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Chemical Abstracts: vol. 73, no. 15
 12 October 1970,
 Columbus, Ohio, USA
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 heterocycles. X. Derivatives of 3-substituted
 4-phthalazon-1-ylacetic acids", page 366, column
 2, abstract no. 77173y

(73) Proprietor: IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
 LIMITED
 Imperial Chemical House Millbank
 London SW1P 3JF (GB)

(72) Inventor: Brittain, David Robert
 243 Western Avenue Ryles Park Road
 Macclesfield Cheshire (GB)
 Inventor: Wood, Robin
 35 Ash Tree Road
 Hyde Cheshire (GB)

(74) Representative: Smith, Stephen Collyer et al,
 Imperial Chemical Industries Limited Legal
 Department: Patents Thames House North
 Millbank
 London SW1P 4QG (GB)

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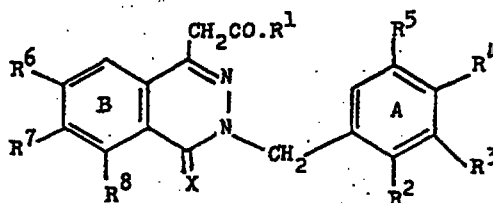
Enzyme inhibitory phthalazin-4-ylacetic acid derivatives, pharmaceutical compositions thereof, and process for their manufacture.

This invention relates to novel phthalazin-4-ylacetic acid derivatives and, more particularly, it relates to such derivatives which possess the property of inhibiting the enzyme aldose reductase *in vivo*.

The enzyme aldose reductase is responsible for the catalytic conversion of aldoses, for example, glucose and galactose, to the corresponding alditols, for example sorbitol and galactitol respectively. Alditols penetrate cell membranes poorly and, once formed, tend to be removed only by further metabolism. As a consequence, alditols tend to accumulate within cells where they are formed, causing a rise in internal osmotic pressure which may in turn be sufficient to destroy or impair the function of the cells themselves. In addition, raised alditol levels may result in abnormal levels of their metabolites which may themselves impair or damage cellular function. However, the enzyme aldose reductase has a relatively low substrate affinity, that is, it is only effective in the presence of relatively large concentrations of aldose. Such large concentrations of aldose are present in the clinical conditions of diabetes (excessive glucose) and galactosemia (excessive galactose). As a consequence, inhibitors of the enzyme aldose reductase are useful in the reduction or prevention of the development of those peripheral effects of diabetes or galactosemia which may be due in part to the accumulation of sorbitol or galactitol respectively. Such peripheral effects are, for example, macular oedema, cataract, retinopathy or impaired neural conduction.

It is known from our earlier work that 1-benzyl-2-oxoquinol-4-ylalkanoic acid derivatives are inhibitors of the enzyme aldose reductase (UK patent specification Serial No. 1,502,312). We have now found that certain 2-benzyl-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid derivatives defined hereinafter, are unexpectedly also inhibitors of the enzyme aldose reductase. This finding is particularly surprising in view of the many differences between the 2-oxo-quinoline and 1-oxophthalazine ring system. The related phthalazine derivatives, 2-benzyl- and 2-(2-pyrid-2-ylethyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid together with their methyl and ethyl esters, are known, and their effects on the clotting system of blood have been reported (Sh. Feldeak *et alia*, Khim. Farm. Zh., 1970, 4, 22—26; *Chemical Abstracts*, 1970, 73, 77173) but, unlike the compounds of the invention defined hereinbelow, none of these known phthalazine derivatives are inhibitors of aldose reductase *in vivo* at oral doses of 100 mg/kg. or less.

According to the invention there is provided a phthalazin-4-ylacetic acid derivative of the formula:—



wherein R¹ is a hydroxy or benzyloxy radical, or a C₁₋₄-alkoxy radical optionally bearing an N-morpholino or di-C₁₋₄-alkylamino radical; the substituents R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ on benzene ring A are selected from any one of the following combinations:—

a), R² is a fluoro or methoxy radical, R³ is hydrogen, R⁴ is a chloro, bromo or iodo radical, and R⁵ is hydrogen or a halogeno radical;

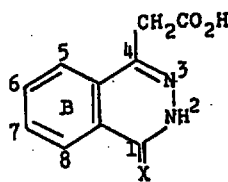
b), R², R³ and R⁵ are hydrogen, and R⁴ is a bromo or iodo radical;

c), R² is hydrogen or a fluoro radical, R³ and R⁵ are the same or different halogeno radicals, and R⁴ is hydrogen;

d), R² is hydrogen or a fluoro radical, R³ and R⁴ are the same or different halogeno radicals, and R⁵ is hydrogen; and

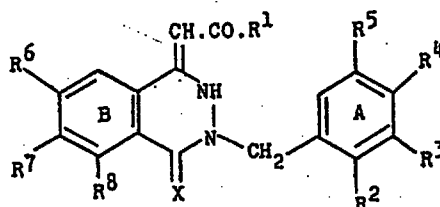
e), R² is hydrogen, R³ and R⁵ are independently fluoro or chloro radicals, and R⁴ is a chloro, bromo or iodo radical; and wherein, on benzene ring B, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogeno, C₁₋₄-alkyl and C₁₋₄-alkoxy radicals; or R⁶ and R⁷ together constitute a C₁₋₄-alkylenedioxy diradical; provided that at least one of R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ is hydrogen; and X is oxygen or sulphur; or a pharmaceutically acceptable base-addition salt of a compound of formula I wherein R¹ is a hydroxy radical; or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salt of a compound of formula I wherein R¹ is a C₁₋₄-alkoxy radical bearing an N-morpholino or di-C₁₋₄-alkylamino radical.

The compounds of formula I are derivatives of 1,2-dihydro-1-oxo-(or -thioxo)-phthalazin-4-ylacetic acid, which is numbered throughout this specification as follows:—



where X is oxygen or sulphur.

It will be appreciated that the compounds of formula I are capable of tautomerism to give a structure of the formula:—



and it is to be understood that this invention embraces tautomers of formula I (*endo*-tautomer) or of formula Ia (*exo*-tautomer), or mixtures thereof.

A particular value of R³ or R⁵ when it is a halogeno radical is, for example, a fluoro, chloro, bromo or iodo radical, and especially a chloro or bromo radical.

A particular value for R⁶, R⁷ or R⁸ when it is a halogeno radical is, for example, a fluoro, chloro, bromo or iodo radical; when it is a C₁₋₄-alkyl radical, is, for example, a methyl radical; and when it is a C₁₋₄-alkoxy radical, is, for example, a methoxy or ethoxy radical.

A particular value for R¹ when it is a C₁₋₄-alkoxy radical is, for example, a methoxy or ethoxy radical; and when it is a C₁₋₄-alkoxy radical bearing an N-morpholino or di-C₁₋₄-alkylamino radical, is, for example, a 2-(N-morpholino)ethoxy or 2-(N,N-dimethylamino)ethoxy radical.

A particular value for R⁶ and R⁷, when together they constitute a C₁₋₄-alkylendioxy diradical, is, for example, a methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy or isopropylidenedioxy diradical.

Particular combinations of R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ which are of special interest are when benzene ring A is, for example, a 2-fluoro-4-bromo-, 2-fluoro-4-chloro-, 2-fluoro-4-iodo-, 2-fluoro-4,5-dibromo-, 2-methoxy-4-chloro-, 4-bromo-, 4-iodo-, 3,5-dichloro-, 3-chloro-4-bromo-, 3,4-dichloro-, 3,4-dibromo- or a 3,5-dichloro-4-bromo-phenyl radical.

Particular combinations of R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ which are of special interest are, for example, when benzene ring B is unsubstituted or bears a 6-fluoro, 6-chloro, 6-methyl, 7-fluoro, 7-chloro, 7-methyl, 7-methoxy, 8-fluoro, 8-methyl or 8-ethoxy radical, or a 6,7-dichloro or 6,7-methylenedioxy diradical.

A particular base-addition salt of a compound of formula I wherein R¹ is a hydroxy radical is, for example, an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt, for example a sodium, potassium, calcium or magnesium salt, an aluminium or ammonium salt, or a salt of an organic base affording a pharmaceutically acceptable cation, for example a salt of triethanolamine.

A particular acid-addition salt of a compound of formula I wherein R¹ is a C₁₋₄-alkoxy radical bearing an N-morpholino or di-C₁₋₄-alkylamino radical is, for example, a hydrohalide, for example a hydrochloride or hydrobromide, or a sulphate.

Specific groups of compounds which are particularly preferred comprise those compounds of formula I wherein:—

- (i) R¹ is a hydroxy radical;
- (ii) R² is a fluoro radical, R³ and R⁵ are hydrogen, and R⁴ is a chloro, bromo or iodo radical;
- (iii) R³ and R⁴ are both independently chloro, bromo or iodo radicals, and R² and R⁵ are hydrogen;
- (iv) R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ are hydrogen; or
- (v) X is oxygen;

and in each of the groups (i)—(v) the remainder of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and X have any of the above defined values, or those defined in any other group; together with the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, depending on the nature of R¹.

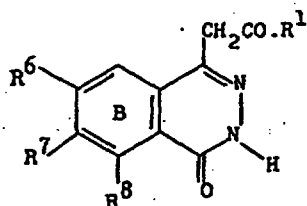
Specific compounds of the invention are described in the accompanying Examples and of these the following are preferred:—

2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid, 2-(2-fluoro-4-iodobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid, and 2-(3-chloro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxo-phthalazin-4-ylacetic acid; together with the pharmaceutically acceptable base-addition salts thereof.

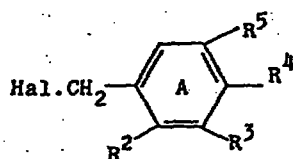
The compounds of the invention may be manufactured by general procedures of organic chemistry well known in the art for the preparation of chemically analogous compounds. Such processes are provided as a further feature of this invention and are illustrated by the following, wherein

$R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, X$ and benzene rings A and B have any of the meanings stated hereinabove unless otherwise stated:—

(a) For a compound of formula I wherein X is oxygen, reacting a compound of the formula:—



with a halide of the formula:—



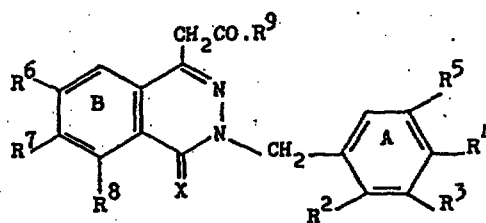
wherein Hal. is a chloro, bromo or iodo radical, in the presence of a suitable base.

The process is preferably carried out in a solvent or diluent, for example, ethanol, dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulphoxide or water, and is conveniently accelerated by heating in the range, for example, 40—110°C.

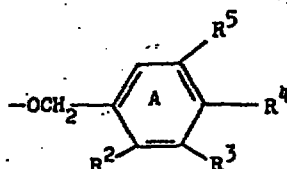
A particularly suitable base is, for example, an alkali metal hydride, hydroxide or C_{1-4} -alkoxide, for example sodium or potassium hydride, hydroxide, methoxide or ethoxide; it being understood that when a hydride is used, a non aqueous solvent, for example dimethylformamide or dimethyl sulphoxide, is necessary, and when an alkoxide is used, a C_{1-4} -alcohol, for example methanol or ethanol, is preferably used as solvent.

It will be apparent that when a compound of formula III wherein R^1 is a hydroxy radical is used in the process, it is necessary for at least two molar equivalents of the base to be present, since the first molar equivalent reacts with the carboxylic acid radical of such a compound. In addition, for such a compound of formula III, it is preferable to use a hydroxylic solvent for the process in order that concomitant production of the corresponding ester is minimised.

b) For a compound of formula I wherein R^1 is a hydroxy radical, hydrolysing an ester of the formula:—



wherein R^9 is a C_{1-4} -alkoxy radical or a radical of the formula:—

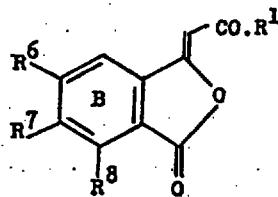


A particularly suitable value for a C_{1-4} -alkoxy radical is, for example, a methoxy or ethoxy radical and for a radical of formula VI, is any value for benzene ring A defined hereinbefore, for example an optionally substituted benzyl radical.

The hydrolysis may be carried out in the presence of acid or base, for example in the presence of a mineral acid, for example hydrochloric acid, or of an alkali metal hydroxide or carbonate, for example sodium or potassium hydroxide or carbonate. An alkali metal carbonate is preferred when benzene ring B bears a labile substituent, for example, an 8-fluoro radical. The hydrolysis is carried out in the presence of water and a solvent or diluent, for example, acetic acid, methanol, ethanol or dioxan, may also be present. The hydrolysis may be carried out at room temperature, for example at 18—25°C., but

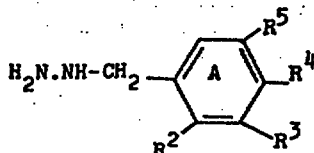
is conveniently accelerated by heating, for example at 35—110°C.

(c) For a compound of formula I wherein X is oxygen, reacting a compound of the formula:—



VII

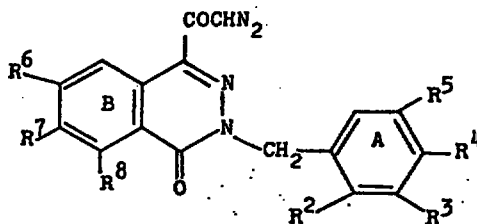
or a geometric isomer thereof, with a hydrazine of the formula:—



VIII

The process is preferably carried out in an aqueous diluent or solvent, for example aqueous dioxan, ethanol or dimethylformamide, and in the presence of a base, for example sodium or potassium hydrogen carbonate. The process is also conveniently carried out by heating at, for example, 40—110°C.

(d) For a compound of formula I wherein X is oxygen and R¹ is a hydroxy or C₁₋₄-alkoxy radical, catalytically decomposing a diazoketone of the formula:—



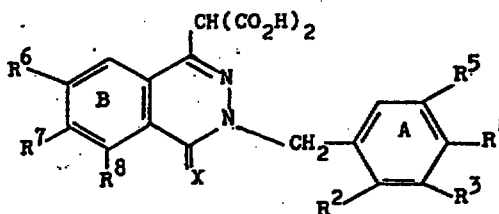
IX

in the presence of a compound of the formula Q.H wherein Q is a hydroxy or a C₁₋₄-alkoxy radical, for example a methoxy or ethoxy radical.

The necessary catalyst may be provided by, for example, colloidal silver, or silver benzoate, and is preferably used in the presence of a base, for example, triethylamine, pyridine or s-collidine. The process is preferably carried out in the presence of a diluent or solvent, for example water, a C₁₋₄-alkanol, for example methanol or ethanol, tetrahydrofuran or dioxan, and is conveniently carried out using an excess of the compound of formula Q.H, optionally together with tetrahydrofuran or dioxan.

The process is conveniently accelerated by heating, for example by heating to a temperature in the range 40—110°C.

(e) For a compound of formula I wherein R¹ is a hydroxy radical, decarboxylating a malonic acid of the formula:—



X

The decarboxylation may either be carried out by thermal means alone, for example by heating at a temperature in the range 50—150°C. optionally in the presence of a solvent or diluent, for example ethylene glycol or diphenyl ether; or alternatively, by treatment with acid optionally in the presence of heat, for example by treating with sulphuric or hydrochloric acid at a temperature in the range 20—150°C., conveniently in a solvent or diluent, for example, water, ethanol or acetic acid.

(f) For a compound of formula I wherein benzene ring B bears a C₁₋₄-alkoxy radical, reacting a compound of formula I wherein benzene ring B bears a halogeno radical, for example a fluoro radical, with an alkali metal C₁₋₄-alkoxide, for example sodium methoxide or ethoxide.

The reaction is preferably carried out in a solvent or diluent, for example, in an excess of the corresponding C_{1-4} -alkanol, for example methanol or ethanol, and may be accelerated by heating at, for example, 40—110°C., or conveniently at the boiling point of the reaction mixture.

Whereafter, for a compound of formula I wherein R^1 is other than a hydroxy radical, the corresponding compound of formula I, wherein R^1 is a hydroxy radical (that is the corresponding acetic acid of formula I), or a reactive derivative thereof, for example the corresponding acid chloride, bromide or anhydride, is reacted using well known esterification procedures and conditions with the appropriate compound of the formula $R^{10}H$, wherein R^{10} has the same meaning as R^1 other than a hydroxy radical.

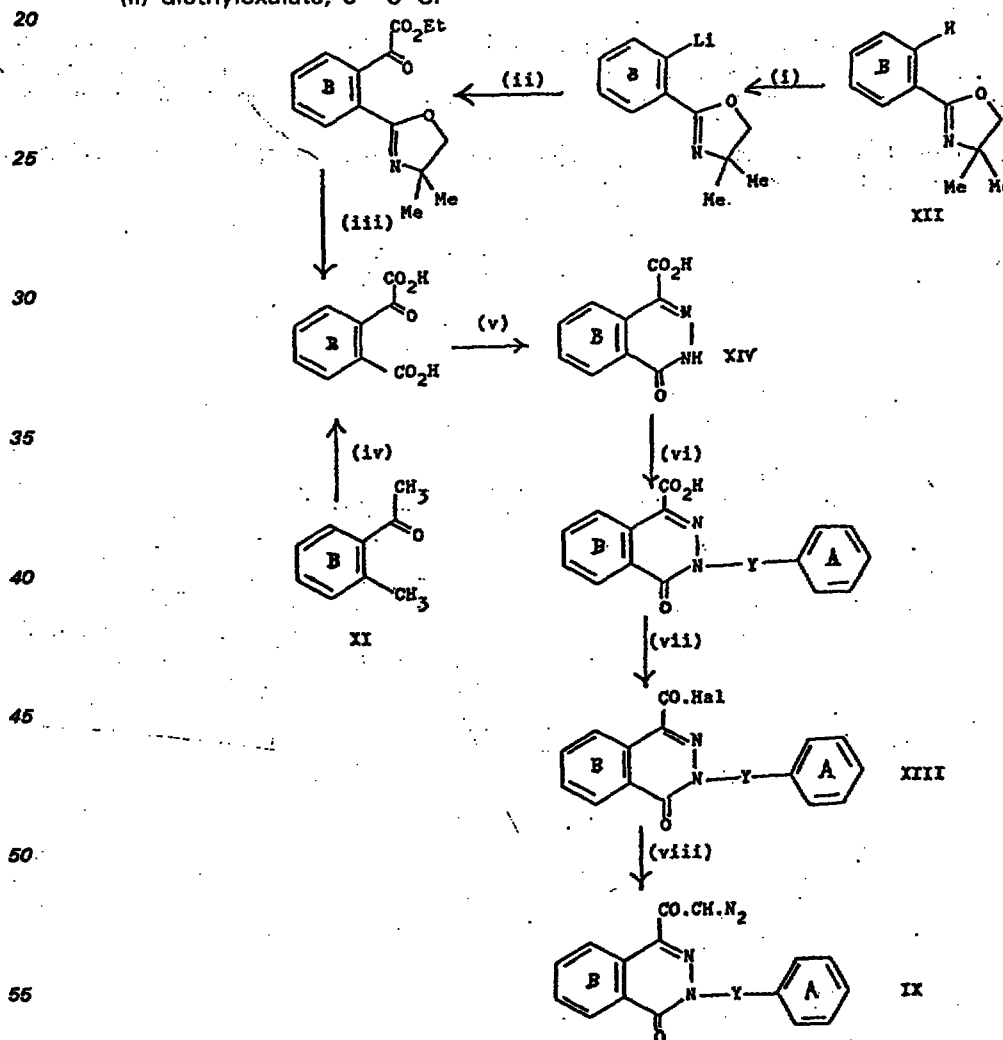
Whereafter, for a compound of formula I wherein X is sulphur, the corresponding oxo compound of formula I, wherein X is oxygen, is thiated using well known procedures and conditions, for example by reaction with phosphorus pentasulphide in boiling xylene or pyridine.

Both these well known procedures are illustrated in the accompanying Examples.

The starting materials may in general be prepared by standard procedures of heterocyclic chemistry well known in the art, for example as reviewed by N R Patel in "The Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds" Vol. 27, published by Interscience, New York. Such procedures are typified by those used for the preparation of the diazoketones of formula IX required for process (d) and shown in Scheme 1, in which the reagents used are as follows:—

(i) $n\text{-BuLi}$, Et_2O or $(\text{MeOCH}_2)_2$, -10—0°C.

(ii) diethylalate, 0—5°C.



Scheme 1

(iii) $\text{H}^+/\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{dioxan}$, 90—100°C.

(iv) $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3/\text{KMnO}_4/\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 100°C.

(v) $\text{H}_2\text{NNH}_2/\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 90—100°C.

(vi) as process (a)

(vii) $\text{SO}(\text{Hal})_2$, (Hal.=Cl or Br) or $(\text{COCl})_2$

(viii) excess $\text{CH}_2\text{N}_2/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$

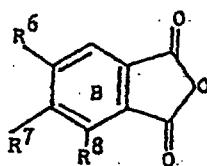
and in which, for clarity, individual radicals R^2 — R^8 are not shown. In many cases it is convenient to

convert the acid of formula XIV to its methyl ester, for example by reaction of its sodium salt with methyl iodide in dimethyl formamide, before carrying out the alkylation with the benzyl halide [step (vi)]. This modification is described in Examples 8, 9 and 31—34 hereinafter and necessitates a conventional hydrolysis to the corresponding acid after the alkylation and before step (vii) is carried out.

It will be appreciated that depending on the nature of the substituents to be introduced into benzene ring B either the 2-acyltoluene XI or the 2-phenyloxazoline XII derivatives may be the most appropriate starting materials. Equally, it will be appreciated that it may be convenient to avoid the isolation and purification of several of the intermediates in Scheme 1, for example of the lithio and oxalato derivatives produced by steps (i) and (ii) respectively. Similarly, when carrying out process (d) hereinabove, it is convenient to prepare diazoketone IX *in situ* from acid halide XIII.

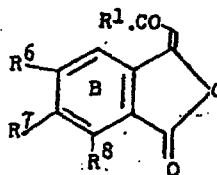
The starting materials of formula III for process (a) may be obtained by analogy with process (c), that is by reacting a compound of formula VII with hydrazine hydrate, and then, if a compound of formula III in which R¹ is other than a hydroxy radical is required, converting the phthalazin-4-ylacetic acid product as the free acid or acid chloride into the appropriate ester by conventional, known general procedures.

Some of the starting materials of formula VII may conveniently be obtained from the corresponding substituted phthalic anhydride of the formula:—



XV

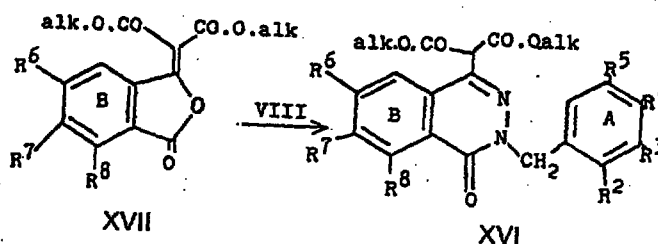
by condensation with acetic anhydride, for example in the presence of sodium or potassium acetate and in an excess of boiling acetic anhydride. However, they may all be obtained by a Wittig reaction between the appropriate phthalic anhydride of formula XV and (carbethoxymethylene)-triphenylphosphorane in a suitable solvent, for example 1,2-dimethoxyethane or tetrahydrofuran, the reaction conveniently accelerated by heating, for example, at the boiling point of the reaction mixture. It will be appreciated that in some cases the product from the Wittig reaction may be the geometric isomer of the formula:—



VIIa

rather than that depicted in formula VII. Alternatively a mixture of both geometric isomers may be formed. Either isomer or a mixture thereof may be employed in process (c). It should also be noted that when R⁸ and one of R⁷ and R⁶ are hydrogen the Wittig reaction produces positional isomers depending on which of the two carbonyl radicals of the phthalic anhydride XV reacts. When R⁸ is other than hydrogen one positional isomer predominates i.e. that formed by reaction of the carbonyl radical furthest from R⁸.

The malonic acid starting materials of formula X may be conveniently obtained by base catalysed hydrolysis of the corresponding diester of formula XVI, for example using aqueous ethanolic sodium hydroxide at 20—100°C., followed by acidification at 20—25°C. rather than at higher temperatures, which latter lead to decarboxylation in accordance with process (e) hereinabove. The necessary diester starting materials of formula XVI may themselves be obtained by reacting a dialkyl phthalidenemalonate of the formula XVII with the appropriate hydrazine of formula VIII:—



XVII

XVI

using similar conditions to those described in connection with analogous process (c). The phthalidene-malonates of formula XVII may be obtained by reaction of a dialkyl malonate with the appropriate

phthalic anhydride of formula XV, conveniently in the presence of acetic anhydride and a base, for example triethylamine.

The pharmaceutically acceptable salts as defined hereinbefore may be made by conventional procedures by reaction with the appropriate base or acid affording a pharmaceutically acceptable cation or anion respectively.

The property of inhibiting the enzyme aldose reductase may be demonstrated in the following standard laboratory test. Thus, rats are made diabetic by dosing with streptozotocin and are then dosed daily with the test compound for 5 days. The animals are then killed and the eye lenses and sciatic nerves are removed. After a standard work-up procedure the residual sorbitol levels in each tissue are determined by gas liquid chromatography after conversion to the poly trimethylsilyl derivatives. Inhibition of aldose reductase *in vivo* is then assessed by comparing the residual sorbitol levels in tissues from the dosed diabetic group of rats with those of an undosed group of diabetic rats and an undosed normal group of rats.

Alternatively, a modified test may be used in which the streptozotocin induced diabetic rats are dosed daily with test compound for two days. After 2—4 hours from the final dose the animals are killed and the sciatic nerves are removed and assessed for residual sorbitol levels as described above.

Active compounds in either of these tests reduce residual sorbitol levels to levels which are similar to those of normal, undosed rats. However, in general the compounds of formula I produce significant inhibition of the enzyme aldose reductase at an oral dose of 100 mg./kg. or less. Thus, by way of illustration, 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid produced a residual sorbitol level in the sciatic nerve of approximately 60% of that obtained in control undosed diabetic rats following oral dosing at 10 mg./kg. for 5 days. No overt toxic or other undesirable effects were detected with compounds of formula I at 100 mg./kg. in the above tests.

The property of inhibiting the enzyme aldose reductase may also be demonstrated *in vitro*. Thus, purified aldose reductase is isolated in known manner from bovine lenses. The percentage inhibition of this enzyme's ability *in vitro* to reduce aldoses to polyhydric alcohols, and particularly to reduce glucose to sorbitol, caused by a test compound is then determined using standard spectrophotometric methods. In this test those compounds of formula I wherein R¹ is a hydroxy radical show significant inhibition of the enzyme aldose reductase at a concentration in the range 10^{-8} to 10^{-6} M or less. Thus, by way of illustration, 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid has a K_i of 2.0×10^{-8} M.

When a compound of the invention is used to produce an effect on the enzyme aldose reductase in warm-blooded animals it may be administered primarily orally at a daily dose of 2 to 50 mg./kg., which is equivalent in man to a total daily dose in the range 20 to 750 mg. per man, given in divided doses if necessary.

The compounds of the invention may be administered in the form of pharmaceutical compositions and according to a further feature of the invention there is provided a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

Especially preferred pharmaceutical compositions are those which are in a form suitable for oral administration, for example tablets, capsules, suspensions or solutions, which may be obtained by conventional methods and, if desired, may incorporate conventional diluents, carriers or other excipients. Other preferred compositions are those which are in a form suitable for parenteral administration, for example sterile injectable aqueous or non-aqueous solutions or suspensions, and for rectal administration, for example suppositories. Dosage forms will generally contain from 10 mg. to 250 mg. of a compound of formula I, or an equivalent amount of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, per dosage unit.

The compositions of the invention may also contain one or more other agents which may have a useful effect in the treatment of diabetes or galactosemia, for example a hypoglycaemic agent such as tolbutamide.

Several of the compounds of the invention possess, in addition to aldose reductase inhibitory properties, anti-inflammatory/analgesic properties of the type possessed by non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents such as indomethacin, naproxen and ketoprofen. The compounds of the invention may therefore in addition be useful in the treatment of painful inflammatory joint diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and ankylosing spondylitis. In this connection it is envisaged that they would be administered primarily orally at a daily dose in the range 10—50 mg./kg. The anti-inflammatory properties may be demonstrated in well known standard laboratory tests in rats. Thus, by way of example, 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid and 2-(3-chloro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid both give rise to significant inhibition of carageenin induced oedema in the test developed by Winter *et al.* [*Proceedings of the Society of Experimental Biology* (New York), 1962, 111, 554] without any sign of overt toxicity.

The invention is illustrated by the following non-limiting Examples in which:—

- (i) all evaporations were carried out by rotary evaporation *in vacuo* unless otherwise stated;
- (ii) all operations were performed at room temperature unless otherwise stated, room temperature being in the range 18—26°C.;

- (iii) petroleum ether (b.p. 60—80°C.) is referred to as "petrol (60—80)", and other petroleum ether fractions accordingly—
 (iv) melting points of acetic acids are associated with decomposition in many cases;
 (v) all compounds of formula I and isolated intermediates were characterised on the basis of microanalysis and NMR and IR spectroscopy; and
 (vi) yields, where given are for illustration and do not necessarily represent the maximum attainable.

Example 1

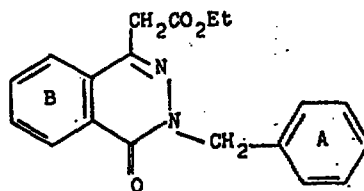
1,2-Dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid (2.0 g.) was added to a solution of sodium hydroxide (0.9 g.) in methanol (50 ml.). A clear solution was obtained on slight warming, which was treated with 4-bromobenzyl bromide (2.6 g.). The mixture was then heated under reflux for 3 hours and then evaporated. The residue was treated with water (60 ml.) and the solution obtained was extracted with ether (3 x 60 ml.). The aqueous phase was then acidified to pH 2 with concentrated hydrochloric acid and the acid mixture extracted with ethyl acetate (150 ml.). The extracts were washed with water (50 ml.), dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated. The solid obtained was recrystallised from a 1:4 v/v mixture of ethyl acetate and petrol (60—80) to give 2-(4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid (0.6 g.), m.p. 179—181°C.

Example 2

A mixture of ethyl 1,2-dihydro-1-oxo-phthalazin-4-ylacetate (11.5 g.) and sodium hydride (2.7 g.; 50% w/w dispersion in mineral oil) in dimethylformamide (125 ml.) was stirred at 60°C. for 1 hour under nitrogen. The solution obtained was cooled to room temperature and then 4-bromo-3-chlorobenzyl bromide (15.0 g.) was added, and the mixture stirred at 60°C. for 2 hours. After cooling to 25°C. the reaction mixture was poured into water (500 ml.). The aqueous mixture obtained was extracted with ethyl acetate (400 ml.). The extracts were washed with water, dried (Mg SO₄), and evaporated to give a solid, which was crystallised from propan-2-ol to yield ethyl 2-(3-chloro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate (7.3 g.), m.p. 142—145°C.

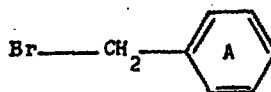
Examples 3—4

Using a similar procedure to that described in Example 2, the following compounds of the formula:—



XVIII

in which ring B is unsubstituted, were obtained from ethyl 1,2-dihydro-2-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate and the appropriate bromide of the formula:—



XIX

Example	Substituents on benzene ring A	Yield (%)	m.p. (°C.)	Recrystallisation solvent
3	*3,4-dichloro	40	139—141	i-PrOH
4	2-fluoro-4-bromo	60	114	EtOH

[* note: 3,4-dichlorobenzyl chloride used as starting material]

Example 5

A solution of ethyl 2-(3-chloro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate (7.0 g.) in ethanol (70 ml.) containing potassium hydroxide (7.0 g.) was heated under reflux for 30 minutes. The solution was then poured into water (250 ml.) and the aqueous solution was extracted with ether (2 x 150 ml.). The aqueous phase was acidified to pH 2 with concentrated hydrochloric acid. The solid

which was thus precipitated was separated, washed with water, dried *in vacuo* and then recrystallised from a 6:2:3 v/v/v mixture of toluene, propan-2-ol and petrol (60—80) to give 2-(3-chloro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid (3.9 g.), m.p. 186°C.

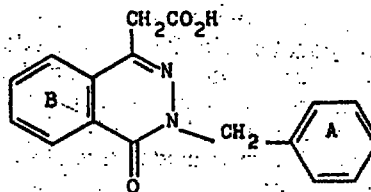
5

Examples 6—7

Using a similar procedure to that described in Example 5, the following compounds of the formula:—

10

15



in which ring B is unsubstituted, were obtained by hydrolysis of the appropriate ethyl ester of formula (1):—

20

Example	Substituents on benzene ring A	Yield (%)	m.p. (°C.)	Recrystallisation solvents
6	3,4-dichloro	60	175—176	toluene-i-PrOH (2:1)
7	2-fluoro-4-bromo	64	*184—185	methanol

25

30

* Note: This compound can crystallise in polymorphic forms, that is a form m.p. 184—185°C. (from methanol containing some water) and a form m.p. 180—182°C. (from two crystallisations from dry methanol).

35

Example 8

A stirred mixture of 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-methoxy-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid (1.9 g.) in thionyl chloride (10 ml.) containing dimethylformamide (0.1 ml.) was heated under reflux for 3 hours. The solution obtained was then evaporated. The residue was dissolved in dry toluene and the solution evaporated. This procedure was carried out three times to give 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-methoxy-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid chloride in essentially quantitative yield as a solid, having a satisfactory IR spectrum.

A solution of the above acid chloride in dry tetrahydrofuran (50 ml.) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of diazomethane in dry ether (200 ml.) cooled to 0°C. [obtained as described by J A Moore (*Organic Syntheses* 1961, 41, 16) from bis-(N-methyl-N-nitroso)terephthalamide (10 g.)]. After the addition was complete, the mixture was further stirred and allowed to warm up to room temperature during 2 hours. The mixture was then separated by filtration. The residue obtained was washed with dry tetrahydrofuran (20 ml.) and the combined washings and filtrate were evaporated to give 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-4-(α -diazo)acetyl-7-methoxy-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazine, as a solid which was used without purification or characterisation.

A solution of silver benzoate (0.2 g.) in triethylamine (1 ml.) was added slowly dropwise to a solution of the above 4-(α -diazo)acetyl derivative in absolute ethanol (50 ml.) and tetrahydrofuran (30 ml.) heated under reflux. (After each addition, effervescence occurred and this was allowed to subside before further solution was added.) After the addition was complete, the reaction mixture was further stirred and heated under reflux for 30 minutes and then filtered whilst hot. The filtrate was evaporated and the residue obtained dissolved in ethyl acetate (200 ml.). The ethyl acetate solution was washed with water (3 $\times$ 100 ml.), dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica (100 g.) using an increasing concentration of ethyl acetate in toluene as the eluant. There was thus obtained from the appropriate fractions [as judged by thin layer chromatography (TLC) on silica plates using ethyl acetate-toluene (1:3 v/v) as eluant] ethyl 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-methoxy-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate (0.9 g.), m.p. 129—130°C.

The necessary starting material was obtained as follows:—

(a) A mixture of 7-methoxy-1,2-dihydro-1-oxo-phthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid (10.0 g.), sodium hydrogen carbonate (15.0 g.) and methyl iodide (15.0 ml.) in dry dimethylformamide (200 ml.) was stirred at room temperature for 16 hours. The mixture was then poured into water (600 ml.). The precipitated solid was separated, washed first with water then cold methanol, and then recrystallised

from methanol to give methyl 7-methoxy-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylate (8.6 g.), m.p. 222—225°C.

(b) A solution of the methyl ester (8.29 g.), obtained in (a) above, in dry dimethylformamide (200 ml.) was treated with sodium hydride (1.75 g., 50% w/w dispersion in mineral oil). The mixture was stirred at 60°C for one hour, cooled to room temperature, and 3,4-dichlorobenzyl chloride (7.0 g.) added. The subsequent mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours and then poured into water (600 ml.). The solid which formed was separated, washed with water, dried *in vacuo* and then recrystallised from a 1:3 v/v mixture of propan-2-ol and petrol (60—80) to give methyl 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-methoxy-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylate (9.0 g.), m.p. 144—146°C.

(c) A solution of the methyl ester (9.0 g.), obtained in (b) above, in ethanol (100 ml.) and water (100 ml.) containing potassium hydroxide (10.0 g.) was heated under reflux for 4 hours. The solution obtained was then diluted with water (200 ml.) and acidified to pH 2 with concentrated hydrochloric acid. The solid which was thus deposited was separated, washed with water, dried *in vacuo* and recrystallised from a 1:1 v/v mixture of propan-2-ol and dimethylformamide to give 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-methoxy-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid (6.1 g.), m.p. 238—240°C. [Note: 7-methoxy-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid was obtained as a solid, m.p. 229—230°C., by the procedure of Vaughan *et alia* (*J. Amer. Chem. Soc.* 1946, 68, 1314)].

Example 9

Using a similar procedure to that described in Example 8, but starting from 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-chloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-yl-carboxylic acid (A) there was obtained in 8% yield, ethyl 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-chloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate, as a solid having a satisfactory NMR spectrum.

The necessary starting carboxylic acid derivative (A) was obtained using a similar procedure (a)–(c) to that described for the starting material in Example 8, but starting from 7-chloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid (B). The necessary intermediates had the following melting points:—

from step (a): methyl 7-chloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylate, m.p. 255—257°C (recrystallised from 2:1 v/v methanol:dimethylformamide);

from step (b): methyl 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-chloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylate, m.p. 178—180°C. [recrystallised from 1:3 v/v propan-2-ol:petrol (60—80)];

from step (c): 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-chloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid, m.p. 260—262°C. (recrystallised from 1:1 v/v methanol:dimethylformamide).

[Note: carboxylic acid (B) was obtained as a solid, m.p. 241—243°C., by a similar procedure to that of Vaughan *et alia* (*J. Amer. Chem. Soc.* 1946, 68, 1314), but starting from 4-chloro-2-methylacetophenone].

Examples 10—11

Using a similar procedure to that described in Example 5, but starting from the appropriate ethyl ester, the following acids were obtained:—

(Example 10): 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-methoxy-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid, m.p. 198—200°C (recrystallised from propan-2-ol); yield 50%;

(Example 11): 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-chloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid, m.p. 203—205°C. [recrystallised from 1:1 v/v propan-2-ol:petrol (60—80)]; yield 43%.

Examples 12—13

Using a similar procedure to that described in Example 2, there were obtained using the appropriate benzyl bromide or chloride, the following esters:—

(Example 12): ethyl 2-(2-fluoro-4-chlorobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate, m.p. 102°C. [recrystallised from petrol (60—80), then from ethanol]; yield 45%;

(Example 13): ethyl 2-(2-fluoro-4-iodobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate, m.p. 113°C. [recrystallised from petrol (60—80); yield 50%].

Example 14—16

Using a similar procedure to that described in Example 5, but starting with the appropriate ethyl ester, there were obtained the following acids:—

(Example 14): 2-(2-fluoro-4-chlorobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid, m.p.

193—194°C. (recrystallised from 3:1 v/v ethanol:water); yield 63%;

(Example 15): 2-(2-fluoro-4-iodobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid, m.p. 189°C. (recrystallised from 3:1 v/v ethanol:water); yield 55%;

(Example 16)*: 2-(3-chloro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-thioxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid, m.p. 197—199°C. (recrystallised from propan-2-ol); yield 25%.

[*Hydrolysis carried out with aqueous methanolic sodium hydroxide solution, under reflux for 10 minutes.]

Example 17

A mixture of ethyl 2-(3-chloro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate (1.8 g.) and phosphorus pentasulphide (2.5 g.) in xylene (100 ml.) was stirred and heated under reflux for 1 hour. The reaction solution was then cooled to room temperature, ethyl acetate (25 ml.) was added and the mixture was filtered through chromatographic silica (20 g.), the subsequent filtrate was evaporated and the residual solid obtained was recrystallised from ethanol to give ethyl 2-(3-chloro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-thioxophthalazin-4-ylacetate (1.1 g.), m.p. 124—126°C.

Example 18

3-Chloro-4-bromobenzylhydrazine (2.5 g.) was added to a stirred mixture of 3-oxo- $\Delta^1\alpha$ -phthalanacetic acid (also known as phthalidene-acetic acid) (1.92 g.) and sodium hydrogen carbonate (2.0 g.) in dioxan (50 ml.) and water (25 ml.). The mixture was then heated under reflux for 3 hours, cooled to room temperature and poured into water (200 ml.). The aqueous solution was extracted with ether (3 x 100 ml.) and the aqueous phase was acidified with concentrated hydrochloric acid to pH 2. The solid which deposited was collected, washed well with water, dried *in vacuo*, and then recrystallised twice from a mixture of toluene isopropanol and petrol (60—80) (6:2:3 v/v/v) to give 2-(3-chloro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid (0.23 g.), m.p. 184—186°C.

Examples 19—24

Using a similar procedure to that described in Example 2 but using the appropriate benzyl bromide of formula XIX there were obtained the following compounds of formula XVIII in which ring B is unsubstituted:—

Example	Substituents on benzene ring A	Yield (%)	m.p. (°C.)	Recrystallisation solvent(s)
19	3,4-dibromo	44	140—142	i-PrOH
20	2-fluoro-4,5-dibromo	21	129—130	EtOAc
21	3,5-dichloro	36	100—101	EtOAc
22	3,5-dichloro-4-bromo	19	146—147	EtOH
23	2-methoxy-4-chloro	22	138	i-PrOH
24	4-iodo	43	106—107	i-PrOH / Petrol 1:3 (60/80)

Examples 25—26

Ethyl 4-methyl-3-oxo- $\Delta^1\alpha$ -phthalanacetate (2.29 g.) was heated and stirred under reflux in toluene (200 ml.) during the dropwise addition of a solution of 3,4-dichlorobenzylhydrazine (1.9 g.) in toluene (50 ml.). The mixture was further heated under reflux for 3 hours, cooled and evaporated. The solid residue was recrystallised from 1:2 v/v isopropanol and petrol (60—80) to give ethyl 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-8-methyl-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate (Example 25) (1.4 g.), m.p. 134—137°C.

In a similar manner, but starting from ethyl 4-fluoro-3-oxo- $\Delta^1\alpha$ -phthalanacetate, there was obtained ethyl 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-8-fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate (Example 26), m.p. 177—178°C. [recrystallised from 1:2 v/v isopropanol/petrol (60—80)], in 37% yield.

Similarly, starting from a 1:1 mixture of 5-methyl- and 6-methyl-3-oxo- $\Delta^1\alpha$ -phthalanacetate,

there was obtained a 1:1 mixture of ethyl 6-methyl- and 7-methyl-2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate (Example 27), m.p. 120—122°C. (recrystallisation from isopropanol) in 33% yield.

The required starting materials were obtained as follows:—

- 5 A solution of 3-fluorophthalic anhydride (7.35 g.) and (carbethoxymethylene)triphenylphosphorane (17.5 g.) in dry 1,2-dimethoxyethane (200 ml.) was stirred and heated under reflux in an atmosphere of nitrogen for 16 hours. The solvent was then evaporated and the residue adsorbed onto chromatographic silica gel (20 g.). This silica gel was then added to the top of a column of the same silica gel (300 g.) and the column was eluted with toluene. The eluate was monitored by TLC
10 (SiO₂ gel: eluant 9:1 v/v toluene-ethyl acetate) and the first fractions containing UV visible material were combined and evaporated. The residual solid obtained was recrystallised from isopropanol to give ethyl 4-fluoro-3-oxo- Δ 1 α -phthalanacetate (2.3 g.) m.p. 101—103°C, required for Example 26.

- In a similar manner, ethyl 4-methyl-3-oxo- Δ 1 α -phthalanacetate (required for Example 25) was obtained as a solid, m.p. 84—86°C. in 56% yield after recrystallisation from isopropanol, starting from
15 3-methylphthalic anhydride.

Similarly, the 1:1 mixture of ethyl 5-methyl- and 6-methyl-3-oxo- Δ 1 α -phthalanacetate (required for Example 27) was obtained in 40% yield as a solid, m.p. 84—86°C. (recrystallised from isopropanol), starting from 4-methylphthalic anhydride.

Examples 28—30

- 20 Using a similar procedure to that described in Example 2 the following compounds were obtained from the appropriate substituted 1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate and 2-fluoro-4-bromobenzylhydrazine:—

- 25 *Example 28:* ethyl 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-8-fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate, m.p. 128—130°C. [recrystallised from 1:3 v/v isopropanol/petrol (60—80)] in 36% yield;

Example 29: ethyl 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-8-methyl-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate, m.p. 120—122°C. [recrystallised from 1:3 v/v isopropanol/petrol (60—80)] in 43% yield; and

- 30 *Example 30:* ethyl 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-6,7-methylenedioxy-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate, m.p. 163—165°C. (recrystallised from ethyl acetate) in 56% yield.

The necessary starting materials were obtained in the following manner:—

- 35 (i) *Ethyl 8-methyl-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate* (for Example 29)

- A solution of ethyl 4-methyl-3-oxo- Δ 1 α -phthalanacetate (3.5 g.) in ethanol (100 ml.) was stirred and heated under reflux during the dropwise addition of hydrazine hydrate (15 ml. of a 1M-solution in ethanol). After the addition was complete, the mixture was further stirred and heated under reflux for 3 hours and then allowed to cool to room temperature. The solid which was deposited was collected and
40 washed well with petrol (60—80), and recrystallised from isopropanol/petrol (60—80) to give ethyl 8-methyl-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate (1.0 g.), m.p. 197—199°C.

- (ii) *Ethyl 8-fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate* (for Example 28)

- This ester was obtained as a solid, m.p. 207—210°C. (recrystallised from ethyl acetate) in 51%
45 yield from ethyl 4-fluoro-3-oxo- Δ 1 α -phthalanacetate and hydrazine hydrate, using the procedure described in (i) above.

- (iii) *Ethyl 6,7-methylenedioxy-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate* (for Example 30)

- This ester was obtained as a solid, m.p. 226—228°C. in 70% yield from ethyl 5,6-methylenedioxy-3-oxo- Δ 1 α -phthalanacetate (A) and hydrazine hydrate. The phthalanacetate (A) was itself obtained as a solid, m.p. 189—191°C. (recrystallised from ethanol) in 64% yield from 4,5-methylenedioxyphthalic anhydride using an analogous procedure to that described for the corresponding intermediates in Examples 25—27. [This procedure is based on that of Knight and Porter, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 1977, 4543—4547].

Examples 31—34

Using an analogous procedure to that described in Example 8 the following esters of the formula XVII were obtained from the appropriate starting materials:—

Example	Substituents on ring B	Substituents on ring A	Yield (%)	m.p. (°C.)	Recrystallisation solvent(s)
31	7-fluoro	3,4-dichloro	26	160—162	i-PrOH
32	6,7-dichloro	3,4-dichloro	70*	204—205	CHCl ₃ /EtOAc (1:2)
33	6-chloro	3,4-dichloro	10	143—146	EtOH
34	6-fluoro	2-fluoro-4-bromo	60*	121—123	EtOH

*Note: Diazomethane generated from bis(N-methyl-N-nitroso)terephthalamide by the improved procedure of Moore and Reed (*Organic Syntheses*, Collected Vol. 5, pp. 351—355).

The necessary starting phthalazin-4-yl-carboxylic acids may be obtained as follows:—

(i) 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid

7-Fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid (obtained as a solid, m.p. 241—243°C. in 52% yield by a similar procedure to that of Vaughan *et alia*, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.* 1946, 68, 1314) was converted to its sodium salt and reacted with iodomethane by the procedure described in part (a) of Example 8 to give the corresponding methyl ester as a solid, m.p. 234—237°C. [recrystallised from 3:1 v/v methanol/dimethylformamide (DMF)] in 68% yield. This ester was then alkylated with 3,4-dichlorobenzyl chloride by the procedure described in part (b) of Example 8 to give methyl 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylate, m.p. 147—149°C. [recrystallised from 1:1 v/v toluene/petrol (60—80)] in 68% yield. This ester was then hydrolysed using a mixture of aqueous potassium carbonate and dioxan using the procedure of Example 36 hereinafter to give 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid as a solid, m.p. 222—224°C. (recrystallised from isopropanol) in 87% yield.

(ii) 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-6,7-dichloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid

This acid was obtained in an analogous manner to that in part (i) above, and the relevant intermediates, melting points, solvents and yields were as follows:—

6,7-dichloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid: m.p. 294—296°C., (recrystallised from DMF), yield 42%; corresponding methyl ester: m.p. 234—236°C. (recrystallised from DMF), yield 51%;

methyl 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-6,7-dichloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylate: m.p. 155—156°C. (recrystallised from DMF), yield 85%;

2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-6,7-dichloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid: m.p. 240—242°C. (recrystallised from ethanol), yield 62%.

(iii) 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-6-chloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid

A solution of butyl lithium in hexane (165 ml. of a 1.6 M solution) was added slowly to a stirred solution of 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4,4-dimethyl-2-oxazoline (50.0 g.; prepared by the procedure of Meyers *et alia*, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1974, 39, 2787) in sodium dried ether (600 ml.) maintained at -5 to 0°C. and under an atmosphere of dry argon. Stirring was continued at this temperature for 30 minutes after the addition was complete and then the solution was added slowly to a stirred solution of dry diethyl oxalate (326 ml.) in ether (500 ml.) maintained at 0°C. Air and water were excluded during the transfer by the use of an atmosphere of dry argon. The reaction mixture was further stirred after the addition was complete and was allowed to warm up to room temperature during 1 hour. The ethereal mixture was then washed with water (2 x 150 ml.), dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated under reduced pressure (10 mmHg.) until all excess diethyl oxalate was removed. The residue was dissolved in dioxan (500 ml.) and the solution added to 5N hydrochloric acid (500 ml.). The mixture was heated under reflux for 18 hours, evaporated to half volume and the residual solution filtered. The filtrate was adjusted to pH 8 by addition of hydrazine hydrate and the solution heated at 90°C. for 30 minutes, and then acidified to pH 4 with concentrated hydrochloric acid. The mixture was cooled and the solid which separated was collected by filtration, washed with water (2 x 500 ml.) and dried *in vacuo* over phosphorus pentoxide to give 6-chloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid (21.0 g.).

This acid was suspended in DMF (250 ml.) and the mixture treated with sodium hydrogen carbonate (21.0 g.) and iodomethane (40 ml.). The combined mixture was stirred overnight and then diluted with water (250 ml.). The solid which deposited was collected, washed with water (2 x 200 ml.) and recrystallised from 2:1 v/v isopropanol/DMF to give methyl 6-chloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylate (17.0 g.), m.p. 248—250°C.

This ester was then reacted with 3,4-dichlorobenzyl chloride in an analogous manner to that

described in part (i) and (ii) above. There was then obtained methyl 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-6-chloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylate, m.p. 168—170°C. (recrystallised from toluene) in 45% yield. This ester was then hydrolysed as described in part (i) above to give 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-6-chloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid, m.p. 222—223°C. (recrystallised from ethanol) in 60% yield.

(iv) 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-6-fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-yl-carboxylic acid

This acid was obtained in an analogous manner to that in part (iii) above, and the relevant intermediates, melting points, solvents and yields are as follows:—

10 methyl 6-fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylate: m.p. 221—223°C. (recrystallised from 2:1 v/v methanol/DMF), yield 15%;

methyl 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-6-fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylate: m.p. 131—134°C. (recrystallised from methanol), yield 51%;

15 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-6-fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylcarboxylic acid: m.p. 210—211°C. (recrystallised from isopropanol), yield 70%.

Example 35

Using a similar procedure to that described in Example 17, there was obtained ethyl 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-thioxophthalazin-4-ylacetate, m.p. 97—99°C. (recrystallised from ethanol) in 22% yield by thiation of ethyl 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate.

Examples 36—39

A mixture of potassium carbonate (1.5 g.), water (16 ml.), dioxan (50 ml.) and ethyl 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-8-fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate (1.0 g.) was heated under reflux for 24 hours, and then evaporated. The residue was dissolved in water (100 ml.) and the solution washed with ether (2 x 100 ml.). The aqueous phase was acidified to pH 2 by addition of concentrated hydrochloric acid. The solid which formed was collected by filtration, washed with water, and recrystallised from a 7:1:5 v/v/v mixture of toluene/isopropanol/petrol (60—80) to give 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-8-fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid (Example 36) (0.5 g.), m.p. 173—175°C.

Using an analogous procedure, and starting from the appropriate ethyl esters, the following acetic acid derivatives were obtained:—

Example 37: 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-7-fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid, m.p. 201—202°C. (recrystallised from 1:2 v/v ethyl acetate/petrol (60—80), yield 90%;

Example 38: 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-6,7-dichloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid, m.p. 204—205°C. (recrystallised from 5:1 v/v methanol/DMF), yield 76%;

40 Example 39: 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-6-chloro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid, m.p. 208—209°C. (recrystallised from isopropanol), yield 55%.

Examples 40—52

Using a similar procedure to that described in Example 5 the following acetic acid derivatives of formula XX were obtained by hydrolysis of the corresponding ethyl esters with potassium hydroxide:—

Example	Substituent on ring B	Substituents on ring A	Yield (%)	Melting point (°C.)	Recrystallisation solvent(s)
40	none	4-iodo	64	178–180	i-PrOH / petrol (60–80) (1:2)
41	none	3,4-dibromo	61	187–189	i-PrOH
42	none	2-fluoro-4,5-dibromo	71	184–186	i-PrOH
43	none	3,5-dichloro-4-bromo	60	219–220	i-PrOH
44	none	2-methoxy-4-chloro	55	183–184	i-PrOH
45	8-fluoro	3,4-dichloro	68	143–145	EtOAc / toluene (1:2)
46	6-methyl* + 7-methyl	3,4-dichloro 3,4-dichloro	43	182–184	i-PrOH
47	8-methyl	2-fluoro-4-bromo	37	195–197	i-PrOH / petrol (60–80) (1:2)
48	8-methyl	3,4-dichloro	44	203–205	i-PrOH / petrol (60–80) (1:2)
49	6,7-methyl-enedioxy	2-fluoro-4-bromo	70	209–210	i-PrOH
50	6-fluoro	2-fluoro-4-bromo	72	187–188	i-PrOH
51	8-ethoxy**	3,4-dichloro	65	204–206	i-PrOH

* 1:2 mixture of 6-methyl and 7-methyl derivatives.

** *exo*-tautomer by NMR.

In a similar manner, 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-thioxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid (Example 52) was obtained as a solid, m.p. 194–196°C. (recrystallised from methanol) in 30% yield by hydrolysis of the corresponding ethyl ester with aqueous methanolic sodium hydroxide solution.

Example 53

Ethyl 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-8-fluoro-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate (1.8 g.) was added to a solution of sodium (1.5 g.) in dry ethanol (150 ml.). The solution obtained was heated under reflux for 3 hours and then evaporated. Water (100 ml.) was added to the residue and the solid obtained was collected by filtration and dried to give ethyl 2(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-8-ethoxy-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate (0.5 g.).

Example 54

Acetyl chloride (10 ml.) was added to stirred methanol (150 ml.) to give a solution of hydrogen chloride in methanol and methyl acetate. 2-(2-Fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid (2.1 g.) was added to this solution and the mixture was heated under reflux for 18 hours, and then cooled to room temperature. The solid which crystallised out was separated by filtration and recrystallised from methanol to give methyl 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate (1.4 g.), m.p. 151–153°C.

Examples 55—57

A solution of 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetyl chloride (1.65 g.) [prepared *in situ* by heating the corresponding acid (1.6 g.) under reflux with oxalyl chloride (2.5 ml.) and DMF (0.1 ml.) in dry benzene (30 ml.) for 3 hours and then evaporating the mixture azeotropically with dry toluene] was prepared in methylene chloride (20 ml.). This solution was then added dropwise to an ice-cooled stirred solution of N-(2-hydroxyethyl)morpholine (1.5 g.) and triethylamine (2 ml.) in methylene chloride (100 ml.). The stirred mixture was then allowed to attain room temperature during 18 hours; was next washed with water (2 x 100 ml.), and then extracted with 2N-hydrochloric acid (2 x 50 ml.). The acid extracts were washed with ether (2 x 100 ml.) and the ethereal extracts discarded. The aqueous phase was basified to pH 10 with potassium carbonate and then extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 100 ml.). These extracts were washed with water (2 x 100 ml.), dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated to give a solid which was crystallised from petrol (80—100) to yield 2-(N-morpholino)ethyl 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate (Example 55) (0.5 g.), m.p. 99—100°C.

In a similar manner starting with 2-(N,N-dimethylamino)ethanol and benzyl alcohol respectively, there were obtained:—

Example 56: 2-(N,N-dimethylamino)ethyl 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate, m.p. 75—77°C. [recrystallised from petrol (80—100)] in 16% yield; and

Example 57: benzyl 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate, m.p. 105—107°C. [recrystallised from petrol (80—100)] in 50% yield; this ester was isolated from the initial CH₂Cl₂ phase.

Example 58

A solution of sodium methoxide (25 ml. of a 1.0M solution in methanol) was added to a solution of 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid (9.87 g.) in methanol (300 ml.) and the mixture heated to its boiling point. Methanol was then allowed to boil off until the volume of the mixture was approximately 100 ml. Isopropanol (150 ml.) was then added, followed by petrol (60—80) until the mixture was just opaque. The mixture was then allowed to cool to room temperature. The solid which formed was separated by filtration, evaporated with toluene (2 x 400 ml.) and then washed with ether (300 ml.) to give sodium 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetate, 6.5 g., m.p. 244—247°C.

Example 59

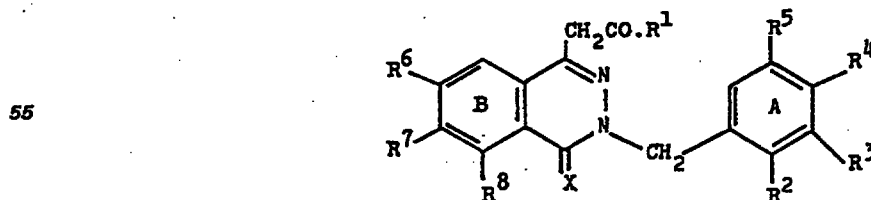
(all parts are by weight)

A mixture of 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid (50 parts), lactose (27 parts) and maize starch (20 parts) were stirred thoroughly, and a paste formed from maize starch (2 parts) and water (40 parts) was added and thoroughly mixed in. The resultant mass was passed through a 16 mesh screen, then dried at 60°C. and passed through a 20 mesh screen. Magnesium stearate (1 part) was added to the granules obtained, and the whole compressed by conventional means into tablets, containing 10, 20, 50 and 100 mg. of active ingredient and suitable for oral administration for therapeutic purposes.

Using a similar procedure, but replacing the active ingredient by any other compound of the invention or a salt thereof, for example as described in any one of the foregoing Examples, tablets containing 10, 20, 50 and 100 mg. of active ingredient may be obtained.

Claims

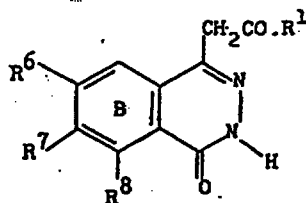
1. A phthalazin-4-ylacetic acid derivative of the formula:—



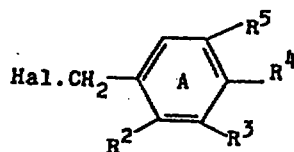
wherein R¹ is a hydroxy or benzyloxy radical, or a C₁₋₄-alkoxy radical optionally bearing an N-morpholino or di-C₁₋₄-alkylamino radical; the substituents R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ on benzene ring A are selected from any one of the following combinations:—

- R² is a fluoro or methoxy radical, R³ is hydrogen, R⁴ is a chloro, bromo or iodo radical, and R⁵ is hydrogen or a halogeno radical;
- R², R³ and R⁵ are hydrogen, and R⁴ is a bromo or iodo radical;

- c) R^2 is hydrogen or a fluoro radical, R^3 and R^5 are the same or different halogeno radicals, and R^4 is hydrogen;
- d) R^2 is hydrogen or a fluoro radical, R^3 and R^4 are the same or different halogeno radicals, and R^5 is hydrogen; and
- e), R^2 is hydrogen, R^3 and R^5 are independently fluoro or chloro radicals, and R^4 is a chloro, bromo or iodo radical; and wherein, on benzene ring B, R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogeno, C_{1-4} -alkyl and C_{1-4} -alkoxy radicals; or R^6 and R^7 together constitute a C_{1-4} -alkylenedioxy diradical; provided that at least one of R^6 , R^7 and R^8 is hydrogen; and X is oxygen or sulphur; or a pharmaceutically acceptable base-addition salt of a compound of formula I wherein R^1 is a hydroxy radical; or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salt of a compound of formula I wherein R^1 is a C_{1-4} -alkoxy radical bearing an N-morpholino or di- C_{1-4} -alkylamino radical.
2. A compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^1 is a hydroxy, methoxy, ethoxy, benzyloxy, 2-(N-morpholino)ethoxy or 2-(N,N-dimethylamino)ethoxy radical; the combinations (a), (c) and (d) of R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 on benzene ring A have the values:—
- (a) R^2 is a fluoro or methoxy radical, R^3 is hydrogen or a fluoro, chloro, bromo or iodo radical;
- (c) R^2 is hydrogen or a fluoro radical, R^3 and R^5 , which may be the same or different, are fluoro, chloro, bromo or iodo radicals, and R^4 is hydrogen;
- (d), R^2 is hydrogen or a fluoro radical, R^3 and R^4 , which may be the same or different, are fluoro, chloro, bromo or iodo radicals, and R^5 is hydrogen; and combinations (b) and (e) have the values defined in claim 1; and wherein, on benzene ring B, R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, methyl, methoxy and ethoxy radicals; or R^6 and R^7 together constitute a methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy or isopropylidenedioxy diradical; provided that at least one of R^6 , R^7 and R^8 is hydrogen.
3. A compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein benzene ring A is a 2-fluoro-4-chloro-, 2-fluoro-4-bromo-, 2-fluoro-4-iodo-, 2-fluoro-4,5-dibromo-, 2-methoxy-4-chloro-, 4-bromo-, 4-iodo-, 3,5-dichloro-, 3-chloro-4-bromo-, 3,4-dichloro-, 3,4-dibromo- or a 3,5-dichloro-4-bromophenyl radical; and benzene ring B is unsubstituted or bears a 6-fluoro, 6-chloro, 6-methyl, 7-fluoro, 7-chloro, 7-methyl, 7-methoxy, 8-fluoro, 8-methyl or 8-ethoxy radical, or a 6,7-dichloro or 6,7-methylenedioxy diradical.
4. A compound as claimed in any one preceding claim wherein R^1 is a hydroxy radical, R^2 is a fluoro radical, R^3 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^4 is a chloro, bromo or iodo radical; or a pharmaceutically acceptable base-addition salt thereof.
5. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1—3 wherein R^1 is a hydroxy radical, R^3 and R^4 are both independently chloro, bromo or iodo radicals, and R^2 and R^5 are hydrogen; or a pharmaceutically acceptable base-addition salt thereof.
6. A compound of formula I selected from the group consisting of 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid, 2-(2-fluoro-4-iodobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid, 2-(3-chloro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-ylacetic acid, and pharmaceutically acceptable base addition salts thereof.
7. A pharmaceutically acceptable base addition salt of a compound of formula I, as claimed in any one preceding claim, which is an alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, aluminium or ammonium salt, or a salt of an organic base affording a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.
8. A process for the manufacture of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as claimed in any one preceding claim, characterised by
- a) for a compound of formula I wherein X is oxygen, reacting a compound of the formula:—



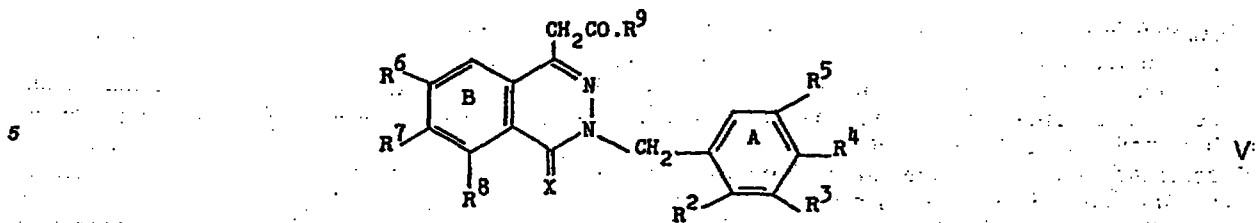
with a halide of the formula:—



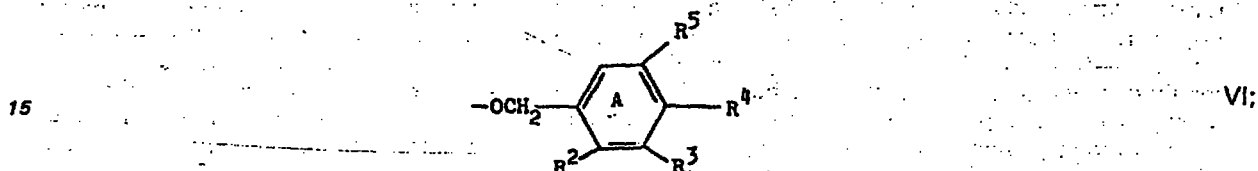
wherein Hal is a chloro, bromo or iodo radical, in the presence of a suitable base;

b) for a compound of formula I wherein R^1 is a hydroxy radical, hydrolysing an ester of the formula:—

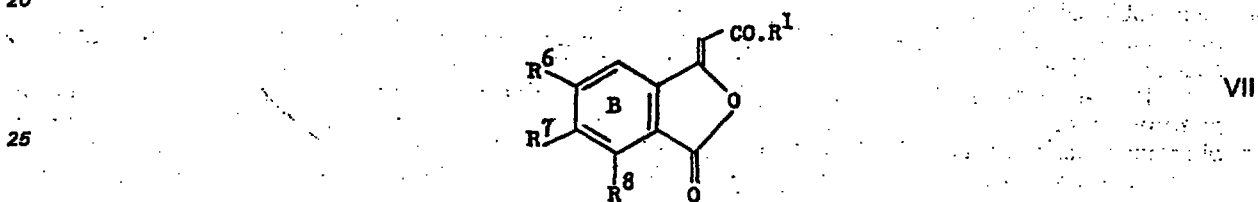
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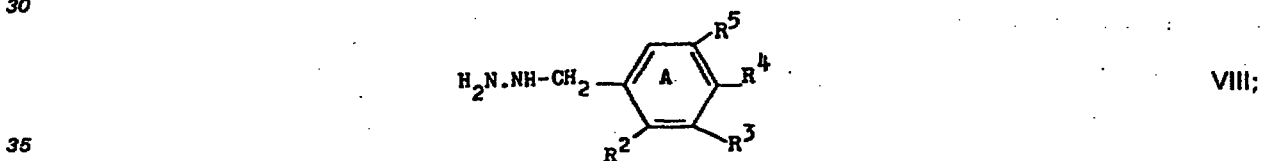
10 wherein R^9 is a C_{1-4} -alkoxy radical or a radical of the formula:



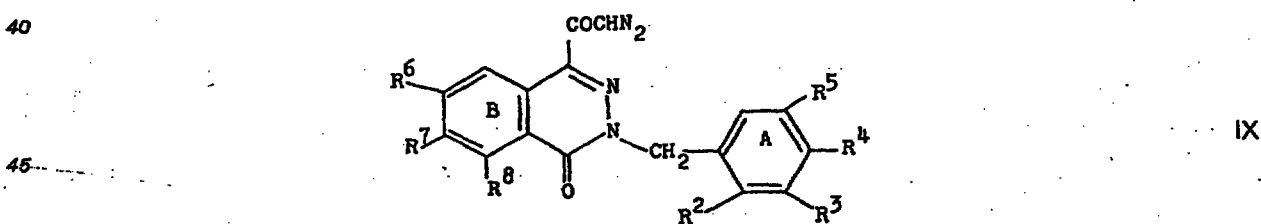
20 c) for a compound of formula I wherein X is oxygen, reacting a compound of the formula:—



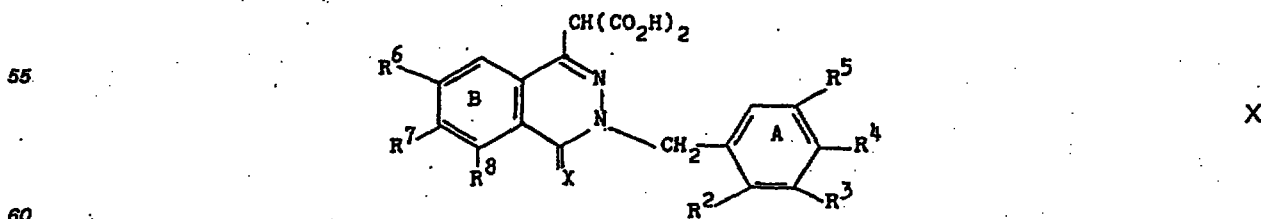
30 or a geometric isomer thereof, with a hydrazine of the formula:—



40 d) for a compound of formula I wherein X is oxygen and R^1 is a hydroxy or C_{1-4} -alkoxy radical, catalytically decomposing a diazoketone of the formula:—



50 in the presence of a compound of the formula Q.H, wherein Q is a hydroxy or C_{1-4} -alkoxy radical; or e) for a compound of formula I wherein R^1 is a hydroxy radical, decarboxylating a malonic acid of the formula:—



and whereafter when a compound of formula I wherein R^1 is other than a hydroxy radical is required, a compound of formula I wherein R^1 is a hydroxy radical or a reactive derivative thereof, is reacted with a compound of the formula $R^{10}.H$, wherein R^{10} has the same meaning as R^1 other than a hydroxy radical, using known esterification procedures; and whereafter when a compound of formula I wherein X is

sulphur is required, a compound of formula I, wherein X is oxygen, is thiated using known thiation procedures; and whereafter when a pharmaceutically acceptable salt is required a compound of formula I, wherein R¹ is a hydroxy radical, is reacted with a base affording a pharmaceutically acceptable cation, or a compound of formula I, wherein R¹ is a C₁₋₄-alkoxy radical bearing an N-morpholino or di-N,N-C₁₋₄-alkylamino radical, is reacted with an acid affording a pharmaceutically acceptable anion; and wherein X, R¹, benzene rings A and B, and the substituents thereon, have any of the meanings defined in the preceding claims.

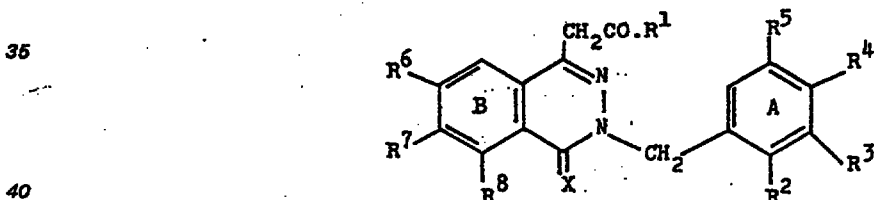
9. A process for the manufacture of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1—5, and wherein benzene ring B bears a C₁₋₄-alkoxy radical; characterised by reacting a compound of formula I wherein benzene ring B bears a halogeno radical with an alkali metal C₁₋₄-alkoxide and wherein the remainder of the substituents on benzene ring B, R¹, X, benzene ring A and the substituents thereof have the meanings defined in any one of claims 1—5; whereafter when a compound of formula I wherein R¹ is other than a hydroxy radical is required, a compound of formula I wherein R¹ is a hydroxy radical or a reactive derivative thereof, is reacted with a compound of the formula R¹⁰.H, wherein R¹⁰ has the same meaning as R¹ other than a hydroxy radical, using known esterification procedures; and whereafter when a compound of formula I wherein X is sulphur is required, a compound of formula I, wherein X is oxygen, is thiated using known thiation procedures; and whereafter when a pharmaceutically acceptable salt is required a compound of formula I, wherein R¹ is a hydroxy radical, is reacted with a base affording a pharmaceutically acceptable cation, or a compound of formula I, wherein R¹ is a C₁₋₄-alkoxy radical bearing an N-morpholino or di-N,N-C₁₋₄-alkylamino radical, is reacted with an acid affording a pharmaceutically acceptable anion.

10. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined in any one of claims 1—7, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

11. A composition as claimed in claim 10 which is in a form suitable for oral administration as a tablet, capsule, suspension or solution.

30 Patentansprüche

1. Ein Phthalazin-4-yllessigsäurederivat der Formel:



in der R¹ für ein Hydroxy- oder Benzyloxyradikal oder ein C₁₋₄-Alkoxyradikal, das gegebenenfalls ein N-Morpholino- oder Di-C₁₋₄-alkylaminoradikal trägt, steht; in der die Substituenten R², R³, R⁴ und R⁵ am Benzolring A aus einer der folgenden Kombinationen ausgewählt sind:

- 45 a) R² ist ein Fluoro- oder Methoxyradikal, R³ ist Wasserstoff, R⁴ ist ein Chloro-, Bromo- oder Jodo-
radikal und R⁵ ist Wasserstoff oder ein Halogenoradikal,
b) R², R³ und R⁵ sind Wasserstoff und R⁴ ist ein Bromo- oder Jodoradikal,
c) R² ist Wasserstoff oder ein Fluororadikal, R³ und R⁵ sind gleiche oder verschiedene Halogeno-
radikale und R⁴ ist Wasserstoff,
50 d) R² ist Wasserstoff oder ein Fluororadikal, R³ und R⁴ sind gleiche oder verschiedene Halogenora-
dikale und R⁵ ist Wasserstoff, und
e) R² ist Wasserstoff, R³ und R⁵ sind unabhängig voneinander Fluoro- oder Chlororadikale und R⁴
ist ein Chloro-, Bromo- oder Jodoradikal;
in der (am Benzolring B) R⁶, R⁷ und R⁸ unabhängig voneinander ausgewählt sind aus Wasserstoff und
55 Halogeno-, C₁₋₄-Alkyl- und C₁₋₄-Alkoxyradikalen oder R⁶ und R⁷ gemeinsam ein C₁₋₄-Alkylendioxy-
diradikal bilden; mit der Einschränkung, daß mindestens eines der Symbole R⁶, R⁷ und R⁸ für Wasser-
stoff steht; und in der X für Sauerstoff oder Schwefel steht; oder ein pharmazeutisch zulässiges
Basenadditionssalz einer Verbindung der Formel I, worin R¹ für ein Hydroxyradikal steht, oder ein
pharmazeutisch zulässiges Säureadditionssalz einer Verbindung der Formel I, worin R¹ für ein C₁₋₄-
60 Alkoxyradikal, das ein N-Morpholino- oder Di-C₁₋₄-Alkylaminoradikal trägt, steht.

2. Eine Verbindung der Formel I nach Anspruch 1, in der R¹ für ein Hydroxy-, Methoxy-, Ethoxy-, Benzyloxy-, 2-(N-Morpholino)ethoxy- oder 2-(N,N-Dimethylamino)ethoxyradikal steht; in der die Kom-
binationen (a), (c) und (d) für R², R³, R⁴ und R⁵ am Benzolring A die folgenden Werte besitzen:

- (a) R² ist ein Fluoro- oder Methoxyradikal, R³ ist Wasserstoff, R⁴ ist ein Chloro-, Bromo- oder Jodo-
65 radikal und R⁵ ist Wasserstoff oder ein Fluoro-, Chloro-, Bromo- oder Jodoradikal,

(c) R^2 ist Wasserstoff oder ein Fluororadikal, R^3 und R^5 , welche gleich oder verschieden sein können, sind Fluoro-, Chloro-, Bromo- oder Jodoradikale und R^4 ist Wasserstoff,

(d) R^2 ist Wasserstoff oder ein Fluororadikal, R^3 und R^4 , welche gleich oder verschieden sein können, sind Fluoro-, Chloro-, Bromo- oder Jodoradikale und R^5 ist Wasserstoff,

5 und die Kombinationen (b) und (e) die in Anspruch 1 definierten Werte aufweisen; und in der (am Benzolring B) R^6 , R^7 und R^8 unabhängig voneinander ausgewählt sind aus Wasserstoff und Fluoro-, Chloro-, Bromo-, Jodo-, Methyl-, Methoxy- und Ethoxyradikalen oder R^6 und R^7 gemeinsam ein Methylendioxy-, Ethylendioxy- oder Isopropylidendioxydiradikal bilden, mit der Einschränkung, daß mindestens eines der Symbole R^6 , R^7 und R^8 für Wasserstoff steht.

10 3. Eine Verbindung der Formel I nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, in der der Benzolring A ein 2-Fluoro-4-chloro-, 2-Fluoro-4-bromo-, 2-Fluoro-4-jodo-, 2-Fluoro-4,5-dibromo-, 2-Methoxy-4-chloro-, 4-Bromo-, 4-Jodo-, 3,5-Dichloro-, 3-Chloro-4-bromo-, 3,4-Dichloro-, 3,4-Dibromo- oder 3,5-Dichloro-4-bromophenylradikal ist; und in der der Benzolring B unsubstituiert ist oder ein 6-Fluoro-, 6-Chloro-, 6-Methyl-, 7-Fluoro-, 7-Chloro-, 7-Methyl-, 7-Methoxy-, 8-Fluoro-, 8-Methyl- oder 8-Ethoxyradikal oder ein 6-15 Chloro- und ein 7-Chlororadikal oder 6,7-Methylenedioxydiradikal trägt.

4. Eine Verbindung nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, in der R^1 für ein Hydroxyradikal steht, R^2 für ein Fluororadikal steht, R^3 und R^5 für Wasserstoff stehen und R^4 für ein Chloro-, Bromo- oder Jodoradikal steht; oder ein pharmazeutisch zulässiges Basenadditionssalz davon.

20 5. Eine Verbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, in der R^1 für ein Hydroxyradikal steht, R^3 und R^4 beide unabhängig voneinander für Chloro-, Bromo- oder Jodoradikale stehen und R^2 und R^5 für Wasserstoff stehen; oder ein pharmazeutisch zulässiges Basenadditionssalz davon.

6. Eine Verbindung der Formel I, die ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe, die besteht aus 2-(2-Fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-yllessigsäure, 2-(2-Fluoro-4-jodobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-yllessigsäure, 2-(3-Chloro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophthalazin-4-yllessigsäure und pharmazeutisch zulässigen Basenadditionssalzen davon.

25 7. Ein pharmazeutisch zulässiges Basenadditionssalz einer Verbindung der Formel I nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, das ein Alkalimetall-, Erdalkalimetall-, Aluminium- oder Ammoniumsalz oder ein Salz einer organischen Base, die ein pharmazeutisch zulässiges Kation liefert, ist.

30 8. Ein Verfahren zur Herstellung einer Verbindung der Formel I oder eines pharmazeutisch zulässigen Salzes davon, wie sie in einem der vorhergehenden Patentansprüche beansprucht werden, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß

a) für eine Verbindung der Formel I, in der X für Sauerstoff steht, eine Verbindung der Formel:



III

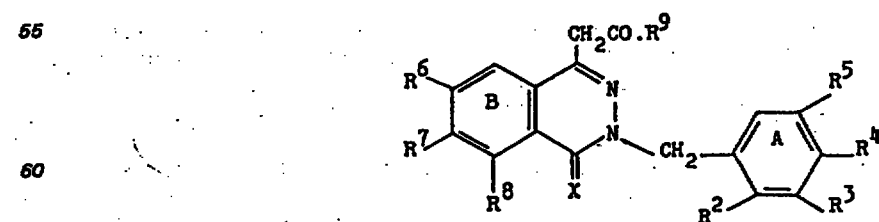
mit einem Halogenid der Formel:



IV,

in der Hal für ein Chloro-, Bromo- oder Jodoradikal steht, in Gegenwart einer geeigneten Base umgesetzt wird;

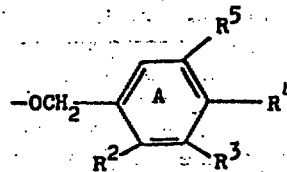
b) für eine Verbindung der Formel I, in der R^1 für ein Hydroxyradikal steht, ein Ester der Formel:



V,

in der R^9 für ein C_{1-4} -Alkoxyradikal oder ein Radikal der Formel:

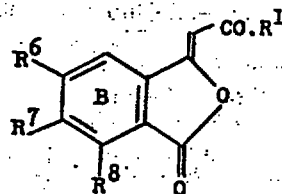
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VI

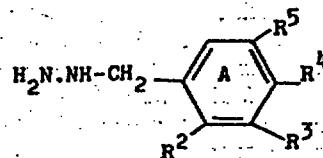
steht, hydrolysiert wird;

c) für eine Verbindung der Formel I, in der X für Sauerstoff steht, eine Verbindung der Formel:



VII

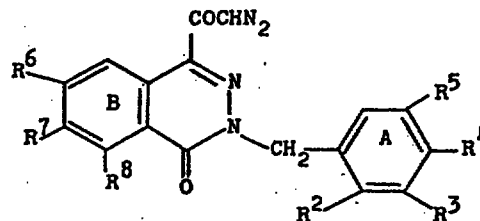
oder ein geometrisches Isomer davon, mit einem Hydrazin der Formel:



VIII

umgesetzt wird;

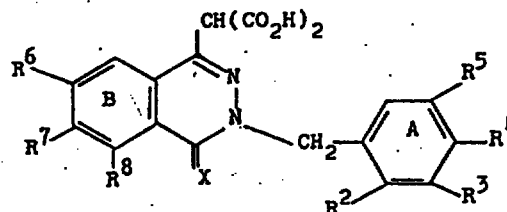
d) für eine Verbindung der Formel I, in der X für Sauerstoff steht und R¹ für ein Hydroxy- oder C₁₋₄-Alkoxyradikal steht, ein Diazoketon der Formel:



IX

in Gegenwart einer Verbindung der Formel Q.H, in der Q für ein Hydroxy- oder C₁₋₄-Alkoxyradikal steht, umgesetzt wird; oder

e) für eine Verbindung der Formel I, in der R¹ für ein Hydroxyradikal steht, eine Malonsäure der Formel:



X

decarboxyliert wird; und worauf, wenn eine Verbindung der Formel I gewünscht wird, in der R¹ für etwas anderes als ein Hydroxyradikal steht, eine Verbindung der Formel I, in der R¹ für ein Hydroxyradikal oder ein reaktives Derivat davon steht, mit einer Verbindung der Formel R¹⁰.H, in der R¹⁰ die gleiche Bedeutung wie R¹ mit Ausnahme eines Hydroxyradikals besitzt, unter Verwendung bekannter Veresterungsverfahren umgesetzt wird; und worauf, wenn eine Verbindung der Formel I gewünscht wird, in der X für Schwefel steht, eine Verbindung der Formel I, in der X für Sauerstoff steht, unter Verwendung bekannter Thierungsverfahren thiert wird; und worauf, wenn ein pharmazeutisch zulässiges Salz gewünscht wird, eine Verbindung der Formel I, in der R¹ für ein Hydroxyradikal steht, mit einer Base, die ein pharmazeutisch zulässiges Kation liefert, umgesetzt wird oder eine Verbindung der Formel I, in der R¹ für ein C₁₋₄-Alkoxyradikal, das ein N-Morpholino- oder Di-N,N-C₁₋₄-alkylamino-radikal trägt, steht, mit einer Säure, die ein pharmazeutisch zulässiges Anion liefert, umgesetzt wird;

wobei R^1 , X, die Benzolringe A und B und die daran befindlichen Substituierten irgendwelche der in den vorhergehenden Ansprüchen definierten Bedeutungen besitzen.

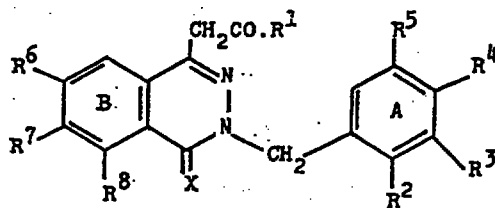
9. Verfahren zur Herstellung einer Verbindung der Formel I oder eines pharmazeutisch zulässigen Salzes davon, wie sie in einem der Patentansprüche 1 bis 5 beansprucht wird, und in der der Benzolring B ein C_{1-4} -Alkoxyradikal trägt, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß eine Verbindung der Formel I, in der der Benzolring B ein Halogenoradikal trägt, mit einem Alkalimetall- C_{1-4} -alkoxid umgesetzt wird, wobei die übrigen der Substituenten am Benzolring B, R^1 , X, der Benzolring A und die daran befindlichen Substituenten die in einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5 definierten Bedeutungen besitzen; worauf, wenn eine Verbindung der Formel I gewünscht wird, in der R^1 für etwas anderes als ein Hydroxyradikal steht, eine Verbindung der Formel I, in der R^1 für ein Hydroxyradikal oder ein reaktives Derivat davon steht, mit einer Verbindung der Formel $R^{10}H$, in der R^{10} die gleiche Bedeutung wie R^1 mit Ausnahme eines Hydroxyradikals besitzt, unter Verwendung bekannter Veresterungsverfahren umgesetzt wird; und worauf, wenn eine Verbindung der Formel I gewünscht wird, in der X für Schwefel steht, eine Verbindung der Formel I, in der X für Sauerstoff steht, unter Verwendung bekannter Thilierungsverfahren thiliert wird; und worauf, wenn ein pharmazeutisch zulässiges Salz gewünscht wird, eine Verbindung der Formel I, in der R^1 für ein Hydroxyradikal steht, mit einer Base, die ein pharmazeutisch zulässiges Kation liefert, umgesetzt wird oder eine Verbindung der Formel I, in der R^1 für ein C_{1-4} -Alkoxyradikal, das ein N-Morpholino- oder Di-N,N- C_{1-4} -alkylaminoradikal trägt, steht, mit einer Säure, die ein pharmazeutisch zulässiges Anion liefert, umgesetzt wird.

10. Pharmazeutische Zusammensetzung, die eine Verbindung der Formel I oder ein pharmazeutisch zulässiges Salz davon, wie sie in einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 7 definiert sind, zusammen mit einem pharmazeutisch zulässigen Verdünnungs- oder Trägermittel enthält.

11. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 10, die sich in einer Form befindet, welche für orale Verabreichung als Tablette, Kapsel, Suspension oder Lösung geeignet ist.

Revendications

1. Dérivé d'acide phthalazine-4-ylacétique de formule:



- dans laquelle R^1 est un radical hydroxyle ou benzyloxy ou un radical alcoxy en C_1-C_4 portant éventuellement un radical N-morpholino ou di- $(C_{1-4}$ -alkyl)amino, les substituants R^2 , R^3 , R^4 et R^5 sur le cycle benzénique A sont choisis dans l'une quelconque des combinaisons suivantes:

- R^2 est un radical fluoro ou méthoxy, R^3 est un atome d'hydrogène, R^4 est un radical chloro, bromo ou iodo et R^5 est un atome d'hydrogène ou un radical halogéno;
- R^2 , R^3 et R^5 sont des atomes d'hydrogène et R^4 est un radical bromo ou iodo;
- R^2 est un atome d'hydrogène ou un radical fluoro, R^3 et R^5 sont des radicaux halogéno identiques ou différents et R^4 est un atome d'hydrogène;
- R^2 est un atome d'hydrogène ou un radical fluoro, R^3 et R^4 sont des radicaux halogéno identiques ou différents et R^5 est un atome d'hydrogène, et
- R^2 est un atome d'hydrogène, R^3 et R^5 sont indépendamment des radicaux fluoro ou chloro et R^4 est un radical chloro, bromo ou iodo, et dans laquelle, sur le cycle benzénique B, R^6 , R^7 et R^8 sont choisis indépendamment entre des atomes d'hydrogène et radicaux halogéno, alkyle en C_{1-4} et alcoxy en C_{1-4} , ou bien R^6 et R^7 forment ensemble un diradical alcylènedioxy en C_{1-4} , avec la restriction qu'au moins l'un d'entre R^6 , R^7 et R^8 est un atome d'hydrogène, et X est un atome d'oxygène ou de soufre, ou un sel d'addition de base pharmaceutiquement acceptable d'un composé de formule I dans laquelle R^1 est un radical hydroxyle, ou un sel d'addition d'acide pharmaceutiquement acceptable d'un composé de formule I dans laquelle R^1 est un radical alcoxy en C_1-C_4 portant un radical N-morpholino ou di- $(C_{1-4}$ -alkyl)amino.

2. Composé de formule I suivant la revendication 1, dans laquelle R^1 est un radical hydroxyle, méthoxy, éthoxy, benzyloxy, 2-(N-morpholino)éthoxy ou 2-(N,N-diméthylamino)éthoxy; et les combinaisons (a), (c) et (d) de R^2 , R^3 , R^4 et R^5 sur le cycle benzénique A ont les significations suivantes:

- R^2 est un radical fluoro ou méthoxy, R^3 est un atome d'hydrogène, R^4 est un radical chloro, bromo ou iodo et R^5 est un atome d'hydrogène ou un radical fluoro, chloro, bromo ou iodo;
- R^2 est un atome d'hydrogène ou un radical fluoro, R^3 et R^5 , qui peuvent être identiques ou différents, sont des radicaux fluoro, chloro, bromo ou iodo, et R^4 est un atome d'hydrogène;
- R^2 est un atome d'hydrogène ou un radical fluoro, R^3 et R^4 , qui peuvent être identiques ou

différents, sont des radicaux fluoro, chloro, bromo ou iodo, et R^5 est un atome d'hydrogène, et les combinaisons (b) et (e) ont les significations définies dans la revendication 1, et dans laquelle, sur le cycle benzénique B, R^6 , R^7 et R^8 sont choisis indépendamment entre des atomes d'hydrogène et radicaux fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, méthyle, méthoxy et éthoxy, ou bien R^6 et R^7 constituent ensemble un diradical méthylènedioxy, éthylènedioxy ou isopropylidènedioxy, étant entendu qu'au moins l'un d'entre R^6 , R^7 et R^8 est un atome d'hydrogène.

3. Composé de formule I suivant la revendication 1 ou 2, dans laquelle le cycle benzénique A est un radical 2-fluoro-4-chloro-, 2-fluoro-4-bromo-, 2-fluoro-4-iodo-, 2-fluoro-4,5-dibromo-, 2-méthoxy-4-chloro-, 4-bromo-, 4-iodo-, 3,5-dichloro-, 3-chloro-4-bromo-, 3,4-dichloro-, 3,4-dibromo- ou 3,5-dichloro-4-bromophényle; et le cycle benzénique B est exempt de substituant ou porte un radical 6-fluoro-, 6-chloro-, 6-méthyle-, 7-fluoro-, 7-chloro-, 7-méthyle-, 7-méthoxy-, 8-fluoro-, 8-méthyle ou 8-éthoxy, ou un diradical 6,7-dichloro ou 6,7-méthylènedioxy.

4. Composé suivant l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel R^1 est un radical hydroxyle, R^2 est un radical fluoro, R^3 et R^5 sont des atomes d'hydrogène et R^4 est un radical chloro, bromo ou iodo, ou un de ses sels d'addition de bases pharmaceutiquement acceptables.

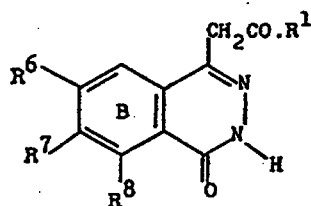
5. Composé suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1—3, dans lequel R^1 est un radical hydroxyle, R^3 et R^4 sont tous deux indépendamment des radicaux chloro, bromo ou iodo et R^2 et R^5 sont des atomes d'hydrogène, ou un de ses sels d'addition de bases pharmaceutiquement acceptables.

6. Composé de formule I choisi entre l'acide 2-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophtalazine-4-ylacétique, l'acide 2-(2-fluoro-4-iodobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophtalazine-4-ylacétique, l'acide 2-(3-chloro-4-bromobenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-1-oxophtalazine-4-ylacétique et leurs sels d'addition de bases pharmaceutiquement acceptables.

7. Sel d'addition de base pharmaceutiquement acceptable d'un composé de formule I suivant l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, qui est un sel de métal alcalin, de métal alcalino-terreux, d'aluminium ou d'ammonium ou un sel d'une base organique apportant un cation pharmaceutiquement acceptable.

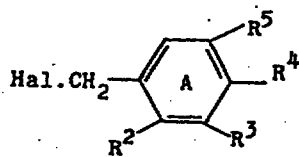
8. Procédé de préparation d'un composé de formule I ou d'un de ses sels pharmaceutiquement acceptable suivant l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, caractérisé en ce que:

(a) pour un composé de formule I dans laquelle X est un atome d'oxygène, on fait réagir un composé de formule:



III

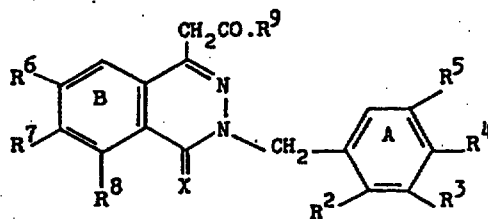
avec un halogénure de formule:



IV

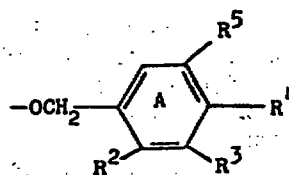
dans laquelle Hal est un radical chloro, bromo ou iodo, en présence d'une base appropriée;

(b) pour un composé de formule I dans laquelle R^1 est un radical hydroxyle, on hydrolyse un ester de formule:



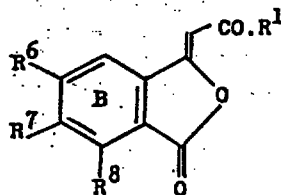
V

dans laquelle R^9 est un radical alcoxy en C_{1-4} ou un radical de formule:



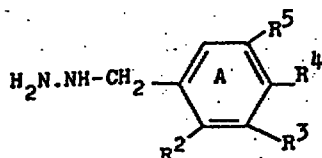
VI

(c) pour un composé de formule I dans laquelle X est un atome d'oxygène, on fait réagir un composé de formule:



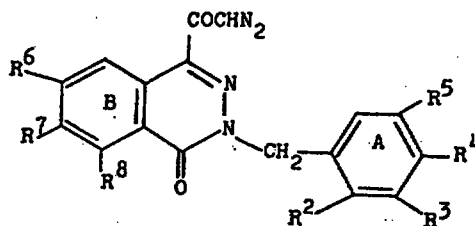
VII

ou un de ses isomères géométriques, avec une hydrazine de formule:



VIII

(d) pour un composé de formule I dans laquelle X est un atome d'oxygène et R¹ est un radical hydroxyle ou alcoxy en C₁₋₄, on décompose catalytiquement une diazocétone de formule:



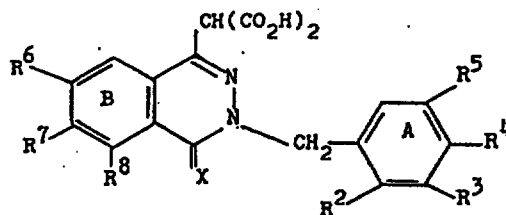
IX

en présence d'un composé de formule:

Q.H

dans laquelle Q est un radical hydroxyle ou alcoxy en C₁₋₄; ou

(e) pour un composé de formule I dans laquelle R¹ est un radical hydroxyle, on décarboxyle un acide malonique de formule:



et ensuite, lorsqu'un composé de formule I, dans laquelle R¹ est autre qu'un radical hydroxyle, est recherché, on fait réagir un composé de formule I dans laquelle R¹ est un radical hydroxyle, ou un de ses dérivés réactifs, avec un composé de formule R¹⁰.H, dans laquelle R¹⁰ a la même signification que R¹ autre qu'un radical hydroxyle, suivant des techniques connues d'estérification; et ensuite lorsqu'un composé de formule I, dans laquelle X est un atome de soufre, est recherché, on exécute la thiation d'un composé de formule I, dans laquelle X est un atome d'oxygène, suivant des techniques connues; et ensuite lorsqu'un sel pharmaceutiquement acceptable est recherché, on fait réagir un composé de formule I, dans laquelle R¹ est un radical hydroxyle, avec une base apportant un cation pharmaceutiquement acceptable ou on fait réagir un composé de formule I, dans laquelle R¹ est un radical alcoxy en C₁₋₄ portant un radical morpholino ou di-(N,N-C₁₋₄-alkyl)amino, avec un acide apportant un

anion pharmaceutiquement acceptable, et dans laquelle R^1 , X, les cycles benzéniques A et B et leurs substituants ont les significations qui leur ont été données dans les revendications précédentes.

9. Procédé de préparation d'un composé de formule I ou d'un de ses sels pharmaceutiquement acceptables suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5, dans laquelle le cycle benzénique B porte un radical alcoxy en C_{1-4} , caractérisé en ce qu'on fait réagir un composé de formule I, dans laquelle le cycle benzénique B porte un radical halogéno, avec un alcoolate en C_{1-4} de métal alcalin, les autres substituants du cycle benzénique B, R^1 , X, le cycle benzénique A et les substituants qu'il porte ayant les significations qui leur ont été données dans l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5; et ensuite, lorsqu'un composé de formule I, dans laquelle R^1 est autre qu'un radical hydroxyle, est recherché, on fait réagir un composé de formule I, dans laquelle R^1 est un radical hydroxyle, ou un de ses dérivés réactifs avec un composé de formule $R^{10}.H$, dans laquelle R^{10} a la même signification que R^1 autre qu'un radical hydroxyle, suivant des techniques d'estérification connues; et ensuite lorsqu'un composé de formule I, dans laquelle X est un atome de soufre, est recherché, on soumet à la thiation un composé de formule I, dans laquelle X est un atome d'oxygène, suivant des techniques de thiation connues; et ensuite lorsqu'un sel pharmaceutiquement acceptable est recherché, on fait réagir un composé de formule I, dans laquelle R^1 est un radical hydroxyle, avec une base apportant un cation pharmaceutiquement acceptable ou on fait réagir un composé de formule I, dans laquelle R^1 est un radical alcoxy en C_{1-4} portant un radical N-morpholino ou di-(N,N- C_{1-4} -alkyl)amino, avec un acide apportant un anion pharmaceutiquement acceptable.

10. Composition pharmaceutique, qui comprend un composé de formule I ou un de ses sels pharmaceutiquement acceptables comme défini dans l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 7, outre un diluant ou excipient pharmaceutiquement acceptable.

11. Composition suivant la revendication 10, qui est présentée sous une forme se prêtant à l'administration par voie orale, comme un comprimé, une capsule, une suspension ou une solution.