.0
19.09	10.9
19.56	23.1
21.61	54.1
23.14	14.5
23.51	18.6
23.86	25.1
24.29	31.7
24.66	17.9
27.11	8.9
29.40	18.5
30.29	12.3

An additional way of characterising the novel crystalline material Form N-5 of the invention is by its differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) thermogram. Typically the material has a DSC thermogram which exhibits an endotherm with a maximum at $173 \pm 6^\circ\text{C}$ (and an extrapolated onset of 176°C). The heat of fusion is about 81J/g. A typical DSC trace is shown in Figure 5.

10 Naturally, the exact details of any XRD or DSC pattern will depend upon a number of factors, for example the instrument used and the degree of purity of the material.

Preferably Form N-5 is provided according to the invention at a level of purity in which at least 90%, especially at least 95%, most preferably substantially all, of the Compound I present, is Form N-5.

Compound I can itself be synthesised as described in either WO 01/60784 or US 2003/0157671. Resulting Compound I having a different physical structure from Form N-5 may then be converted into Form N-5 by a method which comprises preparing a solution of the Compound I in a suitable solvent, and recrystallising under conditions such that crystals of Form N-5 are produced. Alternatively, a solution of Compound I may be prepared *in situ* and this solution used directly to obtain crystals of Form N-5. Suitable solvents in this context include, for example, water, alcohols, for example methanol, ethanol, isopropanol or hexanol, ketones, for example acetone, DMSO, esters, for example ethyl acetate, acids, for example acetic acids, nitriles, for example acetonitrile, amides, for example DMF, nitromethane or nitroethane, or hydrocarbons, for example toluene or hexane; or mixtures thereof. In one embodiment, a solution of the

Compound I in an alcohol is prepared, preferably at room temperature, and recrystallisation is achieved by the addition of water. Alternatively, a solution of Compound I in nitroethane may be prepared at elevated temperature, and
5 recrystallisation achieved by cooling.

In a variant of the above process, a slurry process may be used to prepare Form N-5. For example, a solution of Compound I in a suitable solvent, for example an alcohol or
10 an alcohol mixture, may be prepared, and water may be added to produce a suspension. The resulting slurry may then be stirred for a period of time sufficient for Form N-5 to be produced.

15 Under certain conditions, Form N-5 can convert into Form N-6, and therefore care needs to be taken to minimise this conversion when preparing Form N-5. For example, extended contact (i.e. contact over several days) with certain solvents, especially alcohol solvents, should be avoided.

20

Form N-5 has been found to have a number of advantageous properties. In particular, it is highly stable, being heat stable up to at least 170°C, and is non-hygroscopic up to a relative humidity of 95%. In general, it either does not
25 convert to other forms, or only converts very slowly; for example, if slurried in the presence of an alcohol, it is stable for a number of days, but after very long periods of time, conversion into Form N-6 may occur.

30 It will be apparent that similar processes may be used to make Form N-6 and Form N-5. The nature of the product is determined by the precise reaction conditions, which may be readily determined by the skilled man with the aid of the Examples herein.

In contrast to Forms N-6 and N-5, the crystalline form produced by the process of US 2003/1057671, referred to herein as Form N-1, has major X-ray diffraction peaks at $2\theta =$
5 7.2 $\pm$ 0.2, 9.1 $\pm$ 0.2, 11.5 $\pm$ 0.2, 18.1 $\pm$ 0.2, 19.7 $\pm$ 0.2, 24.8 $\pm$ 0.2, 27.3 $\pm$ 0.2, and 29.3 $\pm$ 0.2, with additional significant but lower intensity peaks at $2\theta =$ 18.5 $\pm$ 0.2, 22.3 $\pm$ 0.2, 26.8 $\pm$ 0.2, and 30.4 $\pm$ 0.2. A typical complete X-ray diffraction pattern of Form N-1 is shown in Figure 6, together with, for comparison,
10 the XRDs of Form N-5 and Form N-6. The first peak for Form N-1 in Figure 6 is due to a contaminant, and should be discounted. Table 3 tabulates those peaks having an intensity of greater than 10%.

15

Table 3

XRD of Form N-1

7.17	91.9
9.13	43.5
11.51	40.8
15.15	17.8
18.07	60.8
18.46	36.4
19.67	46.0
20.73	13.7
21.24	16.4
22.32	31.6
23.02	20.0
24.03	20.3
24.82	100.0
25.43	20.7
26.82	36.3
27.32	43.1
27.92	18.7
29.30	49.4
30.41	35.7

Typically Form N-1 has a DSC thermogram which exhibits a
20 single exotherm with a maximum at 116 $\pm$ 6°C (and an extrapolated onset of 111 $\pm$ 6°C). The heat of fusion is about 58J/g. A typical DSC trace of Form N-1 is shown in Figure 7.

Form N-1 is less stable than either Form N-6 or Form N-5, being heat stable only up to around 125°C, and becoming hygroscopic at a relative humidity of 50%. Form N-1 converts into Form N-5 and/or Form N-6 (depending upon the exact
5 conditions) on being dissolved or slurried in a number of common solvents, for example alcohols such as methanol, ethanol or isopropanol, nitromethane or nitroethane, and mixtures of alcohols, for example methanol, ethanol or isopropanol, with water.

10

The invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising Form N-6 and/or Form N-5 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The pharmaceutical composition may be formulated for and administered to humans
15 or other mammals by any suitable method. It is preferably formulated for oral administration in solid or liquid form, or for topical administration, for parenteral injection, or for rectal administration. Suitable forms of pharmaceutical composition, and methods of administration, include those
20 described in WO 01/60784.

Pharmaceutical compositions according to the invention may also contain one or more other therapeutic agents. Suitable compounds for use in combination therapy are listed in
25 WO 01/60784.

The crystalline materials of the invention may be used for treating or preventing a condition associated with the thyroid receptor, by agonising the effects, in particular the
30 thyroid beta receptor. Such conditions include obesity, hypercholesterolemia, atherosclerosis, depression, osteoporosis, hypothyroidism or subclinical hypothyroidism, non-toxic goiter, papillary or follicular thyroid cancer, glaucoma, cardiovascular disease, congestive heart failure,

and skin disorders such as psoriasis, dermal atrophy, wound healing, keloids, stria, cellulite, roughened skin, actinic skin damage, lichen planus, ichthyosis, acne, psoriasis, Dernier's disease, eczema, atopic dermatitis, chloracne, pityriasis and skin acarring. Further details may be found in WO 01/60784. Accordingly, the present invention also provides the crystalline materials of the invention or a pharmaceutical composition according to the invention, for use in therapy; the use of such crystalline materials or composition in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition associated with thyroid disorders; and a method of selectively agonizing the effects of the thyroid beta receptor in a mammal which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a crystalline material or a pharmaceutical composition according to the invention, to the mammal.

The dosage level required in any individual case will depend upon various factors including the route of administration and the severity of the condition being treated. Very generally, dosage levels of about 0.001 to 500, more preferably of about 0.01 to about 100, most preferably of about 0.01 to 25mg, such as 0.01 to 1 mg, of Compound I per person per day, are administered. If desired, the effective daily dose may be divided into multiple doses for purposes of administration, e.g. two to four separate doses per day.

The invention is illustrated by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

30

Figure 1 is an XRD of Form N-6.

Figure 2 is a differential scanning calorimetry trace of Form N-6.

Figure 3 is an FTIR of Form N-6.

Figure 4 is an XRD of Form N-5

Figure 5 is a differential scanning calorimetry trace of Form N-5.

Figure 6 is an XRD of Form N-1, together with XRDs of Form N-5 and Form N-6.

Figure 7 is a differential scanning calorimetry trace of Form N-1.

The following Examples illustrate the invention. X-ray powder diffraction was performed using an Rigaku Ru300 (Rigaku Corporation 4-14-4, Sendagaya, Shibuya-Ku, Tokyo 151-0051, JAPAN) The source of radiation was a rotating anode operated at 50 kV and 100 mA emitting CuK α radiation ($\lambda=1.54179$ Å). Data was collected on an MAR345 image plate (Marresearch GmbH, Norderstedt (Hamburg), Germany). Analysis of data used Fit2D (v. 12.081 A P Hammersley, ESRF, BP 220, 38043 Grenoble, France) to reduce the diffraction rings and optimize the beam centre positions.

DSC traces were obtained using a 2920 MDSC V2.5F machine, by testing about 5-10mg of sample in an aluminium DSC crucible, with a temperature gradient of 10°C/min.

The following Examples illustrate the invention.

25

Example 1: Preparation of Form N-6

Example 1A: Method A

30 3-[[3,5-Dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid (8.15 g, Form N-1, prepared as in US 2003/0157671), was dissolved in 60 ml of solvent (40ml ethanol+20ml water) by heating the solution to 30°C and keeping it at that temperature for 10 min. The

solution was then cooled down to 25°C by 1°C/min, without nucleation occurring. Seeds (confirmed to be pure N-5 by DSC, IR and XRD) were added in this experiment as a slurry (0.1g slurried in 20ml water), very slowly at 200µl/min, during 5 which the solution temperature was kept constant. After 1 hour the solution became cloudy. Additional water (about 30ml) was added at the same rate. Addition of water was then stopped since the solution became opaque and viscous. After 17 hours at 25°C, the solution was cooled down to 8°C by 10 0.33°C/min and filtered. Form N-6, whose identity was confirmed by XRD, was obtained.

Example 1B: Method B

15 3-[[3,5-Dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid (0.63 kg, Form N-1, prepared as in US 2003/0157671) was dissolved in ethanol denatured with isopropanol (2.77L) at 30°C. Demineralised water (1.39L) was added, maintaining the temperature at 30°C. 20 The solution was filtered on a cartridge filter (0.3 mm) and the filter was rinsed with a mixture of ethanol denatured with isopropanol (0.38L) and demineralised water (0.19L). The resulting solution was cooled to 25°C. A suspension of Form N-6 (13g) in demineralised water (1.26L) was added in about 25 1.5h. The dropping funnel was rinsed with demineralised water (0.32L) which was added in about 45 min. Demineralised water (1.58L) was added in about 4h and the resulting suspension was stirred for about 15h. Demineralised water (0.79L) was added in about 4h and the suspension was cooled to 8°C in 3h 30 and stirred for about 15h. The product was filtered and the cake was washed with demineralised water (0.95L). The wet cake was dried at a jacket temperature of 25°C for about 24h. 0.61 kg (yield 94%) of Form N-6 was obtained.

Example 1C: Method C

Solid Compound I consisting mostly of Form N-5 prepared as in Example 2 below, was slurried in an ethanol:water mixture
5 (1:5 vol) at 20°C for 8 days. Form N-6 was produced.

Example 2: Preparation of Form N-5Example 2A: Method A

10

3-[[[3,5-Dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid (100 mg, Form N-1, prepared as in US 2003/0157671) was dissolved in ethanol (300µl) at room temperature. Deionised water (400µL) was
15 added under stirring, the solution was clear after addition of water. More water (100µL) was added and the solution became cloudy. Additional deionised water (100µl) was added and the mixture was stirred further for 2hrs at room temperature on a magnetic stirrer. The solution was filtered
20 and the solid was dried with air flow to give 66 mg of Form N-5, identified by XRD.

Example 2B: Method B

25 3-[[[3,5-Dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid (100mg, Form N-1, prepared as in US 2003/0157671) was dissolved in 2-propanol (500µl) at room temperature. Deionised water (1500µL) was added under stirring, and the mixture was stirred further for 2 hrs at
30 room temperature on a magnetic stirrer. The solution was filtered and the resulting solid was dried with air flow to give 58mg of Form N-5, identified by XRD.

Example 2C: Method C

A solution of Compound I corresponding to the saturation concentration at 70°C was prepared by dissolving Form N-1 in 20ml of nitroethane and heating the solution to 78°C. The
5 solution was then cooled to 65°C. When the crystallizer temperature reached the desired temperature, the temperature was kept constant 24 hours. Nucleation was not observed. Temperature was then decreased to 64°C and after 24 hours to 63°C. Nucleation started after 4 days. This experiment was
10 repeated three times and in all cases Form N-5 was formed.

Example 2D: Stability of Form N-5

The stability of N-5 slurries in ethanol:water mixtures (1:1, 1:1.3 and 1:2) at 5, 25 and 30°C was determined after 1h, 48h and 5 days. Pure N-5 did not transform to any other form
15 in any of these experiments. DSC and FTIR confirmed this.

Claims

1. 3-[[[3,5-dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-phenoxy]-
5 phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid in a crystalline form
which is characterised by a powder X-ray diffraction pattern
having major peaks at $2\theta = 16.1 \pm 0.2$, 20.1 ± 0.2 , 20.7 ± 0.2 , and
 24.2 ± 0.2 .
- 10 2. A crystalline material as claimed in claim 1,
characterised by an X-ray diffraction pattern additionally
having significant peaks at $2\theta = 8.9 \pm 0.2$, 23.0 ± 0.2 , 25.9 ± 0.2 ,
 29.1 ± 0.2 , 29.4 ± 0.2 , and 30.3 ± 0.2 .
- 15 3. A crystalline material as claimed in claim 2,
characterised by an X-ray diffraction pattern containing
major peaks substantially as follows:

2-Theta	I%
8.94	41.7
10.01	10.1
11.00	11.8
16.12	100.0
16.82	11.7
18.54	16.2
20.12	75.4
20.66	73.9
22.59	21.2
23.00	44.6
24.21	69.1
25.93	28.2
29.14	44.5
29.37	23.0
30.33	25.0

4. A crystalline material as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, which has a differential scanning calorimetry trace which exhibits a single exotherm with a maximum at $174 \pm 6^\circ\text{C}$.
- 5 5. A crystalline material as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, having a level of purity in which at least 90%, especially at least 95%, most preferably substantially all, of the 3-[[3,5-dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid present, is in
10 the required crystalline form.
6. A method for the preparation of a crystalline material as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, which comprises preparing a solution of 3-[[3,5-dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-
15 methylethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid in a suitable solvent, and seeding with crystals of a crystalline material as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 or 10 to 14, under conditions such that the desired crystalline form is obtained.
20
7. A method as claimed in claim 6, in which the solvent is water, an alcohol, a ketone, DMSO, an ester, and acid a nitrile, an amide, or a hydrocarbon; or a mixture thereof.
- 25 8. A method as claimed in claim 7, in which the solvent is an alcohol/water mixture.
9. A method as claimed in claim 8, which comprises preparing a solution of 3-[[3,5-dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-
30 phenoxy]-phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid in an alcohol or alcohol mixture; adding water; optionally filtering the resulting solution; and seeding the resulting solution with crystals of a material as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, to produce further crystals in the desired form.

10. 3-[[3,5-dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-phenoxy]-
phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid in a crystalline form
5 which is characterised by a powder X-ray diffraction pattern
having major peaks at $2\theta = 9.0 \pm 0.2$, 14.7 ± 0.2 , 19.6 ± 0.2 ,
 21.6 ± 0.2 , and 24.3 ± 0.2 .

11. A crystalline material as claimed in claim 10,
10 characterised by an X-ray diffraction pattern additionally
having significant peaks at $2\theta = 16.1 \pm 0.2$, 18.6 ± 0.2 ,
 23.1 ± 0.2 , 23.5 ± 0.2 , 24.7 ± 0.2 , and 29.4 ± 0.2 .

12. A crystalline material as claimed in claim 11,
15 characterised by an X-ray diffraction pattern containing
major peaks substantially as follows:

2-Theta	I%
8.65	8.0
9.00	100.0
14.11	13.6
14.72	31.3
16.12	14.9
17.56	8.0
18.59	15.0
19.09	10.9
19.56	23.1
21.61	54.1
23.14	14.5
23.51	18.6
23.86	25.1
24.29	31.7
24.66	17.9

27.11 8.9

28.28 7.5

29.40 18.5

30.29 12.3

13. A crystalline material as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 12, which has a differential scanning calorimetry trace which exhibits a single exotherm with a maximum at $173 \pm 6^\circ\text{C}$.

5

14. A crystalline material as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 13, having a level of purity in which at least 90%, especially at least 95%, most preferably substantially all, of the 3-[[3,5-dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-
10 phenoxy]-phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid present, is in the required crystalline form.

15. A method for the preparation of a crystalline material as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 14, which comprises
15 preparing a solution of 3-[[3,5-dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid in a suitable solvent, and recrystallising under conditions such that crystals of the desired form are produced.

20 16. A method as claimed in claim 15, in which the solvent is water, an alcohol, a ketone, DMSO, an ester, an acid, a nitrile, and amide, nitromethane or nitroethane, or a hydrocarbon; or a mixture thereof.

25 17. A method as claimed in claim 15, in which a solution of 3-[[3,5-dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid in an alcohol is prepared, and recrystallisation is achieved by the addition of water.

18. A method as claimed in claim 15, in which a solution of 3-[[3,5-dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid in nitroethane is prepared, and recrystallisation is achieved by cooling.

5

19. A method for the preparation of a crystalline material as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 14, which comprises preparing a solution of 3-[[3,5-dibromo-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(1-methylethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl]-amino]-3-oxopropanoic acid in a
10 suitable solvent, and seeding with crystals of a material as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 14, under conditions such that material in the desired form is obtained.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a crystalline
15 material as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 and 10 to 14, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

21. A crystalline material as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 and 10 to 14 or a composition as claimed in claim 20 for
20 use in a method of therapy.

22. A crystalline material or a composition as claimed in claim 21, for use in the treatment of a condition associated with thyroid disfunction.

25

23. A crystalline material or a composition as claimed in claim 21, for use in the treatment of obesity, hypercholesterolemia, atherosclerosis, depression, osteoporosis, hypothyroidism or subclinical hypothyroidism,
30 non-toxic goiter, papillary or follicular thyroid cancer, glaucoma, cardiovascular disease, congestive heart failure, and skin disorders

24. The use of a crystalline material as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 or 10 to 14 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a condition associated with thyroid disfunction.

5

25. The use as claimed in claim 24, wherein the condition is obesity, hypercholesterolemia, atherosclerosis, depression, osteoporosis, hypothyroidism or subclinical hypothyroidism, non-toxic goiter, papillary or follicular thyroid cancer,
10 glaucoma, cardiovascular disease, congestive heart failure, or a skin disorder.

26. A method of selectively agonizing the thyroid beta receptor in a mammal which comprises administering a
15 therapeutically effective amount of a crystalline material as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 or 10 to 14 or a composition as claimed in claim 20, to the mammal.

27. A method of treating a mammal for a condition associated
20 with thyroid disfunction, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a crystalline material as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 or 10 to 14 or a composition as claimed in claim 20, to the mammal.

25 28. A method as claimed in claim 27, in which the condition is obesity, hypercholesterolemia, atherosclerosis, depression, osteoporosis, hypothyroidism or subclinical hypothyroidism, non-toxic goiter, papillary or follicular thyroid cancer, glaucoma, cardiovascular disease, congestive
30 heart failure, or a skin disorder.