

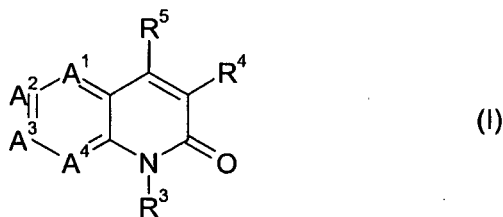
HERBICIDAL COMPOUNDS

The present invention relates to novel herbicidal pyridopyridines, pyridodiazines and pyridotriazines, to processes for their preparation, to compositions comprising these compounds, and to their use in controlling plants or in inhibiting plant growth.

Certain pyridopyridines were disclosed as intermediates in the synthesis of fungicidal compounds, for example, in WO 04/056824. Certain pyridopyrimidines were disclosed as intermediates in the synthesis of fungicidal compounds, for example, in WO 04/056825 and WO 04/056826. Certain pyridotriazines were disclosed as intermediates in the synthesis of fungicidal compounds, for example, in WO 04/056829. Certain pyridopyridines and pyridopyrimidines were disclosed as fungicidal compounds, for example, in WO 05/010000. Certain pyridopyridines were disclosed as pharmaceutical compounds, for example, in WO 95/30676, JP 07053546 and WO 01/62252. Certain pyridodiazines and pyridotriazines were disclosed as pharmaceutical compounds, for example, in WO 02/076396. Certain pyridopyrimidines were disclosed as pharmaceutical compounds, for example, in WO 02/076946, WO 06/124490 and WO 07/044813. Certain pyridopyridines and pyridopyrimidines were disclosed as pharmaceutical compounds, for example, in WO 96/22990, WO 02/018383, WO 03/066630 and WO 07/136465. Certain pyridopyridines were disclosed in *Journal of Heterocyclic Chemistry* (1993), 30(4), 909-12 and *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry* (2001), 9(8), 2061-2071.

It has now surprisingly been found that certain pyridopyridines, pyridodiazines and pyridotriazines display excellent herbicidal and growth-inhibiting properties.

The present invention therefore provides a method of controlling plants which comprises applying to the plants or to the locus thereof a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula (I)



wherein

A^1 , A^2 , A^3 and A^4 are independently C- R^1 or N, provided at least one of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 and A^4 is N, and provided that if A^1 and A^4 are both N, A^2 and A^3 are not both C- R^1 ;

each R^1 is independently hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl, halo, cyano, hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 alkylthio, aryl or aryl substituted by one to five R^6 , which may be the same or different, or heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by one to five R^6 , which may be the same or different;

- 5 R^3 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_4 haloalkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_2 - C_4 haloalkynyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxy- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} cyanoalkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxycarbonyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, N - C_1 - C_3 alkyl-aminocarbonyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, N,N -di- $(C_1$ - C_3 alkyl)-aminocarbonyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, aryl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- or aryl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to
10 three R^7 , which may be the same or different, or heterocyclyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- or heterocyclyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- wherein the heterocyclyl moiety is substituted by one to three R^7 , which may be the same or different;

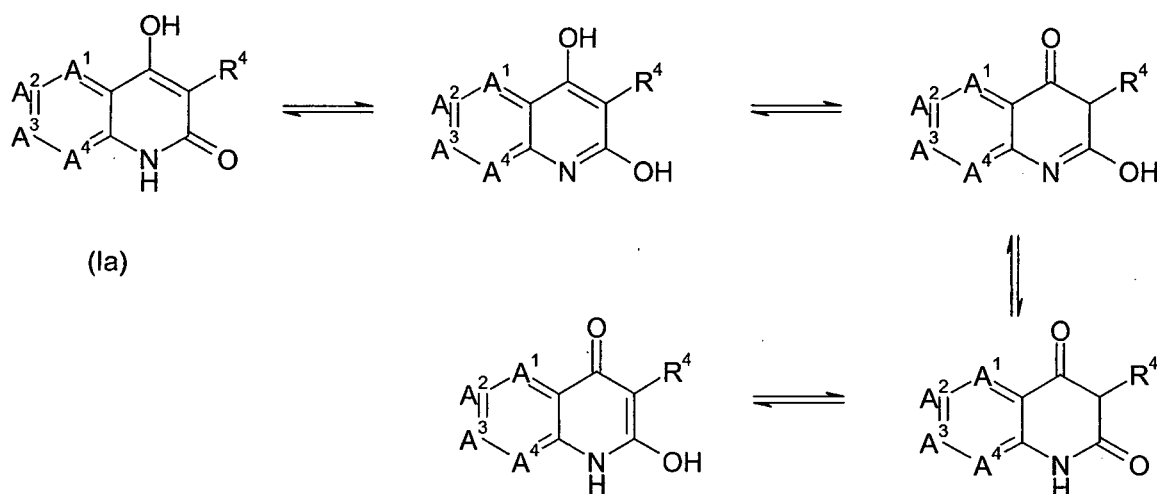
- R^4 is aryl or aryl substituted by one to five R^8 , which may be the same or different, or heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by one to four R^8 , which may be the same or
15 different;

- R^5 is hydroxy or a group which can be metabolised to a hydroxy group;
each R^6 , R^7 and R^8 is independently halo, cyano, nitro, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, hydroxy, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 haloalkoxy, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxy- C_1 - C_4 alkyl-, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkoxy, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl-, C_3 -
20 C_7 cycloalkyl- C_1 - C_4 alkoxy-, C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl-, formyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxycarbonyl-, C_1 - C_4 alkylcarbonyloxy-, C_1 - C_{10} alkylthio-, C_1 - C_4 haloalkylthio-, C_1 - C_{10} alkylsulfinyl-, C_1 - C_4 haloalkylsulfinyl-, C_1 - C_{10} alkylsulfonyl-, C_1 - C_4 haloalkylsulfonyl-, amino, C_1 - C_{10} alkylamino-, di- C_1 - C_{10} alkylamino-, C_1 - C_{10} alkylcarbonylamino-, aryl or aryl substituted by one to three R^{13} , which may be the same or different, heteroaryl or
25 heteroaryl substituted by one to three R^{13} , which may be the same or different, aryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl- or aryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R^{13} , which may be the same or different, heteroaryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl- or heteroaryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl- wherein the heteroaryl moiety is substituted by one to three R^{13} , which may be the same or different, aryloxy- or aryloxy- substituted by one to three R^{13} , which may be the same or different, heteroaryloxy- or heteroaryloxy- substituted by one to three R^{13} , which may
30 be the same or different, arylthio- or arylthio- substituted by one to three R^{13} , which may be the same or different, or heteroarylthio- or heteroarylthio- substituted by one to three R^{13} , which may be the same or different; and

each R^{13} is independently halo, cyano, nitro, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 haloalkyl or C_1 - C_6 alkoxy; or a salt or *N*-oxide thereof.

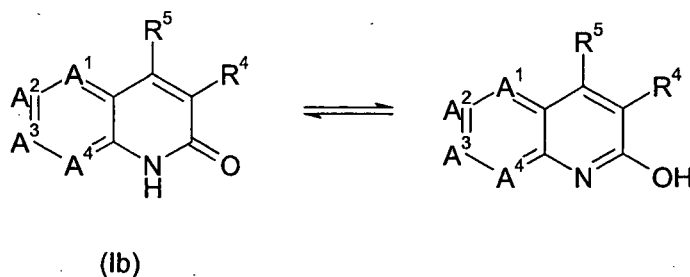
The compounds of formula (I) may exist in different geometric or optical isomers or tautomeric forms. This invention covers all such isomers and tautomers and mixtures thereof in all proportions as well as isotopic forms such as deuterated compounds.

For example, a compound of formula (Ia), i.e. a compound of formula (I) wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^5 is hydroxy, can be drawn in at least five tautomeric forms.



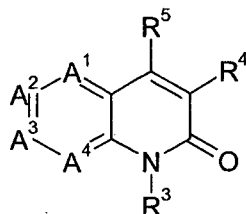
Some of these compounds exhibit good herbicidal activity. Additionally, these compounds can be used as intermediates for the synthesis of compounds of the formula (Ib), (Ic) and (Id).

For example, a compound of formula (Ib), i.e. a compound of formula (I) wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^5 is as defined for compounds of formula (I) other than hydroxy, can be drawn in at least two tautomeric forms.



Some of these compounds exhibit good herbicidal activity. Additionally, these compounds can be used as intermediates for the synthesis of compounds of the formula (Ia), (Ic) and (Id).

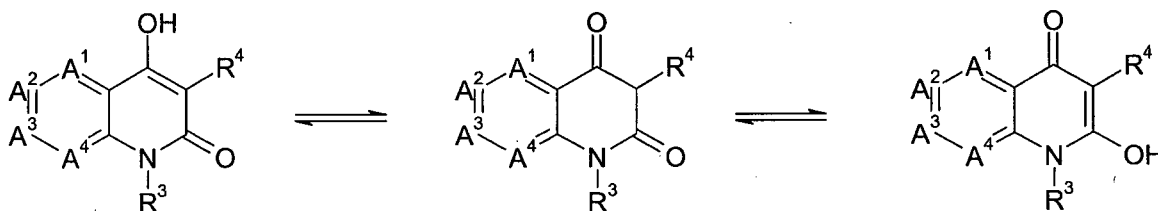
A compound of formula (Ic), i.e. a compound of formula (I) wherein R^3 is as defined for compounds of formula (I) other than hydrogen and R^5 is as defined for compounds of formula (I) other than hydroxy, can be drawn in only one tautomeric form.



(Ic)

- 5 Most of these compounds exhibit excellent herbicidal activity. Additionally, these compounds can be used as intermediates for the synthesis of compounds of the formula (Ia), (Ib) and (Id).

A compound of formula (Id), i.e. a compound of formula (I) wherein R^3 is as defined for compounds of formula (I) other than hydrogen and R^5 is hydroxy, can be
 10 drawn in three tautomeric forms.



(Id)

- Most of these compounds exhibit good herbicidal activity. Additionally, these compounds can be used as intermediates for the synthesis of compounds of the formula
 15 (Ia), (Ib) and (Ic).

Each alkyl moiety (either alone or as part of a larger group, such as alkoxy, alkoxy carbonyl, alkyl carbonyl, alkyl aminocarbonyl, dialkyl aminocarbonyl) is a straight or branched chain and is, for example, methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *n*-butyl, *n*-pentyl, *n*-hexyl, *iso*-propyl, *n*-butyl, *sec*-butyl, *iso*-butyl, *tert*-butyl or *neo*-pentyl. The alkyl groups are
 20 preferably C_1 to C_6 alkyl groups, more preferably C_1 - C_4 and most preferably C_1 - C_3 alkyl groups.

Alkenyl and alkynyl moieties (either alone or as part of a larger group, such as alkenyloxy or alkynyloxy) can be in the form of straight or branched chains, and the alkenyl moieties, where appropriate, can be of either the (*E*)- or (*Z*)-configuration.

Examples are vinyl, allyl, prop-2-enyl and propargyl. The alkenyl and alkynyl groups are preferably C₂ to C₆ alkenyl or alkynyl groups, more preferably C₂-C₄ and most preferably C₂-C₃ alkenyl or alkynyl groups.

Halogen is fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine.

5 Haloalkyl groups (either alone or as part of a larger group, such as haloalkoxy or haloalkylthio) are alkyl groups which are substituted with one or more of the same or different halogen atoms and are, for example, -CF₃, -CF₂Cl, -CHF₂, -CH₂CF₃ or -CH₂CHF₂. Haloalkenyl and haloalkynyl groups (either alone or as part of a larger group, such as haloalkenyloxy or haloalkynyloxy) are alkenyl and alkynyl groups, respectively,
10 which are substituted with one or more of the same or different halogen atoms and are, for example, -CH=CF₂, -CF=CH₂ or -C≡CCl.

Cyanoalkyl groups are alkyl groups which are substituted with one or more cyano groups, for example, cyanomethyl or 1,3-dicyanopropyl.

Cycloalkyl groups can be in mono- or bi-cyclic form and may optionally be
15 substituted by one or more methyl groups. The cycloalkyl groups preferably contain 3 to 8 carbon atoms, more preferably 3 to 6 carbon atoms. Examples of monocyclic cycloalkyl groups are cyclopropyl, 1-methylcyclopropyl, 2-methylcyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl.

In the context of the present specification the term "aryl" refers to a ring system
20 which may be mono-, bi- or tricyclic. Examples of such rings include phenyl, naphthalenyl, anthracenyl, indenyl or phenanthrenyl. A preferred aryl group is phenyl.

The term "heteroaryl" refers to an aromatic ring system containing at least one heteroatom and consisting either of a single ring or of two or more fused rings. Preferably, single rings contain up to three and bicyclic systems up to four heteroatoms
25 which are preferably chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur. Examples of monocyclic groups include pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, furanyl, thiophenyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl and tetrazolyl. More preferred monocyclic groups are pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, thiophenyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, and thiazolyl. Examples of bicyclic
30 groups are benzothiophenyl, benzimidazolyl, benzothiadiazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, cinnolinyl, quinoxalinyl and pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidinyl. More preferred bicyclic groups are quinolinyl and isoquinolinyl.

The term "heterocyclyl" is defined to include heteroaryl and in addition their unsaturated or partially unsaturated analogues such as 4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-benzothiophenyl, chromen-4-onyl, 9H-fluorenyl, 3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo-1,4-dioxepinyl, 2,3-dihydro-benzofuranyl, piperidinyl, 1,3-dioxolanyl, 1,3-dioxanyl, 4,5-dihydro-
5 isoxazolyl, tetrahydrofuranyl and morpholinyl.

The term "herbicide" as used herein means a compound that controls or modifies the growth of plants. The term "herbicidally effective amount" means the quantity of such a compound or combination of such compounds that is capable of producing a controlling or modifying effect on the growth of plants. Controlling or modifying effects
10 include all deviation from natural development, for example: killing, retardation, leaf burn, albinism, dwarfing and the like. The term "plants" refers to all physical parts of a plant, including seeds, seedlings, saplings, roots, tubers, stems, stalks, foliage, and fruits. The term "locus" is intended to include soil, seeds, and seedlings, as well as established vegetation. The term "metabolism" as used herein means the conversion or breakdown of
15 a substance from one form to another by a living organism, in particular in a plant (*in planta*).

The term "salt" as used herein means a compound of formula (I) which has a negative charge, for example, on an oxygen atom of a hydroxyl or of a carboxyl group, or a compound of formula (I) which has a positive charge, for example, on a nitrogen atom
20 in a nitrogen-containing heteroaryl group, for example if a such a nitrogen is quarternised by alkylation. The counter ion is necessarily of the opposite charge. Where the counter ion needs to be a cation the counter ion could be, for example, an alkali metal such as sodium or potassium, or an alkaline earth metal such as magnesium and calcium, or a quaternary ammonium base such as ammonium and tetramethylammonium. Where the
25 counter ion needs to be a cation the counter ion could be, for example, hydroxide, or a halide such as chloride or bromide.

The compounds of formula (I) according to the invention also include hydrates which may be formed, for example, during salt formation.

Preferred values of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , R^1 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13}
30 and R^{14} are, in any combination, as set out below.

Preferably up to three of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 and A^4 are N.

More preferably up to two of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 and A^4 are N.

Most preferably one of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 and A^4 is N.

Preferably each R^1 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl, halo, cyano, hydroxy or C_1 - C_4 alkoxy.

More preferably each R^1 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, halo, cyano or hydroxy.

Even more preferably each R^1 is hydrogen, methyl, chloro or bromo.

5 Yet even more preferably each R^1 is hydrogen or chloro.

Most preferably each R^1 is hydrogen.

Preferably R^3 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl, C_2 - C_4 alkenyl, C_2 - C_4 haloalkenyl, C_2 - C_4 alkynyl or C_2 - C_4 haloalkynyl. Examples of such preferred groups for R^3 are hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *iso*-propyl, *n*-butyl, 2-methyl-propyl, 2-fluoro-ethyl, 2,2-difluoro-ethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoro-ethyl, allyl, but-3-en-1-yl or propargyl.

More preferably R^3 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_2 alkyl, C_1 - C_2 haloalkyl, C_2 - C_3 alkenyl or C_2 - C_3 alkynyl. Examples of such more preferred groups for R^3 are hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, 2,2-difluoro-ethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoro-ethyl, allyl or propargyl.

Most preferably R^3 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_2 alkyl, C_1 - C_2 haloalkyl or C_2 - C_3 alkynyl.

15 Examples of such most preferred groups for R^3 are hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, 2,2-difluoro-ethyl or propargyl.

In one preferred embodiment R^3 is 2,2-difluoro-ethyl.

Preferably R^4 is aryl or aryl substituted by one to four R^8 , which may be the same or different, or heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by one to three R^8 , which may be the same or different.

20 More preferably R^4 is aryl substituted by two to three R^8 , which may be the same or different, or R^4 is a monocyclic heteroaryl, containing up to two heteroatoms, substituted by one to three R^8 , which may be the same or different, or R^4 is a bicyclic heteroaryl, containing up to three heteroatoms, substituted by one to three R^8 , which may be the same or different.

25 Most preferably R^4 is phenyl substituted by two to three R^8 , or R^4 is pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, thiophenyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, or thiazolyl, substituted by one to three R^8 , which may be the same or different, or R^4 is quinolinyl or isoquinolinyl, substituted by one to three R^8 , which may be the same or different.

30 In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 2,5-bis-(trifluoromethyl)-phenyl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 3-bromo-2-chloro-6-fluoro-phenyl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 2-chloro-5-fluoro-phenyl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 2-chloro-5-trifluoromethyl-phenyl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 2-chloro-6-trifluoromethyl-phenyl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 2,3-dichloro-6-fluoro-phenyl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 2,6-dichloro-phenyl.

5 In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 2,6-dichloro-4-trifluoromethoxy-phenyl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 2,3,6-trichloro-phenyl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 3,5-dichloro-pyrid-2-yl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 3,5-dichloro-pyrid-4-yl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 2,6-dichloro-pyrid-3-yl.

10 In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 2,4-dichloro-pyrid-3-yl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 4,6-dichloro-pyrid-3-yl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 2,5-dichloro-pyrid-4-yl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 3-trifluoromethyl-isoxazol-5-yl.

In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl.

15 In one preferred embodiment R^4 is 2-chloro-4-methyl-thiazol-5-yl.

Preferably R^5 is hydroxy, R^9 -oxy-, R^{10} -carbonyloxy-, tri- R^{11} -silyloxy- or R^{12} -sulfonyloxy-, wherein

R^9 is C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl or aryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl- or aryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to five substituents independently selected

20 from halo, cyano, nitro, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 haloalkyl or C_1 - C_6 alkoxy;

R^{10} is C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl- C_1 - C_{10} alkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} haloalkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy- C_1 - C_{10} alkyl-, C_1 - C_4 alkylthio- C_1 - C_4 alkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxy, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyloxy, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyloxy, C_1 - C_{10} alkylthio-, *N*- C_1 - C_4 alkyl-amino-, *N,N*-di- $(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl)-amino-, aryl or aryl substituted by one to three R^{14} , which may be

25 the same or different, heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by one to three R^{14} , which may be the same or different, aryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl- or aryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R^{14} , which may be the same or different, heteroaryl- C_1 -

C_4 alkyl- or heteroaryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl- wherein the heteroaryl moiety is substituted by one to three R^{14} , which may be the same or different, aryloxy- or aryloxy- substituted by one to

30 three R^{14} , which may be the same or different, heteroaryloxy- or heteroaryloxy-

substituted by one to three R^{14} , which may be the same or different, arylthio- or arylthio-substituted by one to three R^{14} , which may be the same or different, or heteroarylthio- or heteroarylthio- substituted by one to three R^{14} , which may be the same or different;

each R¹¹ is independently C₁-C₁₀alkyl or phenyl or phenyl substituted by one to five substituents independently selected from halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆haloalkyl or C₁-C₆alkoxy;

R¹² is C₁-C₁₀alkyl, C₁-C₁₀haloalkyl, or phenyl or phenyl substituted by one to five substituents independently selected from halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆haloalkyl or C₁-C₆alkoxy; and

each R¹⁴ is independently halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₁₀alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₁₀alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkoxycarbonyl-, C₁-C₄haloalkoxy, C₁-C₁₀alkylthio-, C₁-C₄haloalkylthio-, C₁-C₁₀alkylsulfinyl-, C₁-C₄haloalkylsulfinyl-, C₁-C₁₀alkylsulfonyl-, C₁-C₄haloalkylsulfonyl-, aryl or aryl substituted by one to five substituents independently selected from halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆haloalkyl or C₁-C₆alkoxy, or heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆haloalkyl or C₁-C₆alkoxy.

More preferably R⁵ is hydroxy, R⁹-oxy- or R¹⁰-carbonyloxy-.

Even more preferably R⁵ is hydroxy, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkenyloxy, C₁-C₄alkynyloxy, aryl-C₁-C₄alkoxy or aryl-C₁-C₄alkoxy wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, heteroaryl-C₁-C₄alkoxy or heteroaryl-C₁-C₄alkoxy wherein the heteroaryl moiety is substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, C₁-C₄alkylcarbonyloxy-, C₃-C₆cycloalkylcarbonyloxy-, C₃-C₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁-C₁₀alkylcarbonyloxy-, C₁-C₄haloalkylcarbonyloxy-, C₂-C₄alkenylcarbonyloxy-, C₂-C₄alkynylcarbonyloxy-, C₁-C₄alkoxy-C₁-C₄alkylcarbonyloxy-, C₁-C₄alkylthio-C₁-C₄alkylcarbonyloxy-, C₁-C₄alkoxycarbonyloxy-, C₂-C₄alkenyloxycarbonyloxy-, C₂-C₄alkynyloxycarbonyloxy-, C₁-C₄alkylthiocarbonyloxy-, *N*-C₁-C₄alkyl-aminocarbonyloxy-, *N,N*-di-(C₁-C₄alkyl)-aminocarbonyloxy-, arylcarbonyloxy- or arylcarbonyloxy- substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, heteroarylcarbonyloxy- or heteroarylcarbonyloxy- substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, aryl-C₁-C₄alkylcarbonyloxy- or aryl-C₁-C₄alkylcarbonyloxy- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, heteroaryl-C₁-C₄alkylcarbonyloxy- or heteroaryl-C₁-C₄alkylcarbonyloxy- wherein the heteroaryl moiety is substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, aryloxycarbonyloxy- or aryloxycarbonyloxy- substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, heteroaryloxy-carbonyloxy- or heteroaryloxycarbonyloxy- substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may

be the same or different, arylthiocarbonyloxy- or arylthiocarbonyloxy- substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, or heteroarylthiocarbonyloxy- or heteroarylthiocarbonyloxy- substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different. Examples of preferred groups for R⁵ are hydroxy, methoxy, ethoxy, allyloxy, propargyloxy, benzyloxy, methylcarbonyloxy-, ethylcarbonyloxy-, *iso*-propylcarbonyloxy-, *n*-propylcarbonyloxy-, but-2-ylcarbonyloxy-, 2-methyl-propylcarbonyloxy-, *tert*-butylcarbonyloxy-, cyclopropylcarbonyloxy-, cyclopentyl-methylcarbonyloxy-, chloromethylcarbonyloxy-, trifluoromethylcarbonyloxy-, allylcarbonyloxy-, (E)-prop-1-en-1-ylcarbonyloxy-, 2-methyl-prop-1-en-1-ylcarbonyloxy-, methoxymethylcarbonyloxy-, ethoxycarbonyloxy-, *tert*-butoxycarbonyloxy-, but-2-yn-1-yloxy carbonyloxy-, ethylthiocarbonyloxy-, *N,N*-diethylaminocarbonyloxy-, phenylcarbonyloxy-, 3-methoxy-phenylcarbonyloxy-, 4-nitro-phenylcarbonyloxy-, benzylcarbonyloxy-, furan-2-ylcarbonyloxy-, 2,5-dimethyl-furan-3-ylcarbonyloxy-, thiophen-2-ylcarbonyloxy-, 3,5-dimethyl-isoxazol-4-ylcarbonyloxy-, and 1-phenyl-prop-1-ylcarbonyloxy-.

Yet even more preferably R⁵ is hydroxy, C₁-C₄alkylcarbonyloxy-, C₃-C₆cycloalkylcarbonyloxy-, C₂-C₄alkenylcarbonyloxy-, C₂-C₄alkynylcarbonyloxy-, C₁-C₄alkoxycarbonyloxy-, C₂-C₄alkenyloxy carbonyloxy-, C₂-C₄alkynyloxy carbonyloxy- or C₁-C₄alkylthiocarbonyloxy-. Examples of more preferred groups for R⁵ are hydroxy, methylcarbonyloxy-, ethylcarbonyloxy-, *iso*-propylcarbonyloxy-, *n*-propylcarbonyloxy-, but-2-ylcarbonyloxy-, 2-methyl-propylcarbonyloxy-, *tert*-butylcarbonyloxy-, cyclopropylcarbonyloxy-, allylcarbonyloxy-, (E)-prop-1-en-1-ylcarbonyloxy-, 2-methyl-prop-1-en-1-ylcarbonyloxy-, ethoxycarbonyloxy-, *tert*-butoxycarbonyloxy-, but-2-yn-1-yloxy carbonyloxy-, and ethylthiocarbonyloxy-.

Most preferably R⁵ is hydroxy, C₁-C₄alkylcarbonyloxy-, C₁-C₄alkoxycarbonyloxy- or C₁-C₄alkylthiocarbonyloxy-. Examples of most preferred groups for R⁵ are hydroxy, methylcarbonyloxy-, ethylcarbonyloxy-, *iso*-propylcarbonyloxy-, *n*-propylcarbonyloxy-, but-2-ylcarbonyloxy-, 2-methyl-propylcarbonyloxy-, *tert*-butylcarbonyloxy-, ethoxycarbonyloxy-, and ethylthiocarbonyloxy-.

In one preferred embodiment R⁵ is hydroxy.

In one preferred embodiment R⁵ is R⁹-oxy-, wherein R⁹ is C₁-C₁₀alkyl, C₂-C₁₀alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀alkynyl or aryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- or aryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to five substituents independently selected from halo, cyano,

nitro, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆haloalkyl or C₁-C₆alkoxy. Such R⁵ groups may be metabolised, preferably *in planta*, to give the corresponding compound wherein R⁵ is hydroxy.

In one preferred embodiment R⁵ is R¹⁰-carbonyloxy-, wherein R¹⁰ is C₁-C₁₀alkyl, C₃-C₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃-C₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁-C₁₀alkyl-, C₁-C₁₀haloalkyl, C₂-C₁₀alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀alkynyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy-C₁-C₁₀alkyl-, C₁-C₄alkylthio-C₁-C₄alkyl-, C₁-C₁₀alkoxy, C₂-C₁₀alkenyloxy, C₂-C₁₀alkynyloxy, C₁-C₁₀alkylthio-, *N*-C₁-C₄alkyl-amino-, *N,N*-di-(C₁-C₄alkyl)-amino-, aryl or aryl substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, aryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- or aryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, heteroaryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- or heteroaryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- wherein the heteroaryl moiety is substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, aryloxy- or aryloxy- substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, heteroaryloxy- or heteroaryloxy- substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, arylthio- or arylthio- substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, or heteroarylthio- or heteroarylthio- substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different; and each R¹⁴ is independently halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₁₀alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₁₀alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkoxycarbonyl-, C₁-C₄haloalkoxy, C₁-C₁₀alkylthio-, C₁-C₄haloalkylthio-, C₁-C₁₀alkylsulfinyl-, C₁-C₄haloalkylsulfinyl-, C₁-C₁₀alkylsulfonyl-, C₁-C₄haloalkylsulfonyl-, aryl or aryl substituted by one to five substituents independently selected from halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆haloalkyl or C₁-C₆alkoxy, or heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆haloalkyl or C₁-C₆alkoxy. Such R⁵ groups may be metabolised, preferably *in planta*, to give the corresponding compound wherein R⁵ is hydroxy.

In one preferred embodiment R⁵ is *iso*-propylcarbonyloxy- or *tert*-butylcarbonyloxy-.

Preferably each R⁶ is independently halo, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy or C₁-C₄haloalkoxy. Examples of such preferred groups for R⁶ are chloro, fluoro, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy or trifluoromethoxy.

Preferably each R⁷ is independently halo, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy or C₁-C₄haloalkoxy. Examples of such preferred groups for R⁷ are chloro, fluoro, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy and trifluoromethoxy.

Most preferably each R^7 is independently halo, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl or C_1 - C_4 alkoxy. Examples of such preferred groups for R^7 are chloro, fluoro, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl and methoxy.

Preferably each R^8 is independently halo, cyano, nitro, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 alkoxycarbonyl-, C_1 - C_4 haloalkoxy, C_1 - C_{10} alkylthio-, C_1 - C_4 haloalkylthio-, C_1 - C_{10} alkylsulfinyl-, C_1 - C_4 haloalkylsulfinyl-, C_1 - C_{10} alkylsulfonyl- or C_1 - C_4 haloalkylsulfonyl-.

More preferably each R^8 is independently halo, cyano, nitro, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 haloalkoxy, C_1 - C_{10} alkylthio or C_1 - C_4 haloalkylthio. Examples of such more preferred groups for R^8 are iodo, bromo, chloro, fluoro, cyano, nitro, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy, trifluoromethoxy or trifluoromethylthio.

Most preferably each R^8 is independently halo, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxy or C_1 - C_4 haloalkoxy. Examples of such most preferred groups for R^8 are bromo, chloro, fluoro, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy or trifluoromethoxy.

Preferably R^9 is C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, aryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl- or aryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R^{13} , which may be the same or different.

More preferably R^9 is C_3 - C_4 alkenyl, or C_3 - C_4 alkynyl, benzyl or benzyl wherein the phenyl moiety is substituted by one to three R^{13} , which may be the same or different.

Even more preferably R^9 is allyl, propargyl or benzyl.

Most preferably R^9 is allyl.

Preferably R^{10} is C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl- C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl, C_2 - C_4 alkenyl, C_2 - C_4 alkynyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy- C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkylthio- C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_2 - C_4 alkenyloxy, C_2 - C_4 alkynyloxy, C_1 - C_4 alkylthio, *N*- C_1 - C_4 alkyl-amino, *N,N*-di- $(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl)-amino, aryl or aryl substituted by one to three R^{14} , which may be the same or different, heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by one to three R^{14} , which may be the same or different, aryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl or aryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R^{14} , which may be the same or different, heteroaryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl or heteroaryl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl wherein the heteroaryl moiety is substituted by one to three R^{14} , which may be the same or different, aryloxy or aryloxy substituted by one to three R^{14} , which may be the same or different, heteroaryloxy or heteroaryloxy substituted by one to three R^{14} , which may be the same or different, arylthio or arylthio substituted

by one to three R^{14} , which may be the same or different, or heteroarylthio or heteroarylthio substituted by one to three R^{14} , which may be the same or different.

Most preferably R^{10} is *iso*-propyl or *tert*-butyl.

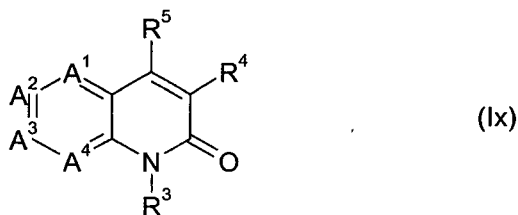
Preferably each R^{11} is independently C_1 - C_4 alkyl.

5 Preferably R^{12} is C_1 - C_4 alkyl or C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl.

Preferably each R^{13} is independently halo, nitro, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl or C_1 - C_4 alkoxy. Examples of such preferred groups are chloro, fluoro, nitro, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl and methoxy.

10 Preferably each R^{14} is independently halo, nitro, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy or C_1 - C_4 haloalkoxy. Examples of such preferred groups are chloro, fluoro, nitro, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy and trifluoromethoxy.

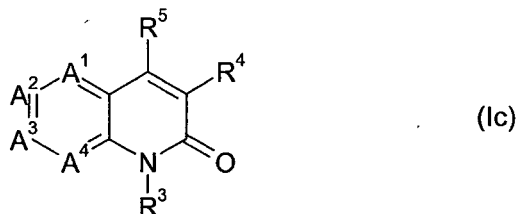
In one embodiment the invention provides a method of controlling plants which comprises applying to the plants or to the locus thereof a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula (Ix)



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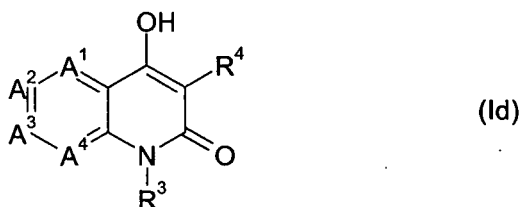
wherein A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , R^4 and R^5 are as defined for a compound of formula (I) and R^3 is C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxy- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} cyanoalkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxycarbonyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, *N*- C_1 - C_3 alkyl-aminocarbonyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, *N,N*-di- $(C_1$ - C_3 alkyl)-aminocarbonyl-
 20 C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, aryl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- or aryl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R^7 , which may be the same or different, or heterocyclyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- or heterocyclyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- wherein the heterocyclyl moiety is substituted by one to three R^7 , which may be the same or different; or a salt or *N*-oxide thereof. The preferences for A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} and R^{14} are the same as the
 25 preferences set out for the corresponding substituents of a compound of formula (I). The preferences for R^3 are the same as the preferences set out for the corresponding substituents of a compound of formula (I) except that R^3 cannot be hydrogen.

In another embodiment the invention provides a method of controlling plants which comprises applying to the plants or to the locus thereof a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula (Ic)



- 5 wherein A¹, A², A³, A⁴ and R⁴ are as defined for a compound of formula (I) and R³ is C₁-C₁₀alkyl, C₂-C₁₀alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀alkynyl, C₃-C₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃-C₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-, C₁-C₁₀alkoxy-C₁-C₆alkyl-, C₁-C₁₀cyanoalkyl-, C₁-C₁₀alkoxycarbonyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-, *N*-C₁-C₃alkyl-aminocarbonyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-, *N,N*-di-(C₁-C₃alkyl)-aminocarbonyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-, aryl-C₁-C₆alkyl- or aryl-C₁-C₆alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted
 10 by one to three R⁷, which may be the same or different, or heterocyclyl-C₁-C₆alkyl- or heterocyclyl-C₁-C₆alkyl- wherein the heterocyclyl moiety is substituted by one to three R⁷, which may be the same or different; and R⁵ is a group which can be metabolised to a hydroxy group; or a salt or *N*-oxide thereof. The preferences for A¹, A², A³, A⁴, R⁴, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³ and R¹⁴ are the same as the preferences set out for the
 15 corresponding substituents of a compound of formula (I). The preferences for R³ are the same as the preferences set out for the corresponding substituents of a compound of formula (I) except that R³ cannot be hydrogen. The preferences for R⁵ are the same as the preferences set out for the corresponding substituents of a compound of formula (I) except that R⁵ cannot be hydroxy.

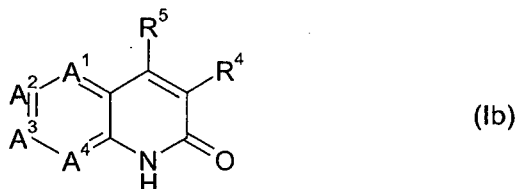
- 20 In another embodiment the invention provides a method of controlling plants which comprises applying to the plants or to the locus thereof a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula (Id)



- wherein A¹, A², A³, A⁴ and R⁴ are as defined for a compound of formula (I) and R³ is
 25 C₁-C₁₀alkyl, C₂-C₁₀alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀alkynyl, C₃-C₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃-C₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-, C₁-C₁₀alkoxy-C₁-C₆alkyl-, C₁-C₁₀cyanoalkyl-, C₁-C₁₀alkoxycarbonyl-C₁-

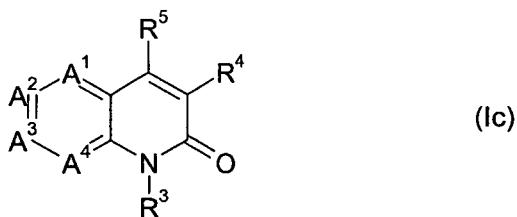
C₆alkyl-, *N*-C₁-C₃alkyl-aminocarbonyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-, *N,N*-di-(C₁-C₃alkyl)-aminocarbonyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-, aryl-C₁-C₆alkyl- or aryl-C₁-C₆alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R⁷, which may be the same or different, or heterocyclyl-C₁-C₆alkyl- or heterocyclyl-C₁-C₆alkyl- wherein the heterocyclyl moiety is substituted by one to three R⁷, which may be the same or different; or a salt or *N*-oxide thereof. The preferences for A¹, A², A³, A⁴, R⁴, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and R¹³ are the same as the preferences set out for the corresponding substituents of a compound of formula (I). The preferences for R³ are the same as the preferences set out for the corresponding substituents of a compound of formula (I) except that R³ cannot be hydrogen.

Certain compounds of formula (I) are novel and as such form a further aspect of the invention. One group of novel compounds are compounds of formula (Ib)



wherein A¹, A², A³, A⁴ and R⁴ are as defined for compounds of formula (I) and R⁵ is a group which can be metabolised to a hydroxy group; or a salt or *N*-oxide thereof. The preferences for A¹, A², A³, A⁴, R¹, R⁴, R⁶, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³ and R¹⁴ are the same as the preferences set out for the corresponding substituents of compounds of the formula (I). The preferences for R⁵ are the same as the preferences set out for the corresponding substituents of compounds of formula (I) except that R⁵ cannot be hydroxy.

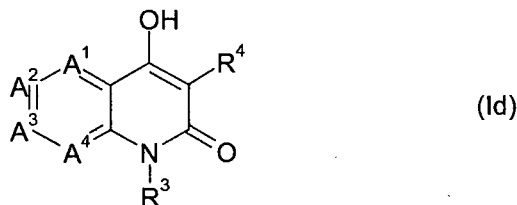
Another group of novel compounds are compounds of formula (Ic)



wherein A¹, A², A³, A⁴ and R⁴ are as defined for a compound of formula (I) and R³ is C₁-C₁₀alkyl, C₂-C₁₀alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀alkynyl, C₃-C₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃-C₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-, C₁-C₁₀alkoxy-C₁-C₆alkyl-, C₁-C₁₀cyanoalkyl-, C₁-C₁₀alkoxycarbonyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-, *N*-C₁-C₃alkyl-aminocarbonyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-, *N,N*-di-(C₁-C₃alkyl)-aminocarbonyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-, aryl-C₁-C₆alkyl- or aryl-C₁-C₆alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R⁷, which may be the same or different, or heterocyclyl-C₁-C₆alkyl- or heterocyclyl-C₁-C₆alkyl- wherein the heterocyclyl moiety is substituted by one to three

R^7 , which may be the same or different; and R^5 is a group which can be metabolised to a hydroxy group; or a salt or *N*-oxide thereof; provided that the compound is not 2-[4-(acetyloxy)-1,2-dihydro-2-oxo-1-phenyl-1,8-naphthyridin-3-yl]-1-methyl-pyridinium (CAS RN 115892-38-1). The preferences for A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , R^1 , R^4 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} and R^{14} are the same as the preferences set out for the corresponding substituents of a compound of formula (I). The preferences for R^3 are the same as the preferences set out for the corresponding substituents of a compound of formula (I) except that R^3 cannot be hydrogen. The preferences for R^5 are the same as the preferences set out for the corresponding substituents of a compound of formula (I) except that R^5 cannot be hydroxy.

A further group of novel compounds are compounds of formula (Id)

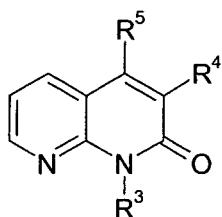


wherein A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 and R^4 are as defined for a compound of formula (I) and R^3 is C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxy- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} cyanoalkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxycarbonyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, *N*- C_1 - C_3 alkyl-aminocarbonyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, *N,N*-di- $(C_1$ - C_3 alkyl)-aminocarbonyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, aryl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- or aryl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R^7 , which may be the same or different, or heterocyclyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- or heterocyclyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- wherein the heterocyclyl moiety is substituted by one to three R^7 , which may be the same or different; or a salt or *N*-oxide thereof; provided that the compound is not 4-hydroxy-1-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)-1,8-naphthyridin-2(1*H*)-one (CAS RN 380634-13-9), 6-chloro-4-hydroxy-1-methyl-3-(thien-3-yl)-1,8-naphthyridin-2(1*H*)-one (CAS RN 174347-23-0), 6-chloro-4-hydroxy-1-methyl-3-(thien-3-yl)-1,8-naphthyridin-2(1*H*)-one sodium salt (CAS RN 174347-24-1), or 6-chloro-1-ethyl-4-hydroxy-3-(thien-3-yl)-1,8-naphthyridin-2(1*H*)-one. The preferences for A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , R^1 , R^4 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^{13} are the same as the preferences set out for the corresponding substituents of a compound of formula (I). The preferences for R^3 are the same as the preferences set out for the corresponding substituents of a compound of formula (I) except that R^3 cannot be hydrogen.

The compounds in Tables 1 to 41 below illustrate the compounds of the invention.

Table 1:

- 5 Table 1 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,5-bis-(trifluoromethyl)-phenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.



(I')

Compound number	R ³	R ⁵
1.001	H	-OH
1.002	H	-OCOCH ₃
1.003	H	-OCOCH ₂ CH ₃
1.004	H	-OCOCH(CH ₃) ₂
1.005	H	-OCO(CH ₂) ₂ CH ₃
1.006	H	-OCOCH(CH ₃)CH ₂ CH ₃
1.007	H	-OCOCH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂
1.008	H	-OCOC(CH ₃) ₃
1.009	H	-O(CO)OCH ₂ CH ₃
1.010	H	-O(CO)SCH ₂ CH ₃
1.011	-CH ₃	-OH
1.012	-CH ₃	-OCOCH ₃
1.013	-CH ₃	-OCOCH ₂ CH ₃
1.014	-CH ₃	-OCOCH(CH ₃) ₂
1.015	-CH ₃	-OCO(CH ₂) ₂ CH ₃

Compound number	R ³	R ⁵
1.016	-CH ₃	-OCOCH(CH ₃)CH ₂ CH ₃
1.017	-CH ₃	-OCOCH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂
1.018	-CH ₃	-OCOC(CH ₃) ₃
1.019	-CH ₃	-O(CO)OCH ₂ CH ₃
1.020	-CH ₃	-O(CO)SCH ₂ CH ₃
1.021	-CH ₂ CH ₃	-OH
1.022	-CH ₂ CH ₃	-OCOCH ₃
1.023	-CH ₂ CH ₃	-OCOCH ₂ CH ₃
1.024	-CH ₂ CH ₃	-OCOCH(CH ₃) ₂
1.025	-CH ₂ CH ₃	-OCO(CH ₂) ₂ CH ₃
1.026	-CH ₂ CH ₃	-OCOCH(CH ₃)CH ₂ CH ₃
1.027	-CH ₂ CH ₃	-OCOCH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂
1.028	-CH ₂ CH ₃	-OCOC(CH ₃) ₃
1.029	-CH ₂ CH ₃	-O(CO)OCH ₂ CH ₃

Compound number	R ³	R ⁵
1.030	-CH ₂ CH ₃	-O(CO)SC H ₂ CH ₃
1.031	-CH ₂ CHF ₂	-OH
1.032	-CH ₂ CHF ₂	-OCOCH ₃
1.033	-CH ₂ CHF ₂	-OCOCH ₂ CH ₃
1.034	-CH ₂ CHF ₂	-OCOCH(CH ₃) ₂
1.035	-CH ₂ CHF ₂	-OCO(CH 2) ₂ CH ₃
1.036	-CH ₂ CHF ₂	-OCOCH(CH ₃)CH ₂ CH ₃
1.037	-CH ₂ CHF ₂	-OCOCH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂
1.038	-CH ₂ CHF ₂	-OCOC(C H ₃) ₃
1.039	-CH ₂ CHF ₂	-O(CO)O CH ₂ CH ₃
1.040	-CH ₂ CHF ₂	-O(CO)SC H ₂ CH ₃
1.041	-CH ₂ CF ₃	-OH
1.042	-CH ₂ CF ₃	-OCOCH ₃
1.043	-CH ₂ CF ₃	-OCOCH ₂ CH ₃
1.044	-CH ₂ CF ₃	-OCOCH(CH ₃) ₂
1.045	-CH ₂ CF ₃	-OCO(CH 2) ₂ CH ₃
1.046	-CH ₂ CF ₃	-OCOCH(CH ₃)CH ₂ CH ₃
1.047	-CH ₂ CF ₃	-OCOCH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂
1.048	-CH ₂ CF ₃	-OCOC(C H ₃) ₃
1.049	-CH ₂ CF ₃	-O(CO)O CH ₂ CH ₃
1.050	-CH ₂ CF ₃	-O(CO)SC H ₂ CH ₃

Compound number	R ³	R ⁵
1.051	-CH ₂ CH=C H ₂	-OH
1.052	-CH ₂ CH=C H ₂	-OCOCH ₃
1.053	-CH ₂ CH=C H ₂	-OCOCH ₂ CH ₃
1.054	-CH ₂ CH=C H ₂	-OCOCH(CH ₃) ₂
1.055	-CH ₂ CH=C H ₂	-OCO(CH 2) ₂ CH ₃
1.056	-CH ₂ CH=C H ₂	-OCOCH(CH ₃)CH ₂ CH ₃
1.057	-CH ₂ CH=C H ₂	-OCOCH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂
1.058	-CH ₂ CH=C H ₂	-OCOC(C H ₃) ₃
1.059	-CH ₂ CH=C H ₂	-O(CO)O CH ₂ CH ₃
1.060	-CH ₂ CH=C H ₂	-O(CO)SC H ₂ CH ₃
1.061	-CH ₂ C≡CH	-OH
1.062	-CH ₂ C≡CH	-OCOCH ₃
1.063	-CH ₂ C≡CH	-OCOCH ₂ CH ₃
1.064	-CH ₂ C≡CH	-OCOCH(CH ₃) ₂
1.065	-CH ₂ C≡CH	-OCO(CH 2) ₂ CH ₃
1.066	-CH ₂ C≡CH	-OCOCH(CH ₃)CH ₂ CH ₃
1.067	-CH ₂ C≡CH	-OCOCH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂
1.068	-CH ₂ C≡CH	-OCOC(C H ₃) ₃
1.069	-CH ₂ C≡CH	-O(CO)O CH ₂ CH ₃
1.070	-CH ₂ C≡CH	-O(CO)SC H ₂ CH ₃

Table 2:

Table 2 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 3-bromo-2-chloro-6-fluoro-phenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 3:

Table 3 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 4:

- 5 Table 4 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 5:

Table 5 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2-chloro-5-fluorophenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

- 10 Table 6:

Table 6 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2-chlorophenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 7:

- 15 Table 7 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2-chloro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 8:

Table 8 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2-chloro-5-trifluoromethylphenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 9:

- 20 Table 9 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2-chloro-6-trifluoromethylphenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 10:

Table 10 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,3-dichloro-6-fluorophenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

- 25 Table 11:

Table 11 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,4-dichloro-5-fluorophenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 12:

- 30 Table 12 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 3,5-dichloro-2-methoxyphenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 13:

Table 13 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,3-dichlorophenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 14:

Table 14 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,4-dichloro-phenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 15:

- 5 Table 15 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,5-dichloro-phenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 16:

Table 16 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,6-dichloro-phenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

- 10 Table 17:

Table 17 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,6-dichloro-4-trifluoromethoxy-phenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 18:

- 15 Table 18 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,6-dichloro-4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 19:

Table 19 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,6-diethyl-4-methyl-phenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 20:

- 20 Table 20 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,3-dimethoxy-phenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 21:

Table 21 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2-methoxy-5-trifluoromethoxy-phenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

- 25 Table 22:

Table 22 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,3,6-trichloro-phenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 23:

- 30 Table 23 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2-trifluoromethoxy-phenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 24:

Table 24 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 25:

Table 25 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 26:

- 5 Table 26 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 3,5-dichloro-pyrid-2-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 27:

Table 27 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 3,5-dichloro-pyrid-4-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

- 10 Table 28:

Table 28 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,6-dichloro-pyrid-3-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 29:

- 15 Table 29 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,4-dichloro-pyrid-3-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 30:

Table 30 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 4,6-dichloro-pyrid-3-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 31:

- 20 Table 31 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,5-dichloro-pyrid-4-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 32:

Table 32 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 3,6-dichloro-pyrid-2-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

- 25 Table 33:

Table 33 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 3-chloro-5-fluoro-pyrid-2-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 34:

- 30 Table 34 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 3-chloro-5-trifluoromethyl-pyrid-2-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 35:

Table 35 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 3,5,6-trichloro-pyrid-2-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 36:

Table 36 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 3,5-dichloro-pyrid-3-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 37:

- 5 Table 37 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,3-dichloro-pyrid-4-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 38:

Table 38 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2-chloro-4-trifluoromethyl-pyrid-3-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

10 Table 39:

Table 39 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2-chloro-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrid-3-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 40:

- 15 Table 40 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 3-chloro-5-trifluoromethyl-pyrid-4-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

Table 41:

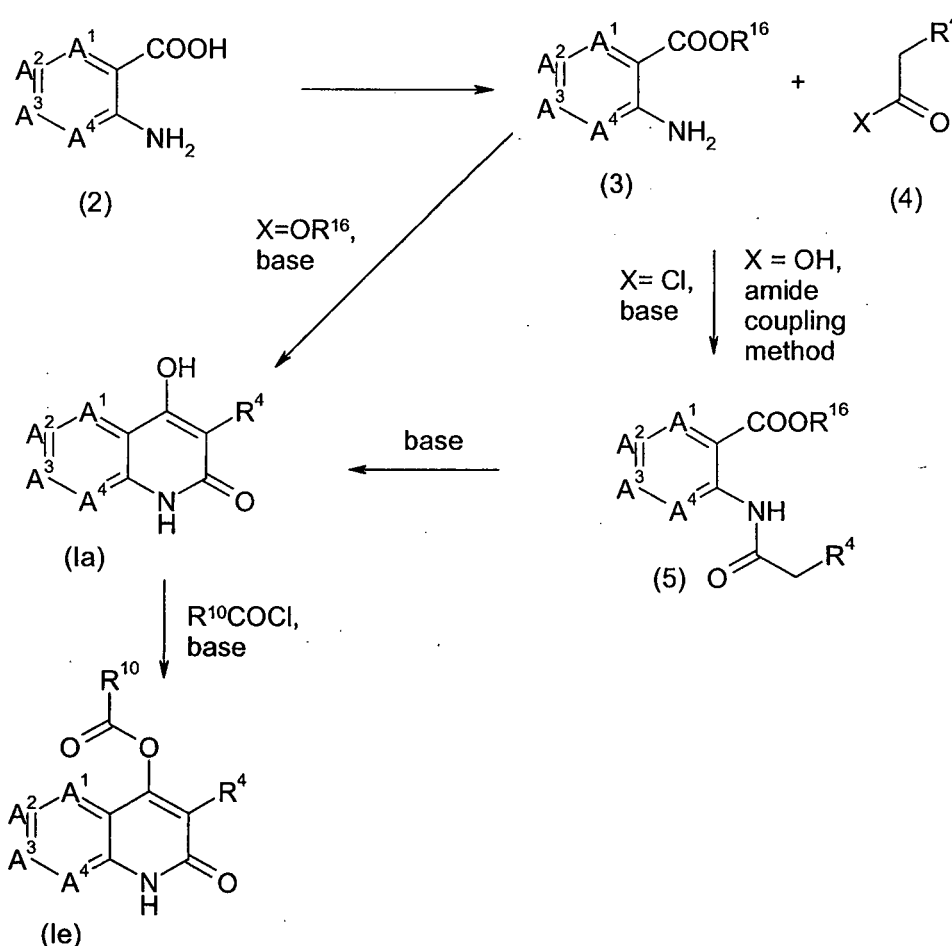
Table 41 provides 70 compounds of formula (I'), where R⁴ is 2,3,5-trichloro-pyrid-4-yl, and R³ and R⁵ have the values listed in Table 1.

- 20 The compounds of the invention may be made by a variety of methods, for example by the methods described in Schemes 1 to 4.

- 25 1) Compounds of formula (3) as shown in **Scheme 1** wherein A¹, A², A³ and A⁴ are as defined for a compound of formula (I) and R¹⁶ is C₁-C₆alkyl can be made by reaction of an aminopyrazine acid of formula (2) wherein A¹, A², A³, A⁴ are as defined for a compound of formula (I) via methods known to the person skilled in the art. For example, the transformation of an aminopyrazine acid to its methyl ester can conveniently be carried out in a suitable solvent mixture, such as methanol and toluene, using (trimethylsilyl)diazomethane as reagent.

- 30 2) Compounds of formula (5) wherein A¹, A², A³, A⁴ and R⁴ are as defined for a compound of formula (I) and R¹⁶ is C₁-C₆alkyl can be made by reaction of an aminopyrazine ester of formula (3) as defined in 1) wherein A¹, A², A³ and A⁴ are as defined for a compound of formula (I) and R¹⁶ is C₁-C₆alkyl with an acid derivative of formula (4) wherein R⁴ is as defined for a compound of formula (I) and X is halogen or hydroxy.

For example, if (4) is an acid chloride (i.e. where X is chlorine) the reaction can conveniently be carried out optionally in the presence of a base, such as triethylamine or pyridine, in a suitable solvent, such as acetonitrile or dichloromethane, optionally using microwave heating. Alternatively, if (4) is a carboxylic acid (i.e. where X is hydroxy) the reaction can conveniently be carried out using an amide coupling method, for example by reaction with a coupling agent, such as bis(2-oxo-3-oxazolidinyl)phosphinic chloride or *N*-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-*N'*-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride ("EDAC"), in the presence of a base, such as triethylamine, in a suitable solvent, such as dichloromethane, or other amide coupling methods which have been reviewed in Tetrahedron (2005), 61(46), 10827-10852.

Scheme 1

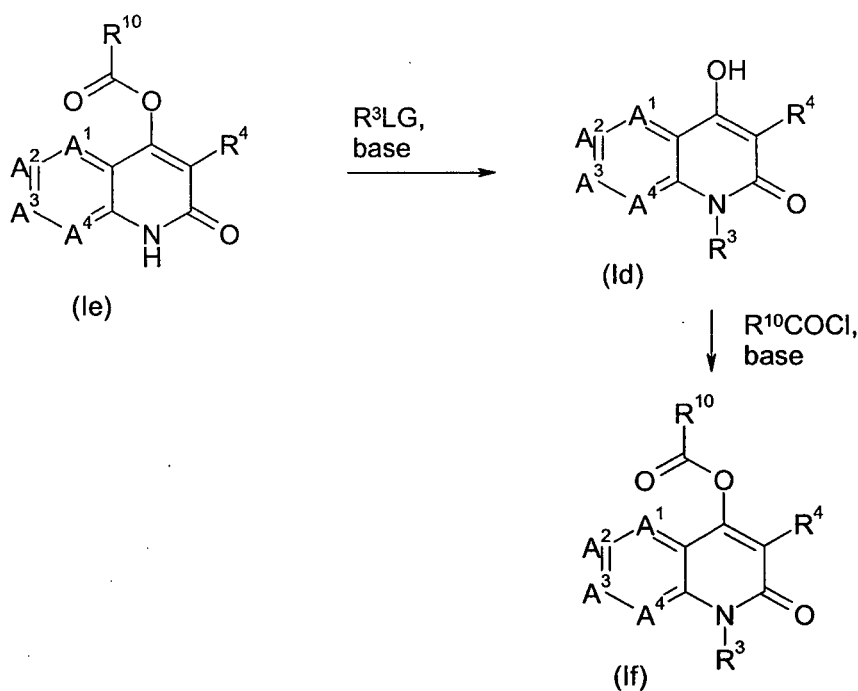
3) Compounds of formula (Ia) wherein A¹, A², A³, A⁴ and R⁴ are as defined for a compound of formula (I) can be prepared by treating a compound of formula (5) as

defined in 2) with a base in a suitable solvent, such as potassium carbonate in *N,N*-dimethylformamide or lithium hexamethyldisilazide in tetrahydrofuran, optionally using microwave heating.

4) Alternatively, where R^4 is heterocyclic and where (4) is a carboxylic ester (i.e. where X is OR^{16} and R^{16} is as defined in 1), the compounds of formula (Ia) as defined in 3) can also be prepared directly by reaction of a compound of formula (3) as defined in 1) with an carboxylic ester of formula (4) as defined here in the presence of a base, such as sodium ethoxide, in a suitable solvent, such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide, optionally using microwave heating.

5) Compounds of formula (Ie) wherein A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , R^4 and R^{10} are as defined for a compound of formula (I) can be prepared by reaction of a compound of formula (Ia) as defined in 3) with an acid chloride of formula $R^{10}COCl$ or an acid anhydride of formula $(R^{10}CO)_2O$ wherein R^{10} is as defined for a compound of formula (I), optionally in the presence of a base, such as triethylamine or pyridine, optionally in a suitable solvent, such as dichloromethane, optionally using microwave heating.

Scheme 2



6) Compounds of formula (Id) wherein A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined for a compound of formula (I), with R^3 other than hydrogen, can be prepared by treating

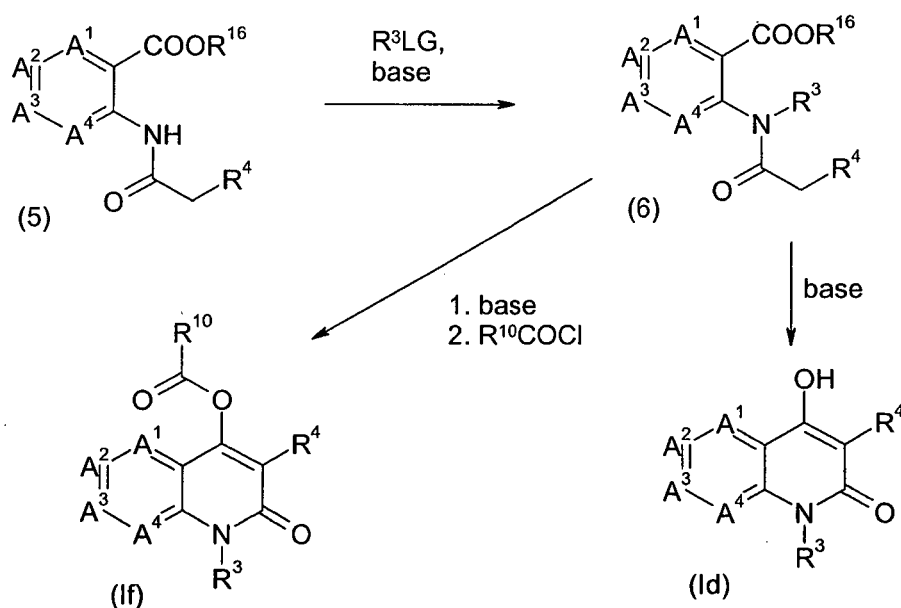
a compound of formula (Ie) as defined in 5) by reaction with a compound of formula R^3LG wherein R^3 is as defined for a compound of formula (I) and LG is a leaving group such as a halide, for example bromide or iodide, or tosylate, mesylate or triflate, in the presence of a base, such as potassium carbonate, optionally in the presence of an

5 activator / iodide, such as potassium iodide, in a suitable solvent, such as acetonitrile or *N,N*-dimethylformamide, optionally using microwave heating, as shown in **Scheme 2**.

7) Compounds of formula (If) wherein A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , R^3 , R^4 and R^{10} are as defined for a compound of formula (I), with R^3 other than hydrogen, can be prepared by reaction of a compound of formula (Id) as defined in 6) with an acid chloride of formula $R^{10}COCl$ or an acid anhydride of formula $(R^{10}CO)_2O$ wherein R^{10} is as defined for a

10 compound of formula (I), optionally in the presence of a base, such as potassium *tert*-butoxide or pyridine, optionally in a suitable solvent, such as dichloromethane or tetrahydrofuran, optionally using microwave heating.

15 **Scheme 3**



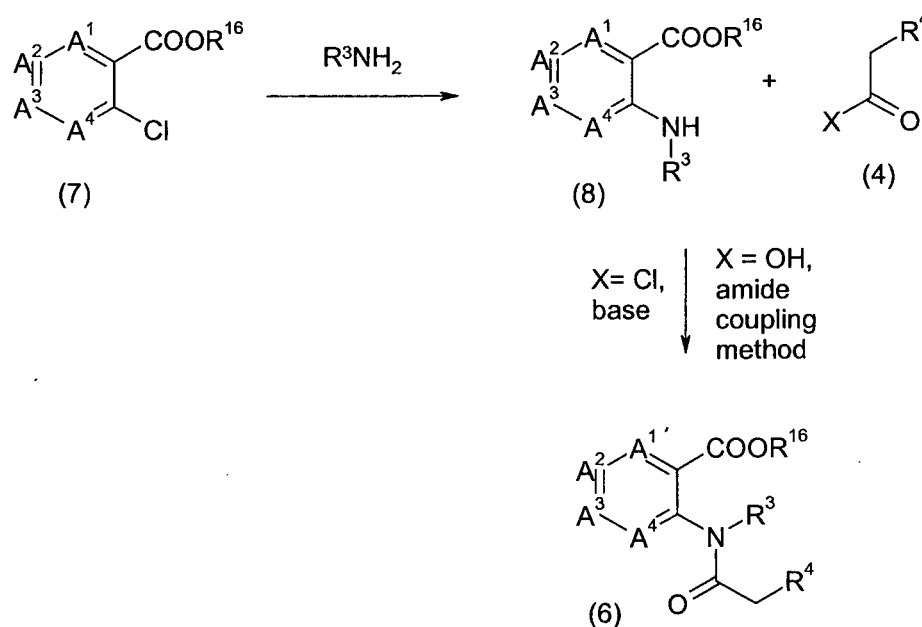
8) Compounds of formula (6) wherein A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined for a compound of formula (I), with R^3 other than hydrogen, and R^{16} is as defined in 1) can be prepared by treating a compound of formula (5) as defined in 2) by reaction with a

20 compound of formula R^3LG as defined in 6), in the presence of a base, such as sodium hydride, in a suitable solvent, such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide, optionally using microwave heating, as shown in **Scheme 3**.

9) Compounds of formula (Id) as defined in 6), can be prepared by treating a compound of formula (6) as defined in 8) with a base, such as potassium *tert*-butoxide or lithium hexamethyldisilazide, in a suitable solvent, such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide or tetrahydrofuran, optionally using microwave heating.

10) Compounds of formula (If) as defined in 7), can be prepared in a one pot procedure by treating a compound of formula (6) as defined in 8) with a base, such as sodium hexamethyldisilazide, in a suitable solvent, such as tetrahydrofuran, followed by an acid chloride of formula $R^{10}COCl$ or an acid anhydride of formula $(R^{10}CO)_2O$ wherein R^{10} is as defined for a compound of formula (I).

Scheme 4



11) Compounds of formula (8) wherein A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 and R^3 are as defined for a compound of formula (I), with R^3 other than hydrogen, and R^{16} is as defined in 1) can be prepared from a compound of formula (7) wherein A^1 , A^2 , A^3 and A^4 are as defined for a compound of formula (I) and R^{16} is as defined in 1) by reaction with an amine of formula R^3NH_2 wherein R^3 is as defined for a compound of formula (I) in the presence of a base, such as diisopropylethylamine, in a suitable solvent, such as ethanol, optionally using microwave heating, as shown in **Scheme 4**.

12) Compounds of formula (6) as defined in 8), can be prepared by treating a compound of formula (8) as defined in 11) with an acid derivative of formula (4) as defined in 2).

5 The compounds of formula (I) according to the invention can be used as herbicides in unmodified form, as obtained in the synthesis, but they are generally formulated into herbicidal compositions in various ways using formulation adjuvants, such as carriers, solvents and surface-active substances. The formulations can be in various physical forms, e.g. in the form of dusting powders, gels, wettable powders, 10 water-dispersible granules, water-dispersible tablets, effervescent pellets, emulsifiable concentrates, microemulsifiable concentrates, oil-in-water emulsions, oil-flowables, aqueous dispersions, oily dispersions, suspo-emulsions, capsule suspensions, emulsifiable granules, soluble liquids, water-soluble concentrates (with water or a water-miscible organic solvent as carrier), impregnated polymer films or in other forms known 15 e.g. from the Manual on Development and Use of FAO Specifications for Plant Protection Products, 5th Edition, 1999. Such formulations can either be used directly or they are diluted prior to use. The dilutions can be made, for example, with water, liquid fertilisers, micronutrients, biological organisms, oil or solvents.

 The formulations can be prepared e.g. by mixing the active ingredient with the 20 formulation adjuvants in order to obtain compositions in the form of finely divided solids, granules, solutions, dispersions or emulsions. The active ingredients can also be formulated with other adjuvants, such as finely divided solids, mineral oils, oils of vegetable or animal origin, modified oils of vegetable or animal origin, organic solvents, water, surface-active substances or combinations thereof. The active ingredients can also 25 be contained in very fine microcapsules consisting of a polymer. Microcapsules contain the active ingredients in a porous carrier. This enables the active ingredients to be released into the environment in controlled amounts (e.g. slow-release). Microcapsules usually have a diameter of from 0.1 to 500 microns. They contain active ingredients in an amount of about from 25 to 95 % by weight of the capsule weight. The active ingredients 30 can be in the form of a monolithic solid, in the form of fine particles in solid or liquid dispersion or in the form of a suitable solution. The encapsulating membranes comprise, for example, natural or synthetic rubbers, cellulose, styrene/butadiene copolymers, polyacrylonitrile, polyacrylate, polyesters, polyamides, polyureas, polyurethane or

chemically modified polymers and starch xanthates or other polymers that are known to the person skilled in the art in this connection. Alternatively, very fine microcapsules can be formed in which the active ingredient is contained in the form of finely divided particles in a solid matrix of base substance, but the microcapsules are not themselves encapsulated.

The formulation adjuvants that are suitable for the preparation of the compositions according to the invention are known *per se*. As liquid carriers there may be used: water, toluene, xylene, petroleum ether, vegetable oils, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, cyclohexanone, acid anhydrides, acetonitrile, acetophenone, amyl acetate, 2-butanone, butylene carbonate, chlorobenzene, cyclohexane, cyclohexanol, alkyl esters of acetic acid, diacetone alcohol, 1,2-dichloropropane, diethanolamine, p-diethylbenzene, diethylene glycol, diethylene glycol abietate, diethylene glycol butyl ether, diethylene glycol ethyl ether, diethylene glycol methyl ether, *N,N*-dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, 1,4-dioxane, dipropylene glycol, dipropylene glycol methyl ether, dipropylene glycol dibenzoate, diproxitol, alkylpyrrolidone, ethyl acetate, 2-ethylhexanol, ethylene carbonate, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, 2-heptanone, alpha-pinene, d-limonene, ethyl lactate, ethylene glycol, ethylene glycol butyl ether, ethylene glycol methyl ether, gamma-butyrolactone, glycerol, glycerol acetate, glycerol diacetate, glycerol triacetate, hexadecane, hexylene glycol, isoamyl acetate, isobornyl acetate, isooctane, isophorone, isopropylbenzene, isopropyl myristate, lactic acid, laurylamine, mesityl oxide, methoxypropanol, methyl isoamyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, methyl laurate, methyl octanoate, methyl oleate, methylene chloride, m-xylene, *n*-hexane, *n*-octylamine, octadecanoic acid, octylamine acetate, oleic acid, oleylamine, o-xylene, phenol, polyethylene glycol (PEG400), propionic acid, propyl lactate, propylene carbonate, propylene glycol, propylene glycol methyl ether, p-xylene, toluene, triethyl phosphate, triethylene glycol, xylenesulfonic acid, paraffin, mineral oil, trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene, ethyl acetate, amyl acetate, butyl acetate, propylene glycol methyl ether, diethylene glycol methyl ether, methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, and alcohols of higher molecular weight, such as amyl alcohol, tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, hexanol, octanol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerol, *N*-methyl-2-pyrrolidone and the like. Water is generally the carrier of choice for diluting the concentrates. Suitable solid carriers are, for example, talc, titanium dioxide, pyrophyllite clay, silica, attapulgite clay, kieselguhr, limestone, calcium carbonate, bentonite, calcium montmorillonite, cottonseed husks, wheat flour,

soybean flour, pumice, wood flour, ground walnut shells, lignin and similar substances, as described, for example, in CFR 180.1001. (c) & (d).

A large number of surface-active substances can advantageously be used in both solid and liquid formulations, especially in those formulations which can be diluted with a carrier prior to use. Surface-active substances may be anionic, cationic, non-ionic or polymeric and they can be used as emulsifiers, wetting agents or suspending agents or for other purposes. Typical surface-active substances include, for example, salts of alkyl sulfates, such as diethanolammonium lauryl sulfate; salts of alkylarylsulfonates, such as calcium dodecylbenzenesulfonate; alkylphenol/alkylene oxide addition products, such as nonylphenol ethoxylate; alcohol/alkylene oxide addition products, such as tridecylalcohol ethoxylate; soaps, such as sodium stearate; salts of alkyl naphthalenesulfonates, such as sodium dibutyl naphthalenesulfonate; dialkyl esters of sulfosuccinate salts, such as sodium di(2-ethylhexyl)sulfosuccinate; sorbitol esters, such as sorbitol oleate; quaternary amines, such as lauryltrimethylammonium chloride, polyethylene glycol esters of fatty acids, such as polyethylene glycol stearate; block copolymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide; and salts of mono- and di-alkylphosphate esters; and also further substances described e.g. in "McCutcheon's Detergents and Emulsifiers Annual" MC Publishing Corp., Ridgewood New Jersey, 1981.

Further adjuvants that can usually be used in pesticidal formulations include crystallisation inhibitors, viscosity modifiers, suspending agents, dyes, anti-oxidants, foaming agents, light absorbers, mixing auxiliaries, antifoams, complexing agents, neutralising or pH-modifying substances and buffers, corrosion inhibitors, fragrances, wetting agents, take-up enhancers, micronutrients, plasticisers, glidants, lubricants, dispersants, thickeners, antifreezes, microbicides, and also liquid and solid fertilisers.

The compositions according to the invention can additionally include an additive comprising an oil of vegetable or animal origin, a mineral oil, alkyl esters of such oils or mixtures of such oils and oil derivatives. The amount of oil additive in the composition according to the invention is generally from 0.01 to 10 %, based on the spray mixture. For example, the oil additive can be added to the spray tank in the desired concentration after the spray mixture has been prepared. Preferred oil additives comprise mineral oils or an oil of vegetable origin, for example rapeseed oil, olive oil or sunflower oil, emulsified vegetable oil, such as AMIGO® (Rhône-Poulenc Canada Inc.), alkyl esters of oils of vegetable origin, for example the methyl derivatives, or an oil of animal origin,

such as fish oil or beef tallow. A preferred additive contains, for example, as active components essentially 80 % by weight alkyl esters of fish oils and 15 % by weight methylated rapeseed oil, and also 5 % by weight of customary emulsifiers and pH modifiers. Especially preferred oil additives comprise alkyl esters of C₈-C₂₂ fatty acids, especially the methyl derivatives of C₁₂-C₁₈ fatty acids, for example the methyl esters of lauric acid, palmitic acid and oleic acid, being of importance. Those esters are known as methyl laurate (CAS-111-82-0), methyl palmitate (CAS-112-39-0) and methyl oleate (CAS-112-62-9). A preferred fatty acid methyl ester derivative is Emery® 2230 and 2231 (Cognis GmbH). Those and other oil derivatives are also known from the

5

10 Compendium of Herbicide Adjuvants, 5th Edition, Southern Illinois University, 2000.

The application and action of the oil additives can be further improved by combination with surface-active substances, such as non-ionic, anionic or cationic surfactants. Examples of suitable anionic, non-ionic and cationic surfactants are listed on pages 7 and 8 of WO 97/34485. Preferred surface-active substances are anionic

15 surfactants of the dodecylbenzylsulfonate type, especially the calcium salts thereof, and also non-ionic surfactants of the fatty alcohol ethoxylate type. Special preference is given to ethoxylated C₁₂-C₂₂ fatty alcohols having a degree of ethoxylation of from 5 to 40. Examples of commercially available surfactants are the Genapol types (Clariant AG). Also preferred are silicone surfactants, especially polyalkyl-oxide-modified

20 heptamethyltriloxanes which are commercially available e.g. as Silwet L-77®, and also perfluorinated surfactants. The concentration of the surface-active substances in relation to the total additive is generally from 1 to 30 % by weight. Examples of oil additives consisting of mixtures of oil or mineral oils or derivatives thereof with surfactants are Edenor ME SU®, Turbocharge® (Syngenta AG, CH) or ActipronC (BP Oil UK Limited,

25 GB).

If desired, it is also possible for the mentioned surface-active substances to be used in the formulations on their own, that is to say without oil additives.

Furthermore, the addition of an organic solvent to the oil additive/surfactant mixture may contribute to an additional enhancement of action. Suitable solvents are, for

30 example, Solvesso® (ESSO) or Aromatic Solvent® (Exxon Corporation). The concentration of such solvents can be from 10 to 80 % by weight of the total weight. Oil additives that are present in admixture with solvents are described, for example, in US-A-4,834,908. A commercially available oil additive disclosed therein is known by the name

MERGE® (BASF Corporation). A further oil additive that is preferred according to the invention is SCORE® (Syngenta Crop Protection Canada).

In addition to the oil additives listed above, for the purpose of enhancing the action of the compositions according to the invention it is also possible for formulations of alkylpyrrolidones (e.g. Agrimax®) to be added to the spray mixture. Formulations of synthetic lattices, e.g. polyacrylamide, polyvinyl compounds or poly-1-p-menthene (e.g. Bond®, Courier® or Emerald®) may also be used. It is also possible for solutions that contain propionic acid, for example Eurokem Pen-e-trate®, to be added to the spray mixture as action-enhancing agent.

The herbicidal compositions generally comprise from 0.1 to 99 % by weight, especially from 0.1 to 95 % by weight, compounds of formula (I) and from 1 to 99.9 % by weight of a formulation adjuvant which preferably includes from 0 to 25 % by weight of a surface-active substance. Whereas commercial products will preferably be formulated as concentrates, the end user will normally employ dilute formulations.

The rates of application of compounds of formula (I) may vary within wide limits and depend on the nature of the soil, the method of application (pre- or post-emergence; seed dressing; application to the seed furrow; no tillage application etc.), the crop plant, the grass or weed to be controlled, the prevailing climatic conditions, and other factors governed by the method of application, the time of application and the target crop. The compounds of formula (I) according to the invention are generally applied at a rate of from 10 to 2000 g/ha, especially from 50 to 1000 g/ha.

Preferred formulations have especially the following compositions (% = percent by weight):

Emulsifiable concentrates:

active ingredient:	1 to 95 %, preferably 60 to 90 %
surface-active agent:	1 to 30 %, preferably 5 to 20 %
liquid carrier:	1 to 80 %, preferably 1 to 35 %

Dusts:

active ingredient:	0.1 to 10 %, preferably 0.1 to 5 %
solid carrier:	99.9 to 90 %, preferably 99.9 to 99 %

Suspension concentrates:

active ingredient:	5 to 75 %, preferably 10 to 50 %
water:	94 to 24 %, preferably 88 to 30 %

surface-active agent: 1 to 40 %, preferably 2 to 30 %

Wettable powders:

active ingredient: 0.5 to 90 %, preferably 1 to 80 %

surface-active agent: 0.5 to 20 %, preferably 1 to 15 %

5 solid carrier: 5 to 95 %, preferably 15 to 90 %

Granules:

active ingredient: 0.1 to 30 %, preferably 0.1 to 15 %

solid carrier: 99.5 to 70 %, preferably 97 to 85 %

10 The following Examples further illustrate, but do not limit, the invention.

Formulation Examples for herbicides of formula (I) (% = % by weight)

<u>F1. Emulsifiable concentrates</u>		a)	b)	c)	d)
	active ingredient	5 %	10 %	25 %	50 %
15	calcium dodecylbenzenesulfonate	6 %	8 %	6 %	8 %
	castor oil polyglycol ether	4 %	-	4 %	4 %
	(36 mol of ethylene oxide)				
	octylphenol polyglycol ether	-	4 %	-	2 %
	(7-8 mol of ethylene oxide)				
20	NMP	-	-	10 %	20 %
	arom. hydrocarbon mixture	85 %	78 %	55 %	16 %
	C ₉ -C ₁₂				

Emulsions of any desired concentration can be obtained from such concentrates by dilution with water.

25

<u>F2. Solutions</u>		a)	b)	c)	d)
	active ingredient	5 %	10 %	50 %	90 %
	1-methoxy-3-(3-methoxy-propoxy)-propane	-	20 %	20 %	-
30	polyethylene glycol MW 400	20 %	10 %	-	-
	NMP	-	-	30 %	10 %
	arom. hydrocarbon mixture	75 %	60 %	-	-
	C ₉ -C ₁₂				

The solutions are suitable for use in the form of microdrops.

<u>F3. Wettable powders</u>		a)	b)	c)	d)
	active ingredient	5 %	25 %	50 %	80 %
5	sodium lignosulfonate	4 %	-	3 %	-
	sodium lauryl sulfate	2 %	3 %	-	4 %
	sodium diisobutyl naphthalene-sulfonate	-	6 %	5 %	6 %
	octylphenol polyglycol ether	-	1 %	2 %	-
10	(7-8 mol of ethylene oxide)				
	highly dispersed silicic acid	1 %	3 %	5 %	10 %
	kaolin	88 %	62 %	35 %	-

The active ingredient is mixed thoroughly with the adjuvants and the mixture is thoroughly ground in a suitable mill, affording wettable powders which can be diluted with water to give suspensions of any desired concentration.

<u>F4. Coated granules</u>		a)	b)	c)
	active ingredient	0.1 %	5 %	15 %
	highly dispersed silicic acid	0.9 %	2 %	2 %
20	inorganic carrier	99.0 %	93 %	83 %
	(diameter 0.1 - 1 mm)			
	e.g. CaCO ₃ or SiO ₂			

The active ingredient is dissolved in methylene chloride and applied to the carrier by spraying, and the solvent is then evaporated off *in vacuo*.

25

<u>F5. Coated granules</u>		a)	b)	c)
	active ingredient	0.1 %	5 %	15 %
	polyethylene glycol MW 200	1.0 %	2 %	3 %
	highly dispersed silicic acid	0.9 %	1 %	2 %
30	inorganic carrier	98.0 %	92 %	80 %
	(diameter 0.1 - 1 mm)			
	e.g. CaCO ₃ or SiO ₂			

The finely ground active ingredient is uniformly applied, in a mixer, to the carrier moistened with polyethylene glycol. Non-dusty coated granules are obtained in this manner.

5	<u>F6. Extruder granules</u>	a)	b)	c)	d)
	active ingredient	0.1 %	3 %	5 %	15 %
	sodium lignosulfonate	1.5 %	2 %	3 %	4 %
	carboxymethylcellulose	1.4 %	2 %	2 %	2 %
	kaolin	97.0 %	93 %	90 %	79 %
10	The active ingredient is mixed and ground with the adjuvants, and the mixture is moistened with water. The mixture is extruded and then dried in a stream of air.				

	<u>F7. Dusts</u>	a)	b)	c)
	active ingredient	0.1 %	1 %	5 %
15	talcum	39.9 %	49 %	35 %
	kaolin	60.0 %	50 %	60 %

Ready-to-use dusts are obtained by mixing the active ingredient with the carriers and grinding the mixture in a suitable mill.

20	<u>F8. Suspension concentrates</u>	a)	b)	c)	d)
	active ingredient	3 %	10 %	25 %	50 %
	ethylene glycol	5 %	5 %	5 %	5 %
	nonylphenol polyglycol ether (15 mol of ethylene oxide)	-	1 %	2 %	-
25	sodium lignosulfonate	3 %	3 %	4 %	5 %
	carboxymethylcellulose	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %
	37 % aqueous formaldehyde solution	0.2 %	0.2 %	0.2 %	0.2 %
	silicone oil emulsion	0.8 %	0.8 %	0.8 %	0.8 %
30	water	87 %	79 %	62 %	38 %

The finely ground active ingredient is intimately mixed with the adjuvants, giving a suspension concentrate from which suspensions of any desired concentration can be obtained by dilution with water.

The invention relates to a method of controlling plants which comprises applying to the plants or to the locus thereof a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula (I).

5 The invention also relates to a method of inhibiting plant growth which comprises applying to the plants or to the locus thereof a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula (I).

The invention also relates to a method of selectively controlling grasses and weeds in crops of useful plants which comprises applying to the useful plants or locus
10 thereof or to the area of cultivation a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula (I).

Crops of useful plants in which the composition according to the invention can be used include perennial crops, such as citrus fruit, grapevines, nuts, oil palms, olives, pome fruit, stone fruit and rubber, and annual arable crops, such as cereals, for example
15 barley and wheat, cotton, oilseed rape, maize, rice, soy beans, sugar beet, sugar cane, sunflowers, ornamentals and vegetables, especially cereals, maize and soy beans.

The grasses and weeds to be controlled may be both mono-cotyledonous species, for example *Agrostis*, *Alopecurus*, *Avena*, *Bromus*, *Cyperus*, *Digitaria*, *Echinochloa*, *Lolium*, *Monochoria*, *Rottboellia*, *Sagittaria*, *Scirpus*, *Setaria*, *Sida* and *Sorghum*, and
20 dicotyledonous species, for example *Abutilon*, *Amaranthus*, *Chenopodium*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Galium*, *Ipomoea*, *Nasturtium*, *Sinapis*, *Solanum*, *Stellaria*, *Veronica*, *Viola* and *Xanthium*.

Crops are to be understood as also including those crops which have been rendered tolerant to herbicides or classes of herbicides (e.g. auxins or ALS-, GS-,
25 EPSPS-, PPO- and HPPD-inhibitors) by conventional methods of breeding or by genetic engineering. An example of a crop that has been rendered tolerant to imidazolinones, e.g. imazamox, by conventional methods of breeding is Clearfield® summer rape (canola). Examples of crops that have been rendered tolerant to herbicides by genetic engineering methods include e.g. glyphosate- and glufosinate-resistant maize varieties commercially
30 available under the trade names RoundupReady® and LibertyLink®.

Crops are also to be understood as being those which have been rendered resistant to harmful insects by genetic engineering methods, for example Bt maize (resistant to European corn borer), Bt cotton (resistant to cotton boll weevil) and also Bt potatoes

(resistant to Colorado beetle). Examples of Bt maize are the Bt 176 maize hybrids of NK® (Syngenta Seeds). The Bt toxin is a protein that is formed naturally by *Bacillus thuringiensis* soil bacteria. Examples of toxins, or transgenic plants able to synthesize such toxins, are described in EP-A-451 878, EP-A-374 753, WO 93/07278, WO 95/34656, WO 03/052073 and EP-A-427 529. Examples of transgenic plants comprising one or more genes that code for an insecticidal resistance and express one or more toxins are KnockOut® (maize), Yield Gard® (maize), NuCOTIN33B® (cotton), Bollgard® (cotton), NewLeaf® (potatoes), NatureGard® and Protexcta®. Plant crops or seed material thereof can be both resistant to herbicides and, at the same time, resistant to insect feeding ("stacked" transgenic events). For example, seed can have the ability to express an insecticidal Cry3 protein while at the same time being tolerant to glyphosate.

Crops are also to be understood as being those which are obtained by conventional methods of breeding or genetic engineering and contain so-called output traits (e.g. improved storage stability, higher nutritional value and improved flavor). Areas under cultivation include land on which the crop plants are already growing and land intended for cultivation with those crop plants. The compounds of the invention can be applied before weeds emerge (pre-emergence application) or after weeds emerge (post-emergence application), and are particularly effective when applied post-emergence.

The compounds of formula (I) according to the invention can also be used in combination with one or more further herbicides. In particular, the following mixtures of the compound of formula (I) are important:

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with a synthetic auxin (e.g. compound of formula (I) + clopyralid (162), compound of formula (I) + 2,4-D (211), compound of formula (I) + dicamba (228), compound of formula (I) + diphenamid (274), compound of formula (I) + MCPA (499), compound of formula (I) + quinclorac (712), or compound of formula (I) + aminopyralid (CAS RN 150114-71-9)).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with diflufenzopyr (252).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with an acetanilide (e.g. compound of formula (I) + acetochlor (5), compound of formula (I) + dimethenamid (260), compound of formula (I) + metolachlor (548), compound of formula (I) + S-metolachlor (549), or compound of formula (I) + pretilachlor (656)).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with flamprop-M (355).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with flufenacet (BAY FOE 5043) (369).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with pyroxasulfone (CAS RN 447399-55-5).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with an HPPD inhibitor (e.g. compound of
5 formula (I) + isoxaflutole (479), compound of formula (I) + mesotrione (515), compound
of formula (I) + pyrasulfotole (CAS RN 365400-11-9), compound of formula (I) +
sulcotrione (747), compound of formula (I) + tembotrione (CAS RN 335104-84-2),
compound of formula (I) + topramezone (CAS RN 210631-68-8), compound of formula
10 (I) + 4-hydroxy-3-[[2-[(2-methoxyethoxy)methyl]-6-(trifluoromethyl)-3-pyridinyl]-
carbonyl]-bicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-en-2-one (CAS RN 352010-68-5), or compound of
formula (I) + 4-hydroxy-3-[[2-(3-methoxypropyl)-6-(difluoromethyl)-3-pyridinyl]-
carbonyl]-bicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-en-2-one (CAS RN 894355-80-7)).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with a triazine (e.g. compound of formula
(I) + atrazine (37), or compound of formula (I) + terbuthylazine (775)).

15 Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with a triazine and an HPPD inhibitor
(e.g. compound of formula (I) + triazine + isoxaflutole, compound of formula (I) +
triazine + mesotrione, compound of formula (I) + triazine + pyrasulfotole, compound of
formula (I) + triazine + sulcotrione, compound of formula (I) + triazine + tembotrione,
compound of formula (I) + triazine + topramezone, compound of formula (I) + triazine +
20 4-hydroxy-3-[[2-[(2-methoxyethoxy)methyl]-6-(trifluoromethyl)-3-
pyridinyl]carbonyl]-bicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-en-2-one, or compound of formula (I) + triazine
+ 4-hydroxy-3-[[2-(3-methoxypropyl)-6-(difluoromethyl)-3-pyridinyl]carbonyl]-
bicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-en-2-one).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with glyphosate (419).

25 Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with glyphosate and an HPPD inhibitor
(e.g. compound of formula (I) + glyphosate + isoxaflutole, compound of formula (I) +
glyphosate + mesotrione, compound of formula (I) + glyphosate + pyrasulfotole,
compound of formula (I) + glyphosate + sulcotrione, compound of formula (I) +
glyphosate + tembotrione, compound of formula (I) + glyphosate + topramezone,
30 compound of formula (I) + glyphosate + 4-hydroxy-3-[[2-[(2-methoxyethoxy)methyl]-6-
(trifluoromethyl)-3-pyridinyl]carbonyl]-bicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-en-2-one, or compound of
formula (I) + glyphosate + 4-hydroxy-3-[[2-(3-methoxypropyl)-6-(difluoromethyl)-3-
pyridinyl]carbonyl]-bicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-en-2-one).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with glufosinate-ammonium (418).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with glufosinate-ammonium and an HPPD inhibitor (e.g. compound of formula (I) + glufosinate-ammonium + isoxaflutole, compound of formula (I) + glufosinate-ammonium + mesotrione, compound of formula (I) + glufosinate-ammonium + pyrasulfotole, compound of formula (I) + glufosinate-ammonium + sulcotrione, compound of formula (I) + glufosinate-ammonium + tembotrione, compound of formula (I) + glufosinate-ammonium + topramezone, compound of formula (I) + glufosinate-ammonium + 4-hydroxy-3-[[2-[(2-methoxyethoxy)methyl]-6-(trifluoromethyl)-3-pyridinyl]carbonyl]-bicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-en-2-one, or compound of formula (I) + glufosinate-ammonium + 4-hydroxy-3-[[2-(3-methoxypropyl)-6-(difluoromethyl)-3-pyridinyl]carbonyl]-bicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-en-2-one).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with an ALS or an AHAS inhibitor (e.g. compound of formula (I) + bensulfuron-methyl (64), compound of formula (I) + chlorimuron-ethyl (135), compound of formula (I) + cloransulam-methyl (164), compound of formula (I) + florasulam (359), compound of formula (I) + flucarbazone-sodium (364), compound of formula (I) + imazamox (451), compound of formula (I) + imazapyr (453), compound of formula (I) + imazethapyr (455), compound of formula (I) + iodosulfuron-methyl-sodium (466), compound of formula (I) + mesosulfuron-methyl (514), compound of formula (I) + nicosulfuron (577), compound of formula (I) + penoxsulam (622), compound of formula (I) + pyroxsulam (triflosulam) (CAS RN 422556-08-9), compound of formula (I) + thifensulfuron-methyl (thiameturon-methyl) (795), compound of formula (I) + triasulfuron (817), compound of formula (I) + tribenuron-methyl (822), compound of formula (I) + trifloxysulfuron-sodium (833), compound of formula (I) + thiencazone (4-[(4,5-dihydro-3-methoxy-4-methyl-5-oxo-1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)carbonylsulfamoyl]-5-methylthiophene-3-carboxylic acid, BAY636)), or compound of formula (I) + thiencazone-methyl (methyl 4-[(4,5-dihydro-3-methoxy-4-methyl-5-oxo-1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)carbonylsulfamoyl]-5-methylthiophene-3-carboxylate, CAS RN 317815-83-1, BAY636-methyl)).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with a PPO inhibitor (e.g. compound of formula (I) + acifluorfen-sodium (7), compound of formula (I) + butafenacil (101), compound of formula (I) + carfentrazone-ethyl (121), compound of formula (I) + cinidon-ethyl (152), compound of formula (I) + flumioxazin (376), compound of formula (I) + fomesafen (401), compound of formula (I) + lactofen (486), or compound of

formula (I) + [3-[2-chloro-4-fluoro-5-(1-methyl-6-trifluoromethyl-2,4-dioxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidin-3-yl)phenoxy]-2-pyridyloxy]acetic acid ethyl ester) (CAS RN 353292-31-6)).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with an ACCase inhibitor (e.g. compound
5 of formula (I) + butroxydim (106), compound of formula (I) + clethodim (155),
compound of formula (I) + clodinafop-propargyl (156), compound of formula (I) +
cycloxydim (190), compound of formula (I) + cyhalofop-butyl (195), compound of
formula (I) + diclofop-methyl (238), compound of formula (I) + fenoxaprop-P-ethyl
(339), compound of formula (I) + fluazifop-butyl (361), compound of formula (I) +
10 fluazifop-P-butyl (362), compound of formula (I) + haloxyfop (427), compound of
formula (I) + haloxyfop-P (428), compound of formula (I) + propaquizafop (670),
compound of formula (I) + quizalofop (717), compound of formula (I) + quizalofop-P
(718), compound of formula (I) + sethoxydim (726), compound of formula (I) +
tepraloxym (771), compound of formula (I) + tralkoxydim (811)), or compound of
15 formula (I) + pinoxaden (CAS RN 243973-20-8).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with prosulfocarb (683), or a compound
of formula (I) with tri-allate (816).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with bromoxynil (95), a compound of
formula (I) with chloridazon (134), a compound of formula (I) with chlorotoluron (143),
20 a compound of formula (I) with diuron (281), or a compound of formula (I) with
metribuzin (554).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with clomazone (159), a compound of
formula (I) with diflufenican (251), a compound of formula (I) with flurochloridone
(389), or a compound of formula (I) with flurtamone (392).

25 Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with pendimethalin (621) or a compound
of formula (I) with trifluralin (836).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with difenzoquat metilsulfate (248).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with diquat dibromide (276).

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with paraquat dichloride (614).

30 The mixing partners of the compound of formula (I) may also be in the form of
esters or salts, as mentioned e.g. in The Pesticide Manual, 13th Edition (BCPC), 2003.
The reference to glufosinate-ammonium also applies to glufosinate, the reference to
cloransulam-methyl also applies to cloransulam, the reference to dimethenamid also

applies to dimethenamid-P, the reference to flamprop-M also applies to flamprop, and the reference to pyriithiobac-sodium also applies to pyriithiobac, etc.

The mixing ratio of the compound of formula (I) to the mixing partner is preferably from 1: 100 to 1000:1.

- 5 The mixtures can advantageously be used in the above-mentioned formulations (in which case "active ingredient" relates to the respective mixture of compound of formula (I) with the mixing partner).

Additionally, one or more of the following herbicides or plant growth regulators can be used in combination with a compound of formula (I) according to the invention or
10 in combination with a mixture as described above: aclonifen (8), acrolein (10), alachlor (14), alloxymid (18), ametryn (20), amicarbazone (21), amidosulfuron (22), aminocyclopyrachlor (CAS RN 858956-08-8), amitrole (aminotriazole) (25), ammonium sulfamate (26), anilofos (31), asulam (36), aviglycine (39), azafenidin (CAS RN 68049-83-2), azimsulfuron (43), BAS 800H (CAS RN 372137-35-4), beflubutamid (55),
15 benazolin (57), bencarbazone (CAS RN 173980-17-1), benfluralin (59), benfuresate (61), bensulide (65), bentazone (67), benzfendizone (CAS RN 158755-95-4), benzobicyclon (69), benzofenap (70), bilanafos (bialaphos) (77), bispyribac-sodium (82), borax (86), bromacil (90), bromobutide (93), bromofenoxim (CAS RN 13181-17-4), butachlor (100), butamifos (102), butralin (105), butylate (108), cafenstrole (110), carbetamide (117),
20 chlorbromuron (CAS RN 13360-45-7), chlorflurenol-methyl (133), chloroacetic acid (138), chlorpropham (144), chlorsulfuron (147), chlorthal-dimethyl (148), cinmethylin (153), cinosulfuron (154), clomeprop (160), cumyluron (180), cyanamide (182), cyanazine (183), cyclanilide (186), cycloate (187), cyclosulfamuron (189), daimuron (213), dalapon (214), dazomet (216), desmedipham (225), desmetryn (CAS RN 1014-69-
25 3), dichlobenil (229), dichlorprop (234), dichlorprop-P (235), diclosulam (241), dimefuron (256), dimepiperate (257), dimethachlor (258), dimethametryn (259), dimethipin (261), dimethylarsinic acid (264), dinitramine (268), dinoterb (272), dipropetryn (CAS RN 4147-51-7), dithiopyr (280), DNOC (282), DSMA (CAS RN 144-21-8), endothal (295), EPTC (299), esprocarb (303), ethalfluralin (305), ethametsulfuron-methyl (306), ethephon (307), ethofumesate (311), ethoxyfen (CAS RN 188634-90-4),
30 ethoxyfen-ethyl (CAS RN 131086-42-5), ethoxysulfuron (314), etobenzanid (318), fentrazamide (348), ferrous sulfate (353), flazasulfuron (356), fluazolate (isopropazol) (CAS RN 174514-07-9), flucetosulfuron (CAS RN 412928-75-7), fluchloralin (365),

flufenpyr-ethyl (371), flumetralin (373), flumetsulam (374), flumiclorac-pentyl (375),
flumipropyn (flumipropin) (CAS RN 84478-52-4), fluometuron (378), fluoroglycofen-
ethyl (380), flupoxam (CAS RN 119126-15-7), flupropacil (CAS RN 120890-70-2),
flupropanate (383), flupyrsulfuron-methyl-sodium (384), flurenol (387), fluridone (388),
5 fluroxypyr (390), fluthiacet-methyl (395), foramsulfuron (402), fosamine (406),
halosulfuron-methyl (426), HC-252 (429), hexazinone (440), imazamethabenz-methyl
(450), imazapic (452), imazaquin (454), imazosulfuron (456), indanofan (462), ioxynil
(467), isoproturon (475), isouron (476), isoxaben (477), isoxachlortole (CAS RN
141112-06-3), isoxapyrifop (CAS RN 87757-18-4), karbutilate (482), lenacil (487),
10 linuron (489), MCPA-thioethyl (500), MCPB (501), mecoprop (503), mecoprop-P (504),
mefenacet (505), mefluidide (507), metam (519), metamifop (me fluoxa fop) (520),
metamitron (521), metazachlor (524), methabenzthiazuron (526), methazole (CAS RN
20354-26-1), methylarsonic acid (536), 1-methylcyclopropene (538), methyldymron
(539), methyl isothiocyanate (543), metobenzuron (547), metobromuron (CAS RN 3060-
15 89-7), metosulam (552), metoxuron (553), metsulfuron-methyl (555), MK-616 (559),
molinatate (560), monolinuron (562), MSMA (CAS RN 2163-80-6), naproanilide (571),
napropamide (572), naptalam (573), neburon (574), nipyraclufen (CAS RN 99662-11-0),
n-methyl-glyphosate, nonanoic acid (583), norflurazon (584), oleic acid (fatty acids)
(593), orbencarb (595), orthosulfamuron (CAS RN 213464-77-8), oryzalin (597),
20 oxadiargyl (599), oxadiazon (600), oxasulfuron (603), oxaziclomefone (604),
oxyfluorfen (610), pebulate (617), pentachlorophenol (623), pentanochlor (624),
pentoxazone (625), pethoxamid (627), petroleum oils (628), phenmedipham (629),
picloram (645), picolinafen (646), piperophos (650), primisulfuron-methyl (657),
prodiamine (661), profluazol (CAS RN 190314-43-3), profoxydim (663), prohexadione
25 calcium (664), prometon (665), prometryn (666), propachlor (667), propanil (669),
propazine (672), propham (674), propisochlor (667), propoxycarbazon-sodium
(procarbazon-sodium) (679), propyzamide (681), prosulfuron (684), pyraclonil
(pyrazogyl) (CAS RN 158353-15-2), pyraflufen-ethyl (691), pyrazolynate (692),
pyrazosulfuron-ethyl (694), pyrazoxyfen (695), pyribenzoxim (697), pyributicarb (698),
30 pyridafol (CAS RN 40020-01-7), pyridate (702), pyriftalid (704), pyriminobac-methyl
(707), pyrimisulfan (CAS RN 221205-90-9), pyri thiobac-sodium (709), quinmerac (713),
quino clamine (714), rimsulfuron (721), sequestrene, siduron (727), simazine (730),
simetryn (732), sodium chlorate (734), sulfentrazone (749), sulfometuron-methyl (751),

sulfosate (CAS RN 81591-81-3), sulfosulfuron (752), sulfuric acid (755), tar oils (758), TCA-sodium (760), tebutam (CAS RN 35256-85-0), tebuthiuron (765), tefuryltrione (CAS RN 473278-76-1), terbacil (772), terbumeton (774), terbutryn (776), thenylchlor (789), thidiazimin (CAS RN 123249-43-4), thiazafluron (CAS RN 25366-23-8),
5 thiazopyr (793), thiobencarb (797), tiocarbazil (807), triaziflam (819), triclopyr (827), trietazine (831), triflusulfuron-methyl (837), trihydroxytriazine (CAS RN 108-80-5), trinexapac-ethyl (CAS RN 95266-40-3), tritosulfuron (843), N-[(1R,2S)-2,6-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-yl]-6-(1-fluoroethyl)-1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diamine (CAS RN 950782-86-2), 1-(2-chloro-6-propylimidazo[1,2-b]pyridazin-3-ylsulfonyl)-3-(4,6-
10 dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)urea (CAS RN 570415-88-2), and 5-(2,6-difluoro-benzyloxymethyl)-5-methyl-3-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-4,5-dihydro-isoxazole (CAS RN 403640-27-7).

The mixing partners of the compound of formula (I) may also be in the form of esters or salts, as mentioned e.g. in The Pesticide Manual, 13th Edition (BCPC), 2003.

15 The reference to acifluorfen-sodium also applies to acifluorfen, and the reference to bensulfuron-methyl also applies to bensulfuron, etc.

The mixing ratio of the compound of formula (I) to the mixing partner is preferably from 1: 100 to 1000:1.

The mixtures can advantageously be used in the above-mentioned formulations
20 (in which case "active ingredient" relates to the respective mixture of compound of formula (I) with the mixing partner).

The compounds of formula (I) according to the invention can also be used in combination with one or more safeners. Likewise, mixtures of a compound of formula (I) according to the invention with one or more further herbicides can also be used in
25 combination with one or more safeners. The term "safener" as used herein means a chemical that when used in combination with a herbicide reduces the undesirable effects of the herbicide on non-target organisms, for example, a safener protects crops from injury by herbicides but does not prevent the herbicide from killing the weeds. The safeners can be AD-67 (11), benoxacor (63), cloquintocet-mexyl (163), cyometrinil
30 (CAS RN 78370-21-5), cyprosulfamide (CAS RN 221667-31-8), dichlormid (231), dicyclonon (CAS RN 79260-71-2), fenchlorazole-ethyl (331), fenclorim (332), flurazole (386), fluxofenim (399), furilazole (413) and the corresponding R isomer, isoxadifen-ethyl (478), mefenpyr-diethyl (506), 2-methoxy-N-[[4-[[[(methylamino)carbonyl]amino]-

phenyl]sulfonyl]-benzamide (CAS RN 129531-12-0), naphthalic anhydride (CAS RN 81-84-5), and oxabetrinil (598). Particularly preferred are mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with benoxacor and a compound of formula (I) with cloquintocet-mexyl.

The safeners of the compound of formula (I) may also be in the form of esters or salts, as mentioned e.g. in The Pesticide Manual, 13th Edition (BCPC), 2003. The reference to cloquintocet-mexyl also applies to cloquintocet, and the reference to fenchlorazole-ethyl also applies to fenchlorazole, etc.

Preferably the mixing ratio of compound of formula (I) to safener is from 100:1 to 1:10, especially from 20:1 to 1:1.

The mixtures can advantageously be used in the above-mentioned formulations (in which case "active ingredient" relates to the respective mixture of compound of formula (I) with the safener). It is possible that the safener and a compound of formula (I) and one or more additional herbicide(s), if any, are applied simultaneously. For example, the safener, a compound of formula (I) and one or more additional herbicide(s), if any, might be applied to the locus pre-emergence or might be applied to the crop post-emergence. It is also possible that the safener and a compound of formula (I) and one or more additional herbicide(s), if any, are applied sequentially. For example, the safener might be applied before sowing the seeds as a seed treatment and a compound of formula (I) and one or more additional herbicides, if any, might be applied to the locus pre-emergence or might be applied to the crop post-emergence.

Preferred mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with further herbicides and safeners include:

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with S-metolachlor and a safener, particularly benoxacor.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with isoxaflutole and a safener.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with mesotrione and a safener.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with sulcotrione and a safener.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with a triazine and a safener.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with a triazine and isoxaflutole and a safener.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with a triazine and mesotrione and a safener.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with a triazine and sulcotrione and a safener.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with glyphosate and a safener.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with glyphosate and isoxaflutole and a
5 safener.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with glyphosate and mesotrione and a safener.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with glyphosate and sulcotrione and a safener.

10 Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with glufosinate-ammonium and a safener.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with glufosinate-ammonium and isoxaflutole and a safener.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with glufosinate-ammonium and
15 mesotrione and a safener.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with glufosinate-ammonium and sulcotrione and a safener.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with florasulam and a safener, particularly cloquintocet-mexyl.

20 Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with clodinafop-propargyl and a safener, particularly cloquintocet-mexyl.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with pinoxaden and a safener, particularly cloquintocet-mexyl.

Mixtures of a compound of formula (I) with bromoxynil and a safener,
25 particularly cloquintocet-mexyl.

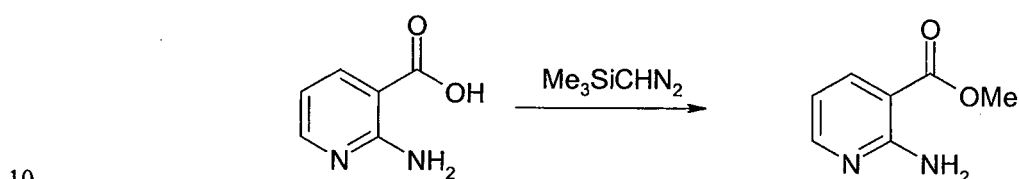
The following Examples further illustrate, but do not limit, the invention.

Preparation Examples

The following abbreviations were used throughout this section: s = singlet; bs = broad singlet; d = doublet; dd = double doublet; dt = double triplet; t = triplet, tt = triple
5 triplet, q = quartet, sept = septet; m = multiplet; Me = methyl; Et = ethyl; Pr = propyl; Bu = butyl.

1. Reactions which are covered by Scheme 1

Example 1.1: Preparation of 2-amino-nicotinic acid methyl ester



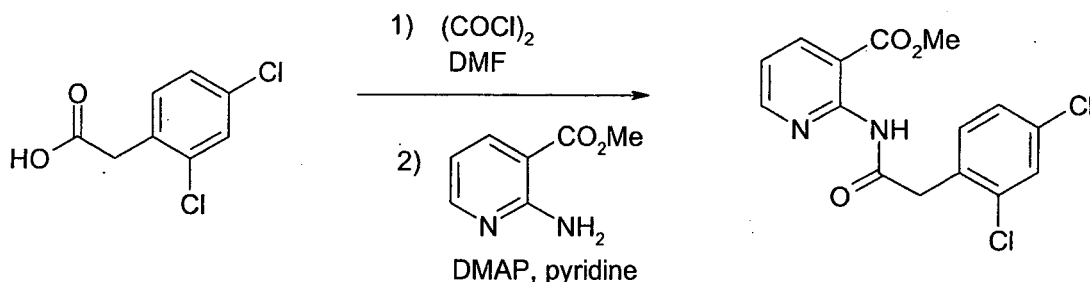
To a solution of 3-amino-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (1 g) in methanol (8 ml) and toluene (10 ml), under nitrogen atmosphere, was added a solution of (trimethylsilyl)-diazomethane (3.625 ml) (2M in diethylether). When the effervescence from the reaction had subsided a further portion of (trimethylsilyl)diazomethane (3.625 ml) (2M in
15 diethylether) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 20 hours. The reaction was quenched by addition of acetic acid (0.2 ml). The mixture was concentrated and the residue partitioned between dichloromethane and aqueous potassium carbonate (5% by weight). The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with further dichloromethane. The combined organic extracts were dried
20 over magnesium sulfate and concentrated to give 2-amino-nicotinic acid methyl ester as a light yellow solid (968 mg). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.21-8.23 (m, 1H), 8.12-8.14 (m, 1H), 6.61-6.64 (m, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H) ppm.

The following compounds made were made using analogous procedures.

25 2-Amino-6-chloro-nicotinic acid methyl ester. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.03-8.05 (d, 1H), 6.59-6.61 (d, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H) ppm.

3-Amino-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.07-8.08 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.04-7.07 (m, 1H), 5.76 (bs, 2H), 3.98 (s, 3H), ppm.

Example 1.2: Preparation of 2-[2-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester



Oxalyl chloride (0.14 ml) was added dropwise to a solution of (2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-acetic acid (270 mg) in dichloromethane (10 ml) at ambient temperature. A drop of *N,N*-dimethylformamide ("DMF") was added to initiate the reaction. The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated to give a colourless oil which was dissolved in dichloromethane (3 ml). The mixture was added dropwise to a cooled (-5°C) slurry of 2-amino-nicotinic acid methyl ester (200 mg) (Example 1.1), 4-dimethylaminopyridine ("DMAP") (32 mg) and pyridine (0.19 ml) in dichloromethane (5 ml). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to ambient temperature and stirred at ambient temperature for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was partitioned between dichloromethane and aqueous hydrochloric acid (2M). The phases were separated. The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: acetone / *iso*-hexane ratio 1:9 to 2:8) to give 2-[2-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester as a light yellow gum (197 mg). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 10.81 (bs, 1H), 8.59-8.60 (m, 1H), 8.29-8.31 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.11 (m, 1H), 4.08 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H) ppm.

20

The following compounds made were made using analogous procedures.

2-[2-(2,6-Dichloro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 10.74 (bs, 1H), 8.59-8.61 (m, 1H), 8.28-8.31 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.09 (m, 1H), 4.41 (s, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H) ppm.

25 2-[2-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-acetylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 10.76 (bs, 1H), 8.57-8.59 (m, 1H), 8.27-8.29 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.05-7.09 (m, 1H), 4.03 (s, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H) ppm.

2-[2-(2-Chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester.
1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 10.88 (bs, 1H), 8.59-8.60 (m, 1H), 8.31-8.33 (m, 1H),
6.98-7.14 (m, 3H), 4.27 (s, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H) ppm.

2-[2-(2,6-Diethyl-4-methyl-phenyl)-acetylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester. 1H-
5 NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 10.16 (bs, 1H), 8.59-8.61 (m, 1H), 8.21-8.23 (dd, 1H), 7.04-
7.07 (m, 1H), 6.97 (s, 2H), 3.94 (s, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.62-2.70 (m, 4H), 2.34 (s, 3H),
1.18-1.23 (t, 6H) ppm.

5-Bromo-2-[2-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-nicotinic acid. 1H-
NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.97 (d, 1H), 8.62-8.63 (d, 1H), 7.12-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.03-7.08
10 (m, 1H), 4.31 (s, 2H) ppm.

6-Chloro-2-[2-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl
ester. 1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 10.88 (bs, 1H), 8.23-8.25 (d, 1H), 7.05-7.11 (m, 1H),
7.05-7.07 (d, 1H), 6.96-7.03 (m, 1H), 4.34 (s, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H) ppm.

3-[2-(2,4-Dichloro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester.
15 1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 11.04 (bs, 1H), 9.09-9.11 (dd, 1H), 8.42-8.43 (dd, 1H),
7.47-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.37 (m, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 2H) ppm.

3-[2-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-acetylamino]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid
methyl ester. 1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 11.04 (bs, 1H), 9.10 (dd, 1H), 8.41 (dd, 1H),
7.30-7.50 (m, 5H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 2H) ppm.

3-[2-(2-Chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid
methyl ester. 1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 11.09 (bs, 1H), 9.08-9.09 (dd, 1H), 8.42-8.43
20 (dd, 1H), 7.46-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.03 (s, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H) ppm.

3-[2-(2,6-Diethyl-4-methyl-phenyl)-acetylamino]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid
methyl ester. 1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 10.62 (bs, 1H), 9.10-9.12 (dd, 1H), 8.38-8.39
25 (dd, 1H), 7.44-7.47 (m, 1H), 6.98 (s, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 2H), 2.63-2.68 (q, 4H),
2.35 (s, 3H), 1.21 (t, 6H) ppm.

4-[2-(2-Chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester.
1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 11.27 (bs, 1H), 9.15 (s, 1H), 8.60 (s, 2H), 7.13-7.19 (m,
1H), 7.05-7.11 (m, 1H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H) ppm.

3-[2-(2-Chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-isonicotinic acid ethyl ester.
30 1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 10.80 (bs, 1H), 10.00 (s, 1H), 8.44 (d, 1H), 7.79-7.80 (d,
1H), 7.12-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.11 (m, 1H), 4.41-4.55 (q, 2H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 1.40-1.43 (t,
3H) ppm.

6-[2-(2-Chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-[1,2,4]triazine-5-carboxylic acid ethyl ester. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 10.14 (bs, 1H), 9.64 (s, 1H), 7.12-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.02-7.08 (m, 1H), 4.47-4.52 (q, 2H), 4.31 (s, 2H), 1.45 (t, 3H) ppm.

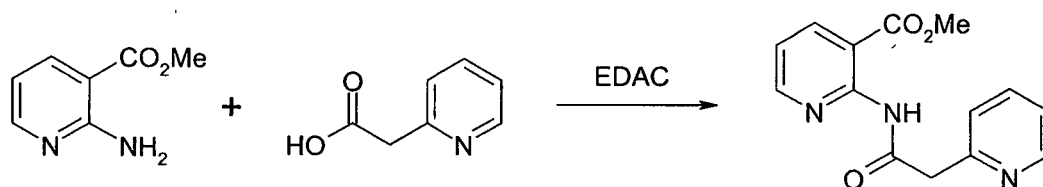
4-[2-(2-Chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-pyrimidine-5-carboxylic acid methyl ester. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 10.94 (bs, 1H), 9.19 (s, 1H), 9.06 (s, 1H), 7.00-7.15 (m, 2H), 4.40 (s, 2H), 3.98 (s, 3H) ppm.

2-[2-(2-Chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-6-trifluoromethyl-nicotinic acid methyl ester. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 10.82 (bs, 1H), 8.52 (d, 1H), 7.07-7.13 (m, 1H), 6.99-7.04 (m, 1H), 4.46 (s, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H) ppm.

2-[2-(3-Bromo-2-chloro-6-fluoro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 10.84 (bs, 1H), 8.57-8.58 (d, 1H), 8.30 (d, 1H), 7.55-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.09 (m, 1H), 6.94-6.97 (m, 1H), 4.33 (s, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H) ppm.

2-[[2-(2,3-Dichloro-6-fluoro-phenyl)-acetyl]-ethyl-amino]-4-methoxy-nicotinic acid ethyl ester. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.56-8.57 (d, 1H), 7.30-7.34 (m, 1H), 6.96-7.00 (m, 1H), 6.90-6.93 (d, 1H), 4.39-4.44 (q, 2H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.90-3.96 (m, 2H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 1.35-1.39 (t, 3H), 1.14-1.18 (t, 3H) ppm.

Example 1.3: Preparation of 2-(2-pyridin-2-yl-acetylamino)-nicotinic acid methyl ester



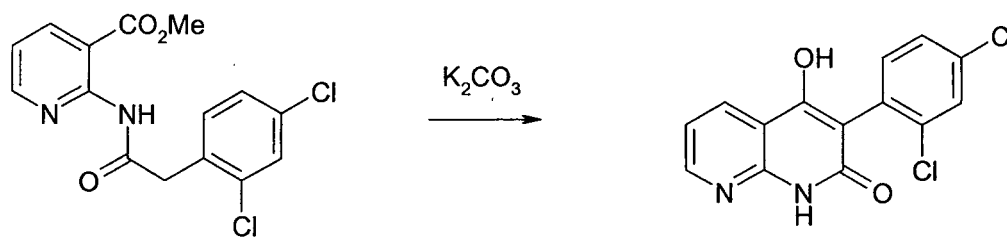
To a solution of 2-pyridyl-acetic acid hydrochloride (310 mg) and 2-amino-nicotinic acid methyl ester (270 mg) (Example 1.1) in dichloromethane (5ml) was added diisopropylethylamine (0.32 ml). The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 20 minutes. To this solution was added 4-dimethylaminopyridine (43 mg) and *N*-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-*N'*-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride ("EDAC") (410 mg). The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 20 hours. The reaction mixture was partitioned between dichloromethane and water. The phases were separated and the organic layer concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: 15% acetone in dichloromethane) to give 2-(2-pyridin-2-yl-acetylamino)-nicotinic acid methyl ester as a yellow solid (86 mg). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 11.14 (bs, 1H), 8.63-8.64 (m, 1H), 8.58-8.59 (dd, 1H), 8.25-

8.27 (dd, 1H), 7.66-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, 1H), 7.20-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.08 (dd, 1H), 4.11 (s, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H) ppm.

The following compounds were made using analogous procedures:

- 5 3-(2-Pyridin-2-yl-acetylamino)-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 11.36 (bs, 1H), 9.10-9.12 (dd, 1H), 8.67-8.69 (m, 1H), 8.40-8.41 (dd, 1H), 7.69-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.27 (m, 1H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 4.00 (s, 2H) ppm.

- 10 Example 1.4: Preparation of 3-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4-hydroxy-1H-[1,8]naphthyridin-2-one (Compound D1 of Table D)



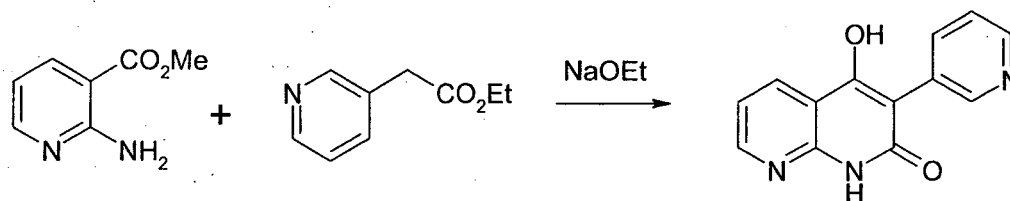
- A mixture of 2-[2-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester (190 mg) (Example 1.2) and potassium carbonate (1 g) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (5 ml) was heated to 110°C for 5 hours. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature and then stored at ambient temperature for 16 hours. Water (5 ml) was added to the reaction mixture and the mixture acidified with potassium hydrogen sulfate (1M in water). The precipitate was isolated and washed successively with water and diethylether and dried to give Compound D1 of Table D as a beige solid (74 mg).

The following compounds made were made using analogous procedures:

- 6-(2-Chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-5-hydroxy-8H-pyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-7-one. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, d₆-DMSO): 10.97 (bs, 1H), 8.93 (s, 1H), 8.78 (s, 1H), 7.26-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.18 (m, 1H) ppm.

Compound Nos. A1, A2 and A8 of Table A, Compound No. B2 of Table B, Compound Nos. D2, D3, D4, D12, D14 and D33 of Table D and Compound No. E4 of Table E.

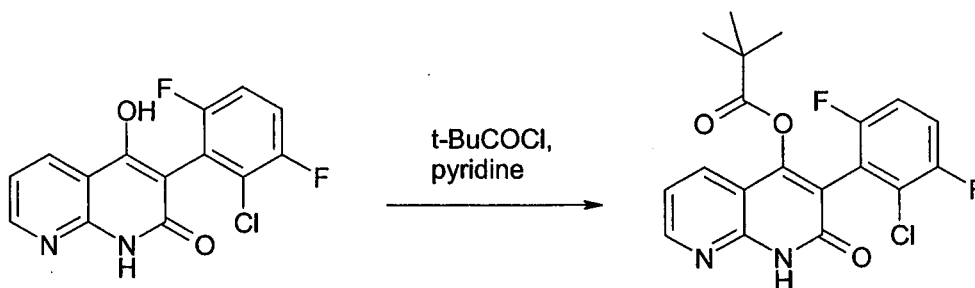
Example 1.5: Preparation of 4-Hydroxy-3-pyridin-3-yl-1*H*-[1,8]naphthyridin-2-one
 (Compound No. D11 of Table D)



To a solution of 2-amino-nicotinic acid methyl ester (200 mg) (Example 1.1) in
 5 *N,N*-dimethylformamide ("DMF") (2ml) was added sodium ethoxide (21 μ l) (21% by
 weight in ethanol) followed by ethyl-3-pyridyl-acetate (200 μ l). The reaction mixture
 was heated in the microwave at 150°C for 15 minutes. The mixture was quenched by
 addition of aqueous hydrochloric acid (2M) (0.72ml) and then diluted with water. The
 precipitate was isolated by filtration and washed with water and finally triturated with
 10 diethyl ether to give 4-hydroxy-3-pyridin-3-yl-1*H*-[1,8]naphthyridin-2-one as a beige
 solid (109 mg). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, d₆-DMSO): 11.75 (bs, 1H), 8.70 (m, 1H), 8.52-8.53
 (dd, 1H), 8.48-8.49 (dd, 1H), 8.35-8.37 (dd, 1H), 7.98 (d, 1H), 7.45-7.49 (dd, 1H), 7.23-
 7.26 (dd, 1H) ppm.

15 The following compound was made using an analogous procedure:
 Compound No. A7 of Table A.

Example 1.6: Preparation of 2,2-dimethyl-propionic acid 3-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-
 phenyl)-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,8]naphthyridin-4-yl ester



20 Compound D4 of Table D (1.487 g) and pyridine (0.978 ml) were stirred in
 dichloromethane (30 ml) at ambient temperature for 5 minutes. 2,2-Dimethylpropionyl
 chloride (0.21 ml) was added portionwise over a period of 10 minutes and the reaction
 stirred at ambient temperature for a further 3 hours. The reaction mixture was diluted
 25 with dichloromethane and washed successively with water, aqueous sodium hydrogen

carbonate (1M) and aqueous hydrochloric acid (2M). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate / hexane 1:1) to give 2,2-dimethyl-propionic acid 3-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,8]naphthyridin-4-yl ester as a white solid (764 mg). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 11.61 (bs, 1H), 8.80-8.81 (d, 1H), 7.85-7.87 (d, 1H), 7.29-7.30 (d, 1H), 7.19-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.10 (m, 1H), 1.16 (s, 9H) ppm.

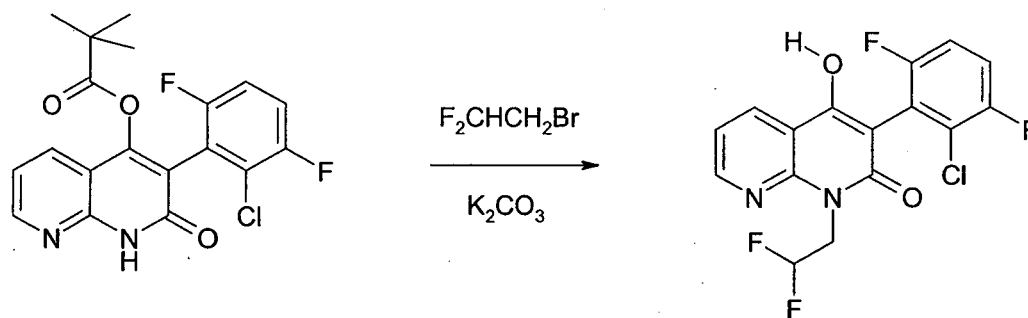
The following compounds were made using analogous procedures:

Isobutyric acid 3-(3-bromo-2-chloro-6-fluoro-phenyl)-2-hydroxy-[1,8]naphthyridin-4-yl ester. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 12.04 (bs, 1H), 8.82-8.84 (d, 1H), 7.89-7.91 (d, 1H), 7.67-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.01-7.05 (t, 1H), 2.71 (sept, 1H), 1.08-1.09 (d, 3H), 1.06-1.07 (d, 3H) ppm.

Compound No. B3 of Table B, Compound No. D15 of Table D, Compound Nos. E1 and E5 of Table E.

2. Reactions which are covered by Scheme 2

Example 2.1: Preparation of 3-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-1-(2,2-difluoro-ethyl)-4-hydroxy-1H-[1,8]naphthyridin-2-one (Compound No. D21 of Table D)



20

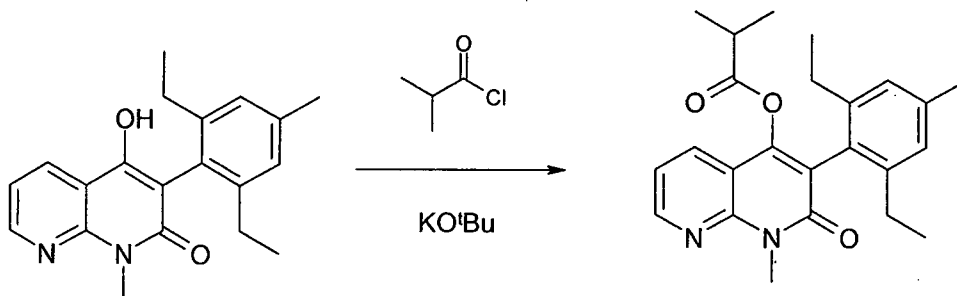
A mixture of 2,2-dimethyl-propionic acid 3-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,8]naphthyridin-4-yl ester (Example 1.5) (0.2 g), potassium carbonate (0.211 g) and 1-bromo-2,2-difluoro-ethane (0.15 g) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (3 ml) was heated to 120°C in a microwave for 15 minutes. The reaction mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The phases were separated and the organic phase was dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate / hexane 1:1) to give Compound No. D21 of Table D as a colourless oil (24 mg).

25

The following compounds made were made using analogous procedures:

Compound Nos. D17 and D32 of Table D and Compound No. E6 of Table E.

- 5 Example 2.2: Preparation of isobutyric acid 3-(2,6-diethyl-4-methyl-phenyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,8]naphthyridin-4-yl ester (Compound No. D6 of Table D)



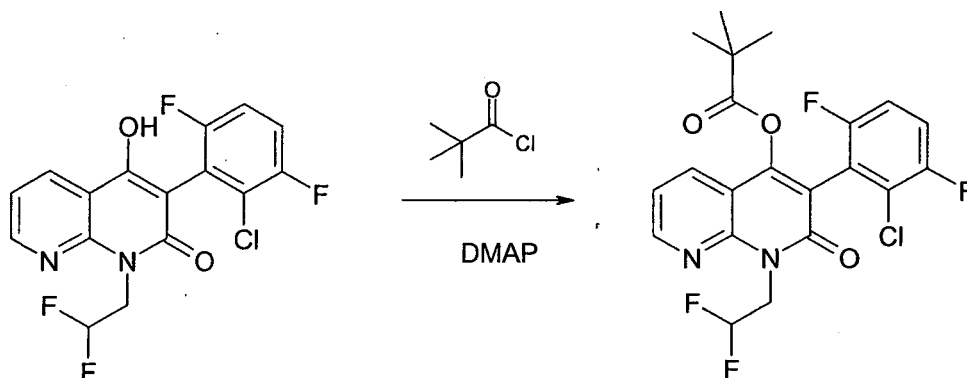
- To a solution of Compound No. D23 of Table D (100 mg) (Example 3.2) in tetrahydrofuran (5 ml) was added potassium *tert*-butoxide (0.38 ml) (1M in tetrahydro-
10 furan). The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 30 minutes. To this mixture was added isobutyryl chloride (42 μ l) and the reaction mixture stirred for at ambient temperature 2 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue purified by column chromatographed on silica gel (eluent: 1% ethyl acetate / dichloro-methane) to give Compound No. D6 of Table D as a white solid (110 mg).

15

The following compounds made were made using analogous procedures:

Compound Nos. A4 to A6 of Table A and Compound Nos. D7 to D9 of Table D.

Example 2.3: Preparation of 2,2-dimethyl-propionic acid 3-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-1-(2,2-difluoro-ethyl)-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,8]naphthyridin-4-yl ester (Compound No. D10 of Table D)

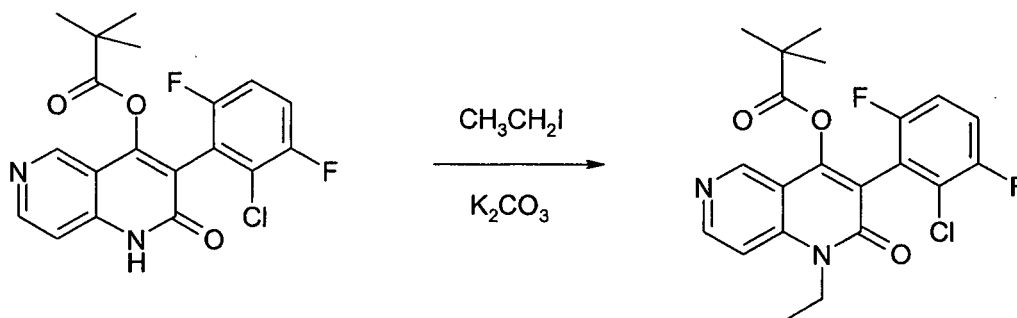


- 5 To a solution of Compound No. D24 of Table D (Example 2.1) (300 mg) in acetonitrile (3 ml) was added 4-dimethylaminopyridine ("DMAP") (10 mg) and 2,2-dimethyl-propionyl chloride (0.21 ml). The reaction mixture was heated in a microwave for 1500 seconds at 150°C. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate / hexane 1:4) to
10 give Compound No. D10 of Table D (24 mg).

The following compounds made were made using analogous procedures:
Compound No. B5 of Table B, Compound No. C2 of Table C, Compound Nos. D16 and D19 of Table D.

15

Example 2.4: Preparation of 2,2-dimethyl-propionic acid 3-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-1-ethyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,6]naphthyridin-4-yl ester (Compound No. B1 of Table B)

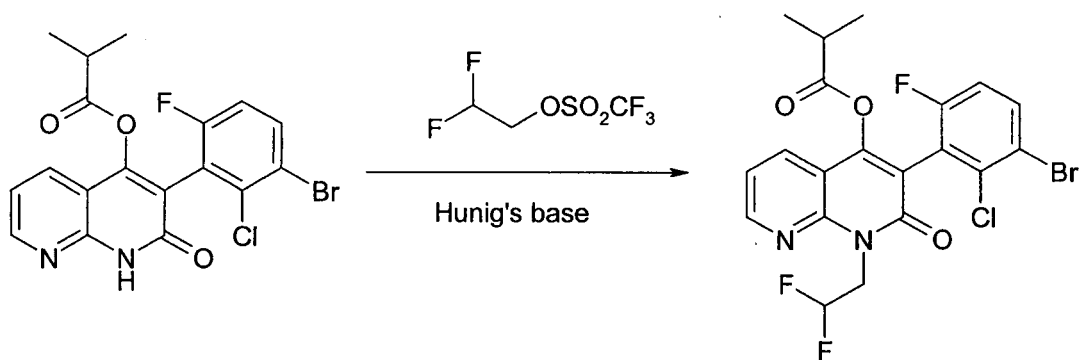


- 20 To a solution of 2,2-dimethyl-propionic acid 3-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,6]naphthyridin-4-yl ester (250 mg) in acetonitrile (1.5 ml) was added

potassium carbonate (88 mg) followed by methyl iodide (51 μ l). The reaction mixture was heated to 100°C for 22 minutes in a microwave and then cooled to ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and water. The phases were separated. The organic fraction was washed with water and brine, dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate / hexane 1:3 and then 1:1) to give Compound No. B1 of Table B as an orange oil (16 mg). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.84 (s, 1H), 8.71 (d, 1H), 7.32 (d, 1H), 7.18-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.10 (m, 1H), 4.38 (q, 2H), 1.41 (t, 3H), 1.16 (s, 9H) ppm.

The following compounds were made using analogous procedures: Compound No. D30 of Table D, and Compound Nos. E2 and E3 of Table E. Furthermore, Compound No. D31 of Table D was isolated as a by-product of Compound No. D30 of Table D.

Example 2.5: Preparation of isobutyric acid 3-(3-bromo-2-chloro-6-fluoro-phenyl)-1-(2,2-difluoro-ethyl)-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,8]naphthyridin-4-yl ester (Compound No. D23 of Table D)

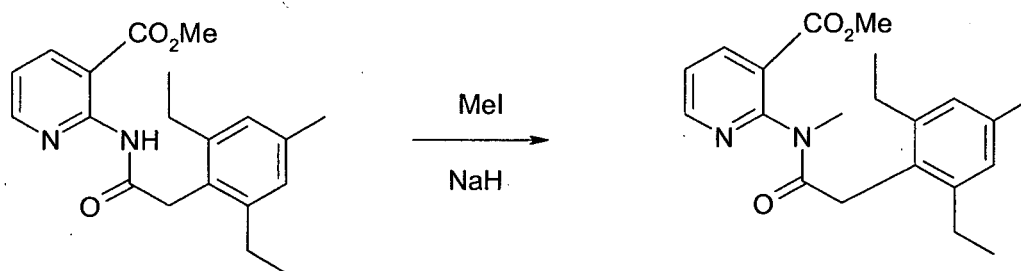


To a solution of Isobutyric acid 3-(3-bromo-2-chloro-6-fluoro-phenyl)-2-hydroxy-[1,8]naphthyridin-4-yl ester (1.749g) in acetonitrile (17 ml) was added *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine ("Hunig's base") (0.83 ml) at ambient temperature. The mixture was stirred for 5 minutes at ambient temperature before drop wise addition of a solution of 2,2-difluoroethyltrifluoromethanesulfonate (1.022 g) at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 7 hours when further 2,2-difluoroethyltrifluoromethanesulfonate (0.5 g) and the reaction was stirred overnight. A further portion of 2,2-difluoroethyltrifluoromethanesulfonate (0.5 g) and *N,N*-

diisopropylethylamine ("Hunig's base") (0.83 ml) was added and the reaction was stirred for 5 hours then left to stand overnight. The reaction was concentrated and partitioned between ethyl acetate and 2M hydrochloric acid. The organic layer was dried and concentrated and the oily residue was purified by column chromatography on silica
 5 (eluent: 4:1 hexane:ethyl acetate) to give Compound No. D23 of Table D as a light yellow solid (1.56 g).

3. Reactions which are covered by Scheme 3

10 Example 3.1: Preparation of 2-{{2-(2,6-diethyl-4-methyl-phenyl)-acetyl}-methyl-amino}-nicotinic acid methyl ester



To a solution of 2-[[2-(2,6-diethyl-4-methyl-phenyl)-acetyl]amino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester (Example 1.2) (460 mg) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (5 ml) was added
 15 iodomethane (0.42 ml) at between -5°C and 0°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 minutes before the addition of sodium hydride (60 mg) (60% by weight dispersion in mineral oil) in one portion at between -5°C and 0°C. The reaction mixture was stirred at between -5°C and 0°C for 1 hour, and then at ambient temperature for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was partitioned between diethylether and
 20 aqueous hydrochloric acid (2M). The phases were separated and the organic phase was washed with brine, dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: 10% ethyl acetate / dichloromethane) to give 2-{{2-(2,6-diethyl-4-methyl-phenyl)-acetyl}-methyl-amino}-nicotinic acid methyl ester as a light orange oil (370 mg). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):
 25 8.76 (m, 1H), 8.36-8.38 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.47 (m, 1H), 6.83 (s, 2H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.33 (bs, 2H), 3.27 (bs, 3H), 2.47-2.57 (m, 4H), 2.26 (bs, 3H), 1.09-1.12 (m, 6H) ppm.

The following compounds made were made using analogous procedures.

2-{{2-(2-Chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetyl}-methyl-amino}-nicotinic acid methyl ester. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.76-8.77 (m, 1H), 8.41-8.44 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.52 (m, 1H), 6.88-7.06 (m, 2H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 3.28 (s, 3H) ppm.

5 5-Bromo-2-{{2-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetyl}-methyl-amino}-nicotinic acid methyl ester. The crude compound was used directly for further synthesis.

3-{{2-(2-Chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetyl}-methyl-amino}-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.79-8.80 (m, 1H), 7.81-7.83 (m, 1H), 7.63-7.66 (m, 1H), 6.91-7.11 (m, 2H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.55-3.59 (m, 2H), 3.28 (s, 3H) ppm.

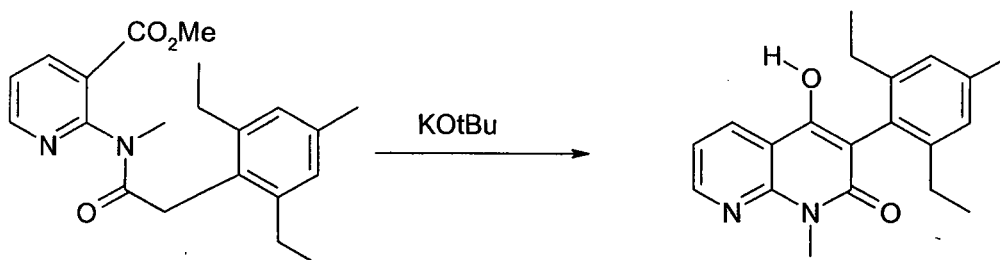
10 3-{{2-(2,6-Diethyl-4-methyl-phenyl)-acetyl}-methyl-amino}-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.76-8.78 (dd, 1H), 7.71-7.74 (dd, 1H), 7.59-7.62 (m, 1H), 6.82 (s, 2H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 2.45 (q, 4H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.11 (t, 6H) ppm.

15 3-{{2-(2-Chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetyl}-methyl-amino}-isonicotinic acid ethyl ester. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.75-8.76 (d, 1H), 8.69 (d, 1H), 7.82-7.84 (dd, 1H), 6.93-7.03 (m, 1H), 6.85-6.90 (m, 1H), 4.35-4.42 (m, 2H), 3.40 (s, 2H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 1.32-1.36 (t, 3H) ppm.

2-{{2-(2-Chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetyl}-methyl-amino}-6-trifluoromethyl-nicotinic acid methyl ester used crude in the next step

20

Example 3.2: Preparation of 3-(2,6-diethyl-4-methyl-phenyl)-4-hydroxy-1-methyl-1H-[1,8]naphthyridin-2-one (Compound No. D20 of Table D)



25 To a solution of 2-{{2-(2,6-diethyl-4-methyl-phenyl)-acetyl}-methyl-amino}-nicotinic acid methyl ester (300 mg) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (5 ml) was added potassium *tert*-butoxide (250 mg). The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 18 hours, and then at 50°C for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was partitioned the reaction between water and dichloromethane. The phases were separated

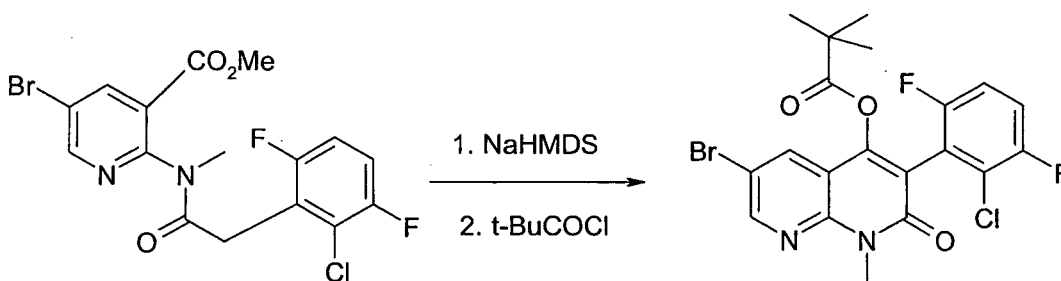
and the aqueous phase was extracted with further dichloromethane and ethyl acetate. The aqueous phase was acidified by addition of aqueous hydrochloric acid (2M) and extracted three times with ethyl acetate. The combined organic extracts were dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated. The residue was passed through a plug of silica
 5 eluting with ethyl acetate to give Compound No. D20 of Table D as an off-white solid (320 mg).

The following compounds made were made using analogous procedures:

3-(2,6-Diethyl-4-methyl-phenyl)-4-hydroxy-1-methyl-1*H*-[1,5]naphthyridin-2-one. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.50-8.51 (m, 1H), 7.76-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.01 (s, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.34-2.46 (m, 4H), 1.09 (t, 6H) ppm.

Compound No. A3 of Table A, Compound No. B4 of Table B, Compound No. C1 of Table C, Compound Nos. D5, D18, D22, D26 and D29 of Table D.

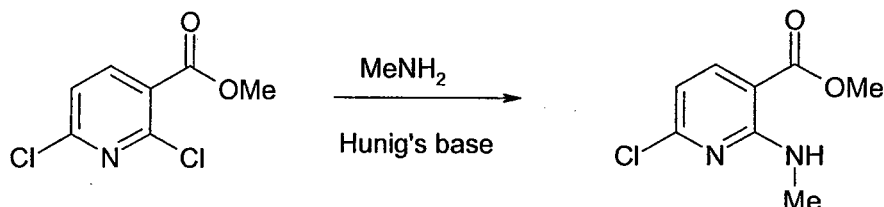
15 Example 3.3: Preparation of 2,2-dimethyl-propionic acid 6-bromo-3-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,8]naphthyridin-4-yl ester (Compound No. D13 of Table D)



Sodium hexamethyldisilazide ("NaHMDS") (1.78 ml) (1M in tetrahydrofuran)
 20 was added dropwise to a solution of 5-bromo-2-{[2-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetyl]-methyl-amino}-nicotinic acid methyl ester (Example 3.1) (0.22 g) in tetrahydrofuran (5 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere and heated to 40°C for 2 hours. 2,2-Dimethyl-propionyl chloride (0.3 ml) was added to the reaction mixture and the reaction mixture heated for a further hour. The reaction mixture was partitioned between
 25 dichloromethane and water. The phases were separated and the organic phase was concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate / hexane 1:4) to give Compound No. D13 of Table D as an off-white solid (16 mg).

4. Reactions that are covered by Scheme 4

Example 4.1: Preparation of 6-chloro-2-methylamino-nicotinic acid methyl ester



- 5 A solution of 2,6-dichloro-nicotinic acid methyl ester (1.5 g), methylamine (0.99 ml) (33% by weight in ethanol) and diisopropylethylamine ("Hunig's base") (1.38 ml) was heated in a microwave for 10 minutes at 120°C. The reaction mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The phases were separated and the organic layer was concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent:
- 10 ethyl acetate / hexane 1:9) to give 6-chloro-2-methylamino-nicotinic acid methyl ester as a white solid (915 mg). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.03 (bs, 1H), 7.99-8.01 (d, 1H), 6.49-6.51 (d, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.05-3.06 (d, 3H) ppm.

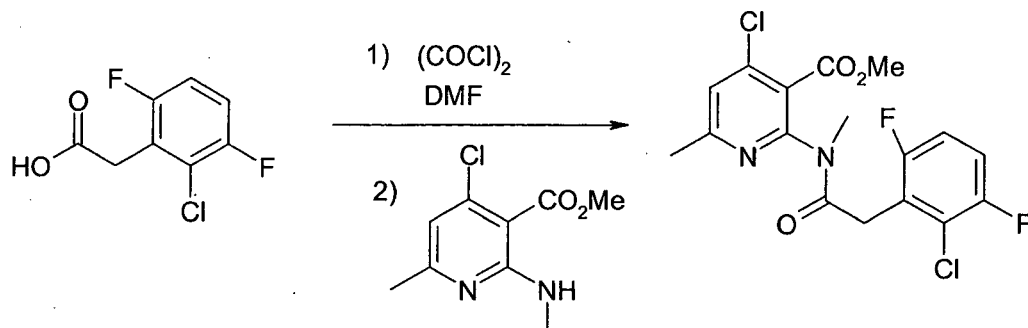
The following compounds made were made using analogous procedures.

- 15 2-Chloro-6-methyl-4-methylamino-nicotinic acid ethyl ester. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.16 (bs, 1H), 6.32 (s, 1H), 4.35-4.40 (q, 2H), 2.67-2.89 (d, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.38-1.42 (t, 3H) ppm.

- 4-Chloro-6-methyl-2-methylamino-nicotinic acid ethyl ester ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.35 (bs, 1H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 4.35-4.40 (q, 2H), 3.00-3.01 (d, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H),
- 20 1.38-1.42 (t, 3H) ppm.

2-Ethylamino-4-methoxy-nicotinic acid ethyl ester. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.08-8.10 (d, 1H), 7.54 (bs, 1H), 6.15-6.17 (d, 1H), 4.31-4.36 (q, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.45-3.52 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.39 (t, 3H), 1.23-1.27 (t, 3H) ppm.

Example 4.2: Preparation of 4-chloro-2-[[2-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetyl]-methyl-amino]-6-methyl-nicotinic acid ethyl ester



5 Oxalyl chloride (0.19 ml) was added dropwise to a solution of (2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetic acid (373 mg) in dichloromethane (5 ml) at ambient temperature. A drop of *N,N*-dimethylformamide ("DMF") was added to initiate the reaction. The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 1 hour. The reaction mixture was concentrated to give a colourless oil which was dissolved in dichloromethane (5 ml). The mixture was added dropwise to a slurry of 4-chloro-6-methyl-2-methylamino-nicotinic acid ethyl ester (Example 4.1) (413 mg) and pyridine (0.16 ml) in dichloromethane (5 ml). The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was partitioned between dichloromethane and water. The phases were separated and the organic layer was concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate / hexane 1:4) to give 4-chloro-2-[[2-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetyl]-methyl-amino]-6-methyl-nicotinic acid ethyl ester as a yellow solid (299 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.32 (bs, 1H), 7.00-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.90-6.96 (m, 1H), 4.43-4.45 (m, 2H), 3.66 (s, 2H), 3.24 (m, 3H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 1.37-1.40 (t, 3H) ppm.

20

The following compounds made were made using analogous procedures.

2-Chloro-4-[[2-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetyl]-methyl-amino]-6-methyl-nicotinic acid ethyl ester. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.02-7.08 (m, 1H), 6.93-7.00 (m, 1H), 4.42-4.46 (m, 2H), 3.49-3.75 (m, 2H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 1.38-1.42 (t, 3H) ppm.

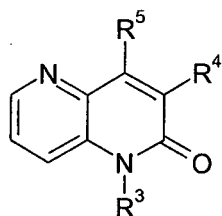
25

6-Chloro-2-[[2-(2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl)-acetyl]-methyl-amino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester. The crude compound was used directly for further synthesis.

Furthermore, 2-amino-6-trifluoromethyl-nicotinic acid methyl ester can be prepared according to WO 08/076425 and 2-chloro-4-methoxy-nicotinic acid ethyl ester
 5 can be prepared following the method and references in J. Org. Chem., Vol. 70, No. 16, 2005.

Table A:

10 Compounds of formula (A), where R³, R⁴ and R⁵ have the values as described in the table below.



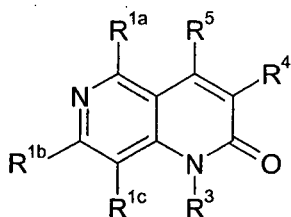
(A)

Comp No.	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	¹ H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ except where indicated; chemical shifts in ppm)
A1	H	2,4-dichloro-phenyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 11.68 (bs, 1H), 8.52 (d, 1H), 7.63-7.74 (m, 3H), 7.45-7.48 (dd, 1H), 7.36 (d, 1H).
A2	H	2-trifluoro-methoxy-phenyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 11.64 (bs, 1H), 8.51-8.52 (dd, 1H), 7.71-7.74 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.43 (m, 3H).
A3	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 11.79 (bs, 1H), 8.61-8.62 (dd, 1H), 8.10 (dd, 1H), 7.79-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.51-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.40 (m, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H).
A4	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl-	i-Pr-(CO)O-	7.57-7.59 (dd, 1H), 7.78 (dd, 1H), 7.55-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.10 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.82 (sept, 1H), 1.13-1.16 (dd, 6H).
A5	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl-	t-Bu-(CO)O-	8.57-8.58 (dd, 1H), 7.75-7.78 (dd, 1H), 7.54-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.04-7.10 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 1.21 (s, 9H).

Comp No.	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ except where indicated; chemical shifts in ppm)
A6	Me	2,6-diethyl-4-methyl-phenyl-	i-Pr-(CO)O-	8.66-8.67 (dd, 1H), 7.82-7.85 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.61 (m, 1H), 6.97 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.71 (sept, 1H), 2.33-2.44 (m, 4H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.08-1.12 (m, 6H), 0.93 (bs, 6H).
A7	H	3-pyridyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 11.75 (bs, 1H), 8.73 (m, 1H), 8.52-8.54 (m, 2H), 7.99-8.01 (m, 1H), 7.73-7.75 (m, 1H), 7.63-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.53 (m, 1H).
A8	H	2-pyridyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 11.13 (bs, 1H), 9.33-9.35 (m, 1H), 8.59-8.60 (m, 1H), 8.42-8.44 (m, 1H), 8.10-8.14 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.46 (m, 1H).
A9	H	2,4,6-trifluoro-phenyl-	HO-	Described in WO 04/056824 (Compound No. 13 of Table 128 on page 62).

Table B:

Compounds of formula (B), where R³, R⁴ and R⁵ have the values as described in the table below.



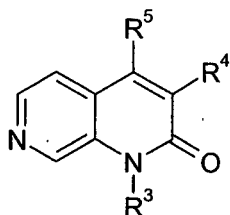
(B)

Comp No.	R ^{1a}	R ^{1b}	R ^{1c}	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ except where indicated; chemical shifts in ppm)
B1	H	H	H	Et	2-chloro-3,6-difluoro-phenyl-	t-Bu-(CO)O-	8.84 (s, 1H), 8.71 (d, 1H), 7.32 (d, 1H), 7.18-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.10 (m, 1H), 4.38 (q, 2H), 1.41 (t, 3H), 1.16 (s, 9H).

Comp No.	R ^{1a}	R ^{1b}	R ^{1c}	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ except where indicated; chemical shifts in ppm)
B2	H	H	H	H	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 11.74 (bs, 1H), 8.97 (s, 1H), 8.44-8.45 (d, 1H), 7.39-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.19 (d, 1H).
B3	H	H	H	H	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	t-Bu-(CO)O-	8.83 (s, 1H), 8.61-8.63 (d, 1H), 7.23-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.14 (m, 1H), 1.16 (s, 9H).
B4	Cl	Me	H	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	HO-	7.48 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.23 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 2.63 (s, 3H).
B5	Cl	Me	H	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	t-Bu-(CO)O-	7.14 (s, 1H), 7.18-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.10 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.66 (s, 3H), 1.03 (s, 9H).

Table C:

Compounds of formula (C), where R³, R⁴ and R⁵ have the values as described in the table below.



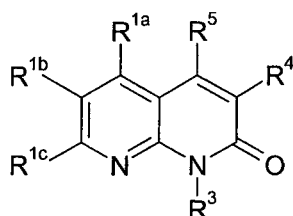
(C)

Comp No.	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ except where indicated; chemical shifts in ppm)
C1	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 8.76 (s, 1H), 8.34 (d, 1H), 7.82-7.83 (d, 1H), 7.10-7.16 (m, 1H), 6.96-7.00 (m, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H).

Comp No.	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ except where indicated; chemical shifts in ppm)
C2	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	i-Pr-(CO)O-	8.97 (s, 1H), 8.55-8.56 (d, 1H), 7.42-7.43 (d, 1H), 7.19-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.11 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.68-2.75 (m, 1H), 1.07-1.10 (d, 6H).
C3	H	2,4,6-trifluorophenyl-	HO-	Described in WO 04/056824 (Compound No. 25 of Table 128 on page 62).

Table D:

Compounds of formula (D), where R³, R⁴ and R⁵ have the values as described in the table below.



(D)

Comp No.	R ^{1a}	R ^{1b}	R ^{1c}	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ except where indicated; chemical shifts in ppm)
D1	H	H	H	H	2,4-dichlorophenyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 8.54-8.56 (dd, 1H), 8.22-8.29 (dd, 1H), 7.69 (d, 1H), 7.45-7.48 (dd, 1H), 7.34 (d, 1H), 7.25-7.28 (dd, 1H).
D2	H	H	H	H	2,6-dichlorophenyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 11.92 (bs, 1H), 10.97 (bs, 1H), 8.56-8.58 (dd, 1H), 8.31-8.33 (dd, 1H), 7.55 (d, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.48-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.28 (m, 1H).
D3	H	H	H	H	2-trifluoromethoxyphenyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 11.84 (bs, 1H), 10.73 (bs, 1H), 8.54-8.55 (dd, 1H), 8.32-8.35 (dd, 1H), 7.49-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.28 (m, 1H).

Comp No.	R ^{1a}	R ^{1b}	R ^{1c}	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ except where indicated; chemical shifts in ppm)
D4	H	H	H	H	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 12.01 (bs, 1H), 11.21 (bs, 1H), 8.58-8.60 (dd, 1H), 8.33-8.36 (dd, 1H), 7.51-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.31 (m, 1H).
D5	H	H	H	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 11.29 (bs, 1H), 8.73-8.75 (dd, 1H), 8.43-8.45 (dd, 1H), 7.52-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.40 (m, 2H), 3.68 (s, 3H).
D6	H	H	H	Me	2,6-diethyl-4-methylphenyl-	i-Pr-(CO) O-	8.65-8.67 (dd, 1H), 7.75-7.78 (dd, 1H), 7.19-7.22 (m, 1H), 6.96 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 2.53 (sept, 1H), 2.30-2.45 (m, 7H), 1.11 (t, 6H), 0.90 (d, 6H).
D7	H	H	H	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	i-Pr-(CO) O-	8.71-8.73 (dd, 1H), 7.87-7.90 (dd, 1H), 7.17-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.04-7.10 (m, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.70 (sept, 1H), 1.06-1.09 (dd, 6H).
D8	H	H	H	Me	2,6-diethyl-4-methylphenyl-	t-Bu-(CO) O-	8.66-8.67 (dd, 1H), 7.71-7.73 (dd, 1H), 7.19-7.22 (m, 1H), 6.95 (s, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 2.31-2.43 (m, 4H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.10 (t, 6H), 0.99 (s, 9H).
D9	H	H	H	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	t-Bu-(CO) O-	8.71-8.73 (dd, 1H), 7.83-7.86 (dd, 1H), 7.24-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.04-7.09 (m, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 1.15 (t, 9H).
D10	H	H	H	F ₂ HC-H ₂ C-	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	t-Bu-(CO) O-	8.75-8.76 (dd, 1H), 7.91-7.93 (dd, 1H), 7.32-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.15 (m, 1H), 6.21-6.50 (tt, 1H), 5.05-5.13 (m, 2H), 1.20 (t, 9H).

Comp No.	R ^{1a}	R ^{1b}	R ^{1c}	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ except where indicated; chemical shifts in ppm)
D11	H	H	H	H	3-pyridyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 11.75 (bs, 1H), 8.70 (m, 1H), 8.52-8.53 (dd, 1H), 8.48-8.49 (dd, 1H), 8.35-8.37 (dd, 1H), 7.98 (d, 1H), 7.45-7.49 (dd, 1H), 7.23-7.26 (dd, 1H).
D12	H	H	H	H	2-pyridyl-	HO-	-
D13	H	Br	H	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	t-Bu-(CO) O-	8.72 (d, 1H), 7.89 (d, 1H), 7.18-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.04-7.09 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 1.15 (s, 9H).
D14	H	H	Cl	H	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	HO-	d ₄ -MeOH: 8.34-8.36 (d, 1H), 7.30-7.32 (d, 1H), 7.31-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.21 (m, 1H).
D15	H	H	Cl	H	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	t-Bu-(CO) O-	9.10 (bs, 1H), 7.72-7.75 (d, 1H), 7.24-7.26 (d, 1H), 7.19-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.10 (m, 1H), 1.14 (s, 9H).
D16	H	H	Cl	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	t-Bu-(CO) O-	7.75-7.77 (d, 1H), 7.23-7.25 (d, 1H), 7.18-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.04-7.09 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 1.14 (s, 9H).
D17	H	H	Cl	F ₂ HC-H ₂ C-	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	HO-	8.43-8.45 (d, 1H), 7.39-7.41 (d, 1H), 7.33-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.23 (m, 1H), 6.09-6.39 (tt, 1H), 4.81-4.83 (m, 2H).
D18	Cl	H	Me	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	HO-	7.28 (s, 1H), 7.32-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.22 (m, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.60 (s, 3H).
D19	Cl	H	Me	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	t-Bu-(CO) O-	7.11 (s, 1H), 7.17-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.09 (m, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 1.01 (s, 9H).
D20	H	H	H	Me	2,6-diethyl-4-methylphenyl-	HO-	8.65-8.67 (m, 1H), 8.25-8.27 (dd, 1H), 7.19-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.06 (s, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.31-2.48 (m, 4H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.08 (t, 6H).

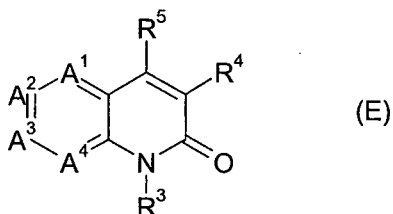
Comp No.	R ^{1a}	R ^{1b}	R ^{1c}	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	¹ H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ except where indicated; chemical shifts in ppm)
D21	H	H	H	F ₂ HC-H ₂ C-	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	HO-	8.72 (d, 1H), 8.40-8.42 (d, 1H), 7.32-7.35 (d, 1H), 7.20-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.14 (m, 1H), 6.13-6.44 (tt, 1H), 4.94-5.02 (m, 2H).
D22	H	H	Cl	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	HO-	d ₄ -MeOH: 8.40-8.43 (d, 1H), 7.35-7.37 (d, 1H), 7.32-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.22 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H).
D23	H	H	H	F ₂ HC-H ₂ C-	3-bromo-2-chloro-6-fluorophenyl-	i-Pr-(CO) O-	8.69 (d, 1H) 7.90-7.91 (d, 1H) 7.66-7.70 (m, 1H) 7.26-7.31 (m, 2H) 7.00-7.04 (m, 1H), 6.15-6.46 (tt, 1H) 4.99-5.07 (m, 2H) 2.67-2.74 (m, 1H) 1.06-1.08 (m, 6H).
D24	H	H	H	Me	2,4,6-trimethylphenyl-	HO-	-
D25	H	H	H	H	3-methoxyphenyl-	HO-	-
D26	Me O-	H	H	Et	2,3-dichloro-6-fluorophenyl-	HO-	9.28 (bs, 1H) 8.59-8.60 (d, 1H), 7.45-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.03-7.07 (m, 1H), 6.79 (d, 1H), 4.58-4.63 (q, 2H) 4.14 (s, 3H), 1.32-1.35 (t, 3H).
D27	H	Br	H	H	2,6-difluorophenyl-	HO-	-
D28	H	Br	H	H	2,4,6-trifluorophenyl-	HO-	-
D29	H	H	F ₃ C-	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	HO-	8.55 (d, 1H), 7.56 (d, 1H), 7.08-7.13 (m, 1H), 6.98-7.03 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H).
D30	H	H	F ₃ C-	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	t-Bu-(CO) O-	8.01 (d, 1H), 7.60 (d, 1H), 7.20-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.11 (m, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H) 1.16 (s, 9H).

Comp No.	R ^{1a}	R ^{1b}	R ^{1c}	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	¹ H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ except where indicated; chemical shifts in ppm)
D31	H	H	F ₃ C-	H	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	t-Bu-(CO)O-	7.99 (d, 1H), 7.61 (d, 1H), 7.20-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.11 (m, 1H), 1.16 (s, 9H).
D32	H	H	H	F ₂ HC-H ₂ C-	3-bromo-2-chloro-6-fluorophenyl-	HO-	8.68-8.69 (d, 1H), 8.36 (d, 1H), 7.66-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.00-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.09-6.40 (tt, 1H), 4.91-4.99 (m, 2H).
D33	H	H	H	H	3-bromo-2-chloro-6-fluorophenyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 11.92 (bs, 1H), 8.53-8.54 (d, 1H), 8.27-8.30 (d, 1H), 7.81-7.84 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.28 (m, 2H).

Table E:

Compounds of formula (E), where A¹, A², A³, A⁴, R³, R⁴ and R⁵ have the values as

5 described in the table below.



Comp No.	A ¹	A ²	A ³	A ⁴	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	¹ H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ except where indicated; chemical shifts in ppm)
E1	-CH-	N	-CH-	N	H	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	t-Bu-(CO)O-	d ₆ -DMSO: 13.29 (bs, 1H), 9.16 (s, 1H), 8.99 (s, 1H), 7.63-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.50 (m, 1H), 1.07 (s, 9H).
E2	-CH-	N	-CH-	N	Et	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	i-Pr-(CO)O-	9.20 (s, 1H), 8.99 (s, 1H), 7.24-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.15 (m, 1H), 4.59-4.65 (q, 2H), 2.76 (sept, 1H), 1.43 (t, 3H), 1.14 (d, 3H), 1.12 (d, 3H).

Comp No.	A ¹	A ²	A ³	A ⁴	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	¹ H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ except where indicated; chemical shifts in ppm)
E3	-CH-	N	-CH-	N	F ₂ HC-H ₂ C-	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	i-Pr-(CO)O-	9.22 (s, 1H), 8.94 (s, 1H), 7.26-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.16 (m, 1H), 6.15-6.45 (tt, 1H), 4.96-5.04 (m, 2H), 2.78 (sept, 1H), 1.12-1.15 (m, 6H).
E4	N	-CH-	N	N	H	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	HO-	d ₆ -DMSO: 12.96 (bs, 1H), 9.77 (s, 1H), 7.56-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.44 (m, 1H).
E5	N	-CH-	N	N	H	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	Me-(CO)O-	9.70 (s, 1H), 9.54 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.16 (m, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H).
E6	N	-CH-	N	N	Me	2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenyl-	Me-(CO)O-	9.69 (s, 1H), 9.54 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.16 (m, 1H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H).
E7	N	-CH-	N	N	H	2-chloro-6-fluorophenyl-	HO-	Described in WO 04/056829 (Compound No. 18 of Table 132 on page 64).
E8	-CH-	-CH-	N	N	H	2-chloro-6-fluorophenyl	HO-	Described in WO 04/056825 (Compound No. 42 of Table 129 on page 61).
E9	N	-CH-	N	N	H	2,4,6-trimethylphenyl-	EtO-(CO)O-	9.68 (s, 1H), 6.96 (s, 2H), 4.20-4.27 (q, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.12 (s, 6H), 1.29 (t, 3H).
E10	-CH-	N	-CH-	N	H	2,4,6-trifluorophenyl-	HO-	Described in WO 04/056826 (Compound No. 13 of Table 128 on page 62).

Comp No.	A ¹	A ²	A ³	A ⁴	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	¹ H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ except where indicated; chemical shifts in ppm)
E11	N	-CH-	N	N	H	2,4,6-trifluoro-phenyl-	HO-	Described in WO 04/056829 (Compound No. 13 of Table 132 on page 64).
E12	N	-CH-	N	N	H	2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl-	HO-	9.59 (s, 1H), 6.97 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 6H).
E13	-CH-	N	N	-CH-	H	2,4,6-trifluoro-phenyl-	HO-	Described in WO 04/056825 (Compound No. 25 of Table 129 on page 61).

Biological Examples

5 Example B1: Herbicidal action

Seeds of a variety of test species were sown in sterilised standard soil in seed trays each having 96 cells. After cultivation for 8 to 9 days cultivation (post-emergence) under controlled conditions in a climatic chamber (cultivation at 23/17°C, day/night; 13 hours light; 50-60% humidity), the plants were treated with an aqueous spray solution of 1000 mg/l of the active ingredient dissolved in 10% DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide, CAS 10 167-68-5) as a solvent, equivalent to 1000 g/ha. The plants were grown in the climatic chamber after application at (24/19°C, day/night; 13 hours light; 50-60% humidity) and watered twice daily. After 9 days until the test was evaluated (10 = total damage to plant, 0 = no damage to plant)

15

Table B1: Application post-emergence

Comp No.	Rate (g/ha)	STEME	NAAOF	AMARE	SOLNI
A1	1000	0	2	0	0
A2	1000	3	0	0	0
20 A3	1000	3	4	6	3
A4	1000	4	6	5	4

	A5	1000	0	3	0	7
	A6	1000	8	6	3	6
	A7	1000	6	2	0	0
	D5	1000	7	6	7	0
5	D6	1000	2	0	0	0
	D7	1000	3	0	6	0
	D8	1000	2	3	0	0
	D9	1000	2	2	3	0
	D20	1000	5	5	0	0
10	E4	1000	0	0	2	4
	E6	1000	2	0	0	0

STEME = *Stellaria media*; NAAOF = *Nasturtium officinale*; AMARE = *Amaranthus retroflexus*; SOLNI = *Solanum nigrum*.

15 Compound Nos. A8 and A9 of Table A, Compound Nos. B2 and B3 of Table B, Compound No. C3 of Table C, Compound Nos. D1, D2, D3, D4, D11, D12, D15, D25, D27 and D28 of Table D, Compound Nos. E5, E7, E8, E10, E11 and E13 of Table E were tested using the same protocol and showed little or no damage to the test plants under the test conditions.

20

Example B2: Herbicidal action

Seeds of a variety of test species were sown in standard soil in pots. After 8 days cultivation (post-emergence) under controlled conditions in a glasshouse (at 24/16°C, day/night; 14 hours light; 65% humidity), the plants were sprayed with an aqueous spray solution derived from the formulation of the technical active ingredient in acetone / water (50:50) solution containing 0.5% Tween 20 (polyoxyethelyene sorbitan monolaurate, CAS RN 9005-64-5). The test plants were then grown in a glasshouse under controlled conditions in a glasshouse (at 24/16°C, day/night; 14 hours light; 65% humidity) and watered twice daily. After 13 days, the test was evaluated (10 = total damage to plant; 0 = no damage to plant).

25

30

Table B2: Application post-emergence

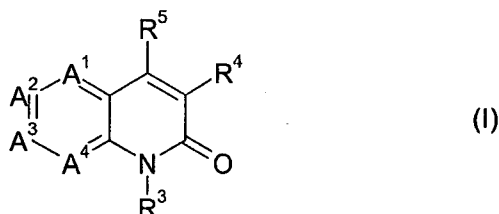
	Comp No.	Rate (g/ha)	SOLNI	AMARE	SETFA	ECHCG	IPOHE
	B4	1000	2	0	0	0	2
	C1	1000	0	0	0	0	2
	C2	1000	2	3	0	0	5
5	D10	1000	7	7	0	0	6
	D14	1000	0	4	0	4	0
	D16	1000	2	2	0	0	2
	D17	1000	6	6	0	0	5
	D18	1000	3	2	2	0	0
10	D21	1000	10	10	1	2	9
	D22	1000	4	2	0	1	6
	D23	1000	9	4	0	1	4
	D24	1000	1	0	0	0	1
	D26	1000	6	6	4	4	6
15	D29	1000	4	6	0	0	7
	D30	1000	2	0	0	0	2
	D31	1000	0	0	0	0	1
	D32	1000	7	4	1	1	6
	D33	1000	3	1	0	0	7
20	E2	1000	4	5	0	2	2
	E3	1000	5	7	0	0	1
	E9	1000	0	0	9	10	1
	E12	1000	1	5	10	10	3

25 SOLNI = *Solanum nigrum*; AMARE = *Amaranthus retroflexus*; SETFA = *Setaria faberi*;
 ECHCG = *Echinochloa crus-galli*; IPOHE = *Ipomea hederaceae*.

Compound Nos. B1 and B5 of Table B, Compound Nos. D13 and D19 of Table D, and Compound No. E1 of Table E were tested using the same protocol and showed little or no damage to the test plants under the test conditions.

CLAIMS:

1. A method of controlling plants which comprises applying to the plants or to the locus thereof a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula (I)



wherein

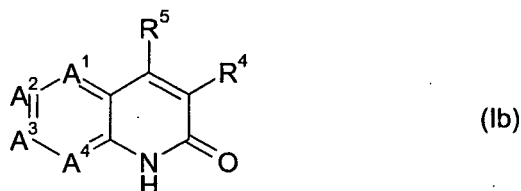
- 5 A¹, A², A³ and A⁴ are independently C-R¹ or N, provided at least one of A¹, A², A³ and A⁴ is N, and provided that if A¹ and A⁴ are both N, A² and A³ are not both C-R¹; each R¹ is independently hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, halo, cyano, hydroxy, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkylthio, aryl or aryl substituted by one to five R⁶, which may be the same or different, or heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by one to five R⁶, which may be the same or different;
- 10 R³ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₀alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₂-C₁₀alkenyl, C₂-C₄haloalkenyl, C₂-C₁₀alkynyl, C₂-C₄haloalkynyl, C₃-C₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃-C₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-, C₁-C₁₀alkoxy-C₁-C₆alkyl-, C₁-C₁₀cyanoalkyl-, C₁-C₁₀alkoxycarbonyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-, *N*-C₁-C₃alkyl-aminocarbonyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-, *N,N*-di-(C₁-C₃alkyl)-aminocarbonyl-C₁-C₆alkyl-,
- 15 aryl-C₁-C₆alkyl- or aryl-C₁-C₆alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R⁷, which may be the same or different, or heterocyclyl-C₁-C₆alkyl- or heterocyclyl-C₁-C₆alkyl- wherein the heterocyclyl moiety is substituted by one to three R⁷, which may be the same or different;
- R⁴ is aryl or aryl substituted by one to five R⁸, which may be the same or different, or heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by one to four R⁸, which may be the same or different;
- 20 R⁵ is hydroxy or a group which can be metabolised to a hydroxy group; each R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ is independently halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₁₀alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₂-C₁₀alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀alkynyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₁₀alkoxy, C₁-C₄haloalkoxy, C₁-C₁₀alkoxy-C₁-C₄alkyl-, C₃-C₇cycloalkyl, C₃-C₇cycloalkoxy, C₃-C₇cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄alkyl-, C₃-C₇cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄alkoxy-, C₁-C₆alkylcarbonyl-, formyl, C₁-C₄alkoxycarbonyl-, C₁-C₄alkylcarbonyloxy-, C₁-C₁₀alkylthio-, C₁-C₄haloalkylthio-, C₁-C₁₀alkylsulfinyl-, C₁-C₄haloalkylsulfinyl-, C₁-C₁₀alkylsulfonyl-, C₁-C₄haloalkylsulfonyl-, amino, C₁-
- 25

C₁₀alkylamino-, di-C₁-C₁₀alkylamino-, C₁-C₁₀alkylcarbonylamino-, aryl or aryl substituted by one to three R¹³, which may be the same or different, heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by one to three R¹³, which may be the same or different, aryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- or aryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R¹³,
 5 which may be the same or different, heteroaryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- or heteroaryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- wherein the heteroaryl moiety is substituted by one to three R¹³, which may be the same or different, aryloxy- or aryloxy- substituted by one to three R¹³, which may be the same or different, heteroaryloxy- or heteroaryloxy- substituted by one to three R¹³, which may be the same or different, arylthio- or arylthio- substituted by one to three R¹³, which may
 10 be the same or different, or heteroarylthio- or heteroarylthio- substituted by one to three R¹³, which may be the same or different; and
 each R¹³ is independently halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆haloalkyl or C₁-C₆alkoxy; or a salt or *N*-oxide thereof.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein up to three of A¹, A², A³ and A⁴ are N.
3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein each R¹ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, halo, cyano, hydroxy or C₁-C₄alkoxy.
4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein R³ is hydrogen,
 15 C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₂-C₄alkenyl, C₂-C₄haloalkenyl, C₂-C₄alkynyl or C₂-C₄haloalkynyl.
5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein R⁴ is aryl or aryl substituted by one to five R⁸, which may be the same or different.
6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein R⁵ is hydroxy, R⁹-oxy-, R¹⁰-carbonyloxy-, tri-R¹¹-silyloxy- or R¹²-sulfonyloxy-, wherein
 20 R⁹ is C₁-C₁₀alkyl, C₂-C₁₀alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀alkynyl or aryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- or aryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to five substituents independently selected from halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆haloalkyl or C₁-C₆alkoxy;
 R¹⁰ is C₁-C₁₀alkyl, C₃-C₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃-C₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁-C₁₀alkyl-, C₁-C₁₀haloalkyl, C₂-C₁₀alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀alkynyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy-C₁-C₁₀alkyl-, C₁-C₄alkylthio-C₁-C₄alkyl-, C₁-

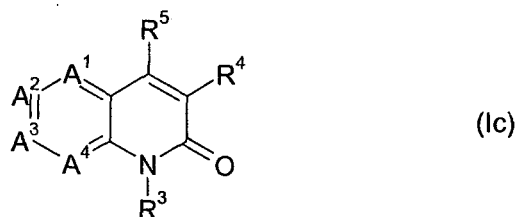
- C₁₀alkoxy, C₂-C₁₀alkenyloxy, C₂-C₁₀alkynyloxy, C₁-C₁₀alkylthio-, *N*-C₁-C₄alkyl-amino-, *N,N*-di-(C₁-C₄alkyl)-amino-, aryl or aryl substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, aryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- or aryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, heteroaryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- or heteroaryl-C₁-C₄alkyl- wherein the heteroaryl moiety is substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, aryloxy- or aryloxy- substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, heteroaryloxy- or heteroaryloxy- substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, arylthio- or arylthio- substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different, or heteroarylthio- or heteroarylthio- substituted by one to three R¹⁴, which may be the same or different; each R¹¹ is independently C₁-C₁₀alkyl or phenyl or phenyl substituted by one to five substituents independently selected from halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆haloalkyl or C₁-C₆alkoxy;
- R¹² is C₁-C₁₀alkyl, C₁-C₁₀haloalkyl, or phenyl or phenyl substituted by one to five substituents independently selected from halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆haloalkyl or C₁-C₆alkoxy; and each R¹⁴ is independently halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₁₀alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₁₀alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkoxycarbonyl-, C₁-C₄haloalkoxy, C₁-C₁₀alkylthio-, C₁-C₄haloalkylthio-, C₁-C₁₀alkylsulfinyl-, C₁-C₄haloalkylsulfinyl-, C₁-C₁₀alkylsulfonyl-, C₁-C₄haloalkylsulfonyl-, aryl or aryl substituted by one to five substituents independently selected from halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆haloalkyl or C₁-C₆alkoxy, or heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from halo, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆haloalkyl or C₁-C₆alkoxy.

7. A compound of formula (Ib)



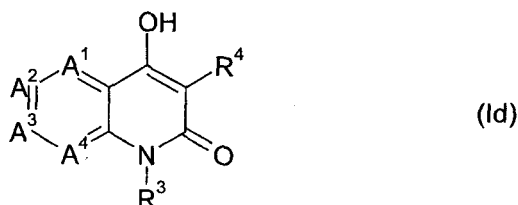
wherein A¹, A², A³, A⁴ and R⁴ are as defined in claim 1 and R⁵ is a group which can be metabolised to a hydroxy group; or a salt or *N*-oxide thereof.

8. A compound of formula (Ic)



wherein A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 and R^4 are as defined in claim 1 and R^3 is C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxy- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} cyanoalkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxycarbonyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, N - C_1 - C_3 alkyl-aminocarbonyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, N,N -di- $(C_1$ - C_3 alkyl)-aminocarbonyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, aryl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- or aryl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R^7 , which may be the same or different, or heterocyclyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- or heterocyclyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- wherein the heterocyclyl moiety is substituted by one to three R^7 , which may be the same or different; and R^5 is a group which can be metabolised to a hydroxy group; or a salt or N -oxide thereof.

9. A compound of formula (Id)



wherein A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 and R^4 are as defined in claim 1 and R^3 is C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxy- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} cyanoalkyl-, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxycarbonyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, N - C_1 - C_3 alkyl-aminocarbonyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, N,N -di- $(C_1$ - C_3 alkyl)-aminocarbonyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl-, aryl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- or aryl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- wherein the aryl moiety is substituted by one to three R^7 , which may be the same or different, or heterocyclyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- or heterocyclyl- C_1 - C_6 alkyl- wherein the heterocyclyl moiety is substituted by one to three R^7 , which may be the same or different; or a salt or N -oxide thereof.

10. A herbicidal composition which comprises a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 in addition to formulation adjuvants.

11. A herbicidal composition which comprises a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6, optionally one or more further herbicides, and optionally one or more safeners.