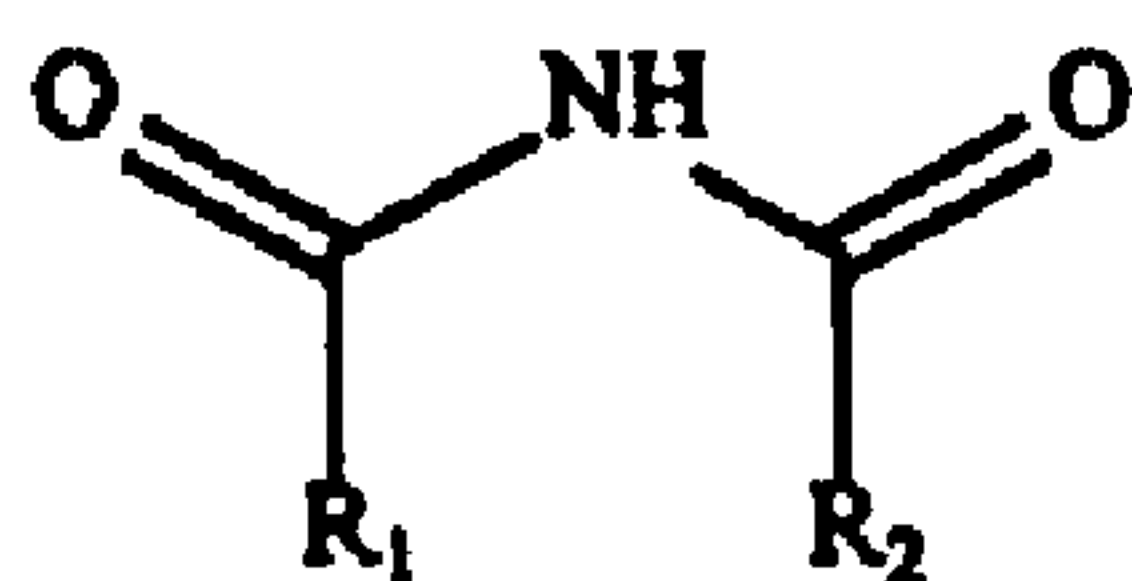




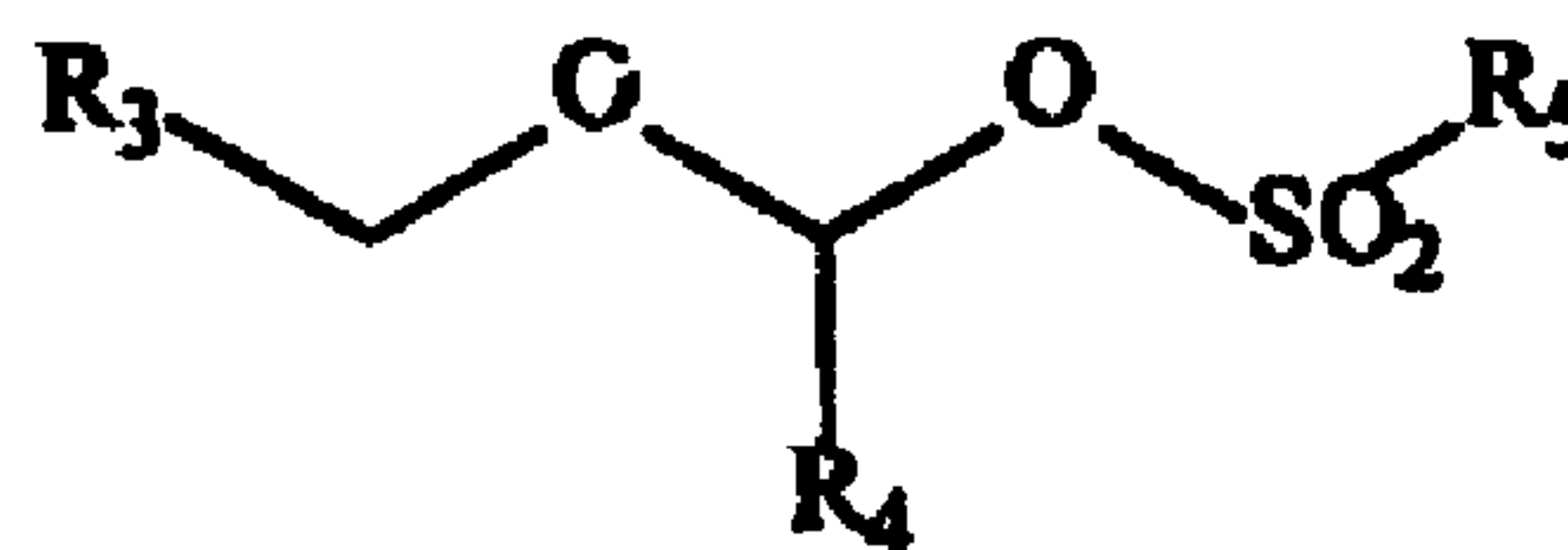
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(54) Titre : PROCEDE ET REACTIFS DE N-ALKYLATION D'UREIDES
(54) Title: METHOD AND REAGENTS FOR N-ALKYLATING UREIDES



(I)



(III)

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A method of N-alkoxyalkylating ureides according to the invention comprises reacting a ureide of structure (I) with an alkylating agent of structure (III) in the presence of a basic catalyst in an aprotic reaction medium. The ureide may be a 5,5-disubstituted barbituric acid, or it may be phenytoin, glutethimide, and ethosuximide. The alkylating agent is an ester of a sulfonic acid. The base may be hydride or amine. A preferred process comprises N-alkoxyalkylating 5,5-diphenyl-barbituric acid with methoxymethyl methanesulfonate in the presence of di-isopropyl ethyl amine and isolating the resultant N,N'-bismethoxymethyl-5,5-diphenyl-barbituric acid. The invention also contemplates the novel compounds N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid, N-methoxymethyl ethosuximide, and N-methoxymethyl glutethimide, and a method comprising administering them to a patient.





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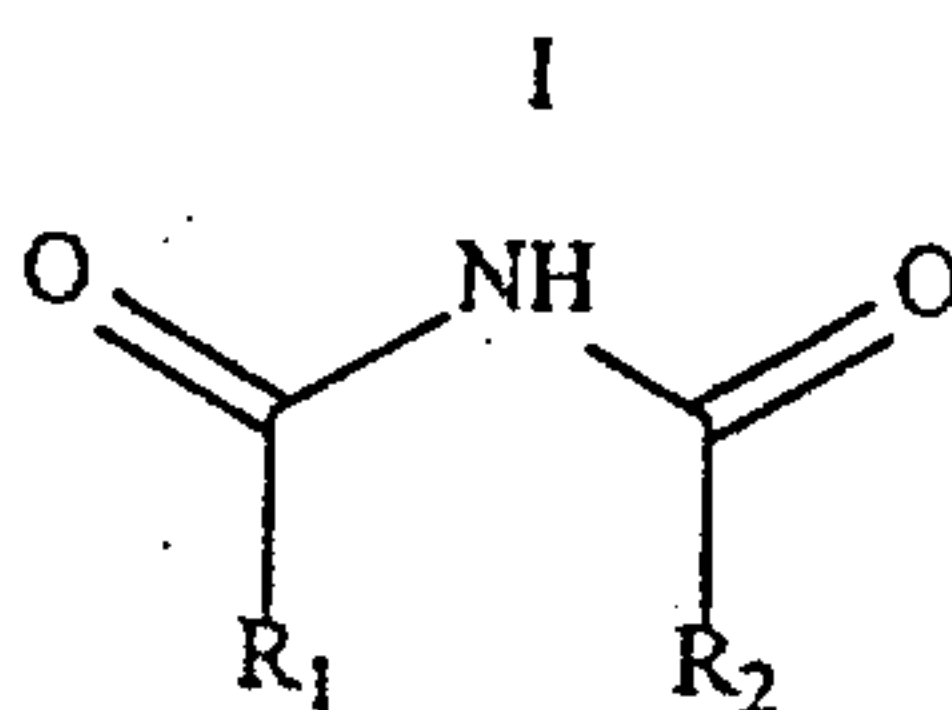
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/20665 (22) International Filing Date: 2 October 1998 (02.10.98) (30) Priority Data: 08/942,636 2 October 1997 (02.10.97) US (63) Related by Continuation (CON) or Continuation-in-Part (CIP) to Earlier Application US 08/942,636 (CON) Filed on 2 October 1997 (02.10.97) (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): TARO PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES LTD. [IL/IL]; P.O. Box 2043, 46120 Herzlia Pituach (IL). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): GUTMAN, Daniela [IL/IL]; Hirshfield 12, 75421 Rishon Lizion (IL). HERZOG, Hershel [US/US]; 369 Martling Avenue, Tarrytown, NY 10591 (US). (74) Agents: GOLLIN, Michael, A. et al.; Venable, Suite 300 East, 1100 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005-3955 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: METHOD AND REAGENTS FOR N-ALKYLATING UREIDES (57) Abstract A method of N-alkoxyalkylating ureides according to the invention comprises reacting a ureide of structure (I) with an alkylating agent of structure (III) in the presence of a basic catalyst in an aprotic reaction medium. The ureide may be a 5,5-disubstituted barbituric acid, or it may be phenytoin, glutethimide, and ethosuximide. The alkylating agent is an ester of a sulfonic acid. The base may be hydride or amine. A preferred process comprises N-alkoxyalkylating 5,5-diphenyl-barbituric acid with methoxymethyl methanesulfonate in the presence of di-isopropyl ethyl amine and isolating the resultant N,N'-bismethoxymethyl-5,5-diphenyl-barbituric acid. The invention also contemplates the novel compounds N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid, N-methoxymethyl ethosuximide, and N-methoxymethyl glutethimide, and a method comprising administering them to a patient. $\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \quad \text{NH} \quad \text{O} \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \text{C} \quad \text{C} \\ \quad \\ \text{R}_1 \quad \text{R}_2 \end{array} \quad (I)$ $\begin{array}{c} \text{R}_3 \quad \text{O} \quad \text{O} \quad \text{R}_5 \\ \quad \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \text{C} \quad \text{C} \\ \\ \text{R}_4 \end{array} \quad (III)$		

METHOD AND REAGENTS FOR N-ALKYLATING UREIDES

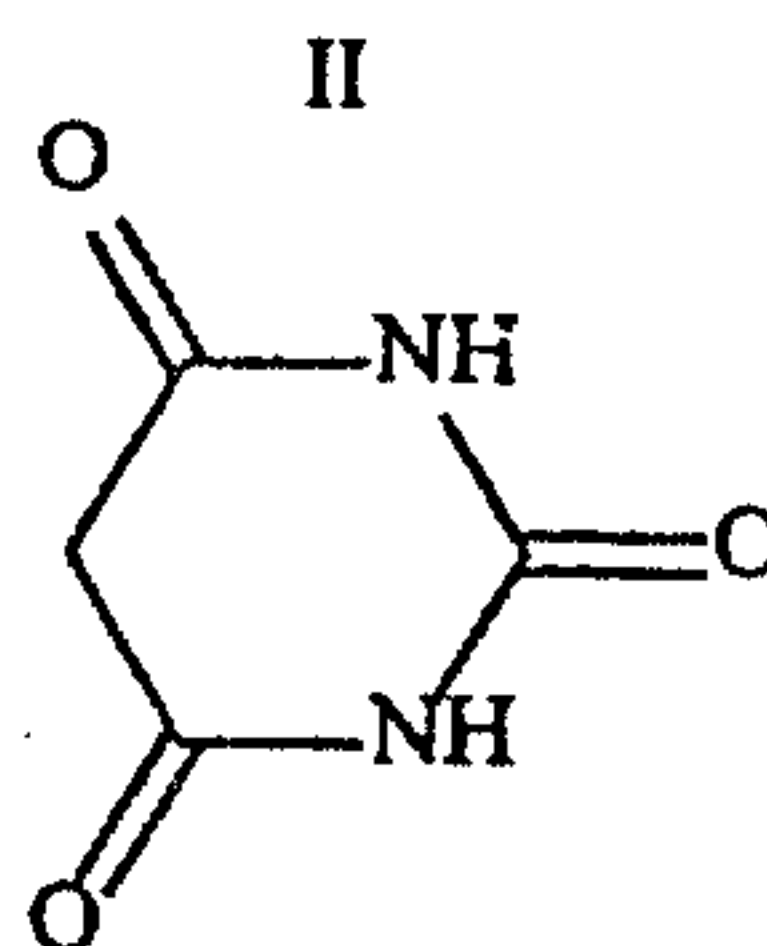
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a new means for N-alkylating ureides that is higher yielding, more convenient, and safer to use than techniques practiced heretofore. This approach is particularly suited to preparing N-(alkoxyalkylene) ureides, which include anti-convulsant drugs of the N-substituted barbituric acid class.

The term ureide is used in e.g. Foye, Principles of Medicinal Chemistry, 3d ed. (1990), pp. 164, 179. Ureides are a class of imides of general structure I:



Examples include hypnotics, such as acecarbromal, apronalide, bromisolvalum, capuride, carbromal, and ectylurea; and anticonvulsant drugs such as hydantoins, glutarimides, oxazolidinediones, succinimides, and barbiturates such as barbituric acid (structure II).



U.S. Patent 4,628,056 teaches a method of making 1,3 bis(methoxymethyl)-5,5-diphenyl barbituric acid (also called N,N'-bis(methoxymethyl)-5,5-diphenyl barbituric acid) by dissolving diphenyl barbituric acid in cooled dimethylformamide, adding sodium hydride, then adding chloromethyl methyl ether. Chloromethyl methyl ether has been widely used to alkylate with a methoxymethylene function. However, it is highly toxic and regulated as a carcinogen. It is extremely volatile and flammable under exothermic reaction conditions, and alternatives to its use are strongly desirable.

Almost three decades ago, methoxymethyl methanesulfonate was identified as an agent for alkylating some alcohols and amines in a self-catalyzing reaction. Karger et al., J.A.C.S.

91:5663 (1969). With amines, the reaction was complex and led to salts, dimers, and other side products being formed. This method has not been applied to alkylation of ureides, or imides, for which there are major differences in electron availability at nitrogen.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 The inventive method avoids the use of volatile, carcinogenic chloromethyl methyl ether, replacing that reagent with a more reactive, less volatile alternative which may be generated *in situ* (without risk to the operator).

10 The invention solves a previously unrecognized problem limiting the applicability of methoxymethanesulfonate alkylation to alcohols and amines. Ureides are much less basic than amines, so a different method for oxyalkylation is required. This invention differs from the method of Karger et al. by using a ureide, a non-aqueous basic catalyst, and an aprotic solvent, modifications which were not previously known or suggested. The inventive method allows use of a variety of sulfonates to prepare a broad variety of oxyalkylated ureides, some not previously known. The simplicity and convenience of the invention provide advantages that
15 were not previously appreciated.

20 A method of N-alkoxyalkylating ureides according to the invention comprises reacting a ureide of structure I with an alkylating agent of structure III in the presence of a basic catalyst in an aprotic reaction medium. The alkylating agent III may be combined directly with the ureide, or the method may include reacting *in situ* a mixed anhydride of acetic acid and a sulfonic acid with a dialkoxymethane to provide the alkylating agent III. The method preferably involves isolating the resultant N-alkoxyalkylated ureide.

25 Preferably, the ureide is a 5,5-disubstituted barbituric acid, phenytoin, glutethimide, or ethosuximide. The alkylating agent may be methoxymethyl methanesulfonate, methoxymethyl benzenesulfonate, or methoxymethyl p-toluenesulfonate. The base may be selected from sodium hydride, triethyl amine, and di-isopropyl ethyl amine.

 When the process includes the step of reacting a dialkoxymethane and a mixed acetic sulfonic anhydride to produce the resulting ester of the sulfonic acid, that reaction may be carried out in the same vessel as the following reaction with the ureide (done sequentially).

A preferred process comprises N-alkylating 5,5-diphenyl-barbituric acid with a reagent selected from the group consisting of methoxymethyl methanesulfonate, methoxymethyl benzenesulfonate, and methoxymethyl p-toluenesulfonate, in the presence of di-isopropyl ethyl amine and isolating the resultant N,N'-bismethoxymethyl-5,5-diphenyl-barbituric acid.

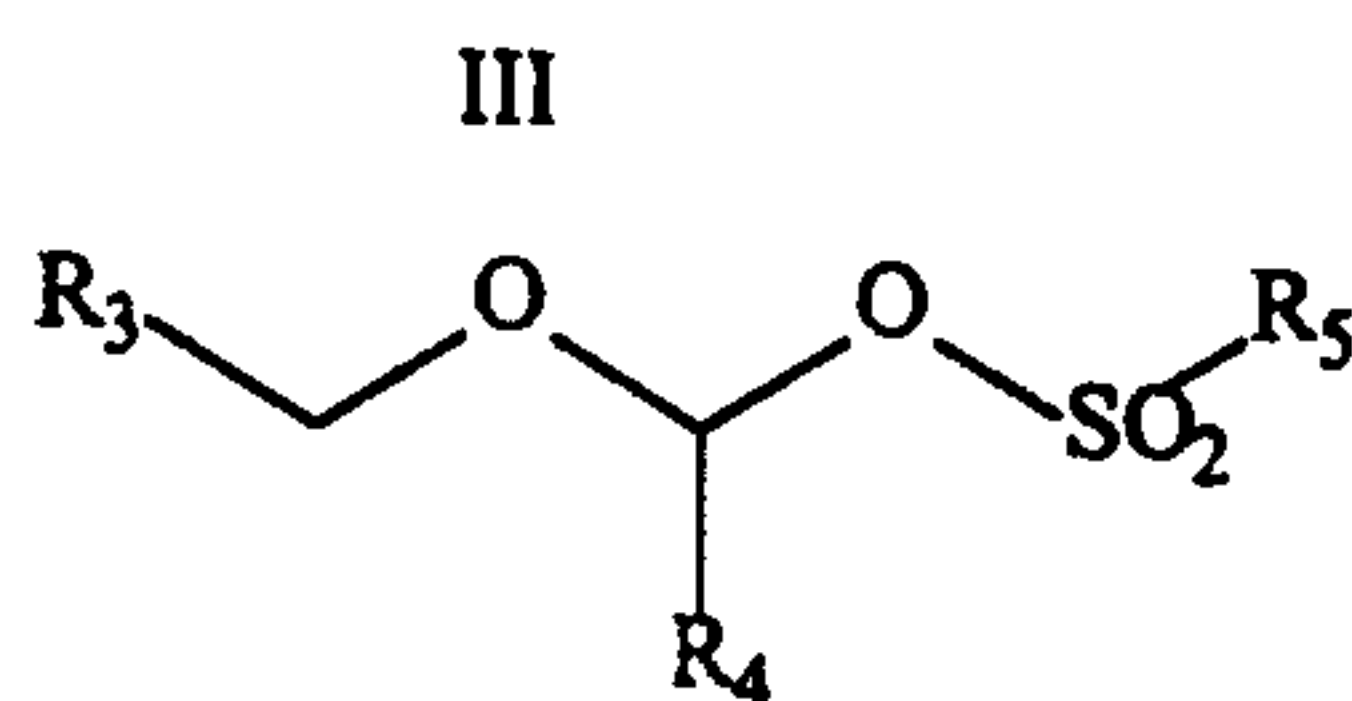
5 The invention also contemplates the novel compounds N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenyl-barbituric acid, N-methoxymethyl ethosuximide and N-methoxymethyl glutethimide, methods of making them, and a method comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a pharmaceutical agent selected from the group consisting of N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenyl-barbituric acid, N-methoxymethyl ethosuximide and N-methoxymethyl glutethimide.

10 Further objectives and advantages will become apparent from a consideration of the description and examples.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In describing preferred embodiments of the present invention illustrated in the drawings, specific terminology is employed for the sake of clarity. However, the invention
15 is not intended to be limited to the specific terminology so selected, and it is to be understood that each specific element includes all technical equivalents which operate in a similar manner to accomplish a similar purpose.

The reagent class which possesses the desirable N-alkylating properties is characterized as compounds of structure III



where the R groups are preferably as follows:

$R_3 = \text{H, lower alkyl, phenyl, or substituted phenyl}$

$R_4 = \text{H, lower alkyl, phenyl, or substituted phenyl}$

$R_5 = \text{lower alkyl, phenyl, or substituted phenyl}$

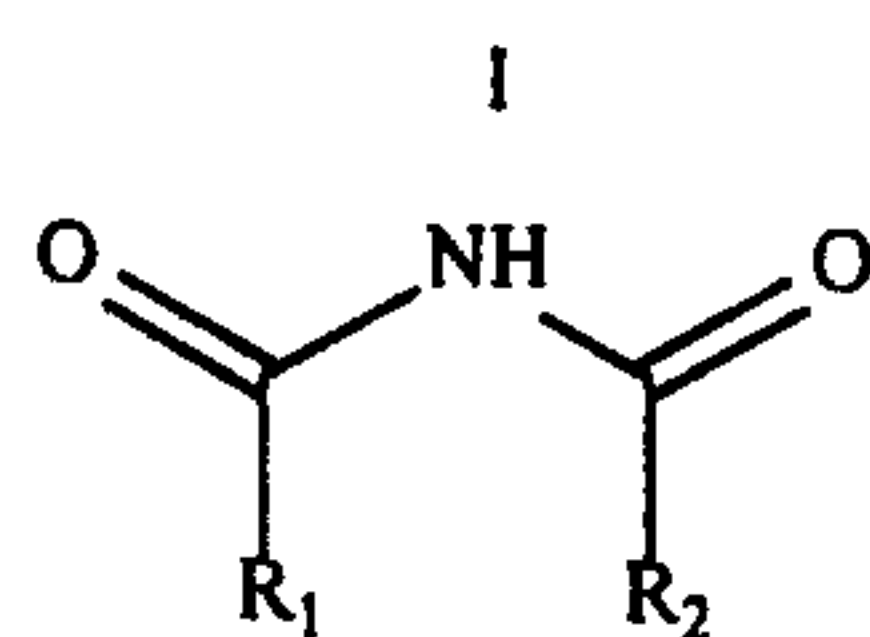
- 5 Particular examples of structures belonging to this class are listed in Table 1:

Table 1

	Compound III	R_3	R_4	R_5
1.	methoxymethyl methanesulfonate	H	H	CH_3
2.	ethoxymethyl methanesulfonate	CH_3	H	CH_3
3.	benzyloxymethyl methanesulfonate	phenyl	H	CH_3
10 4.	methoxymethyl ethanesulfonate	H	H	C_2H_5
5.	methoxymethyl benzenesulfonate	H	H	phenyl
6.	methoxymethyl p-toluenesulfonate	H	H	tolyl
7.	methoxylbenzylidene methanesulfonate	H	phenyl	CH_3
8.	methoxyethylidene methanesulfonate	H	CH_3	CH_3

- 15 A particularly preferred reagent is methoxymethyl methanesulfonate.

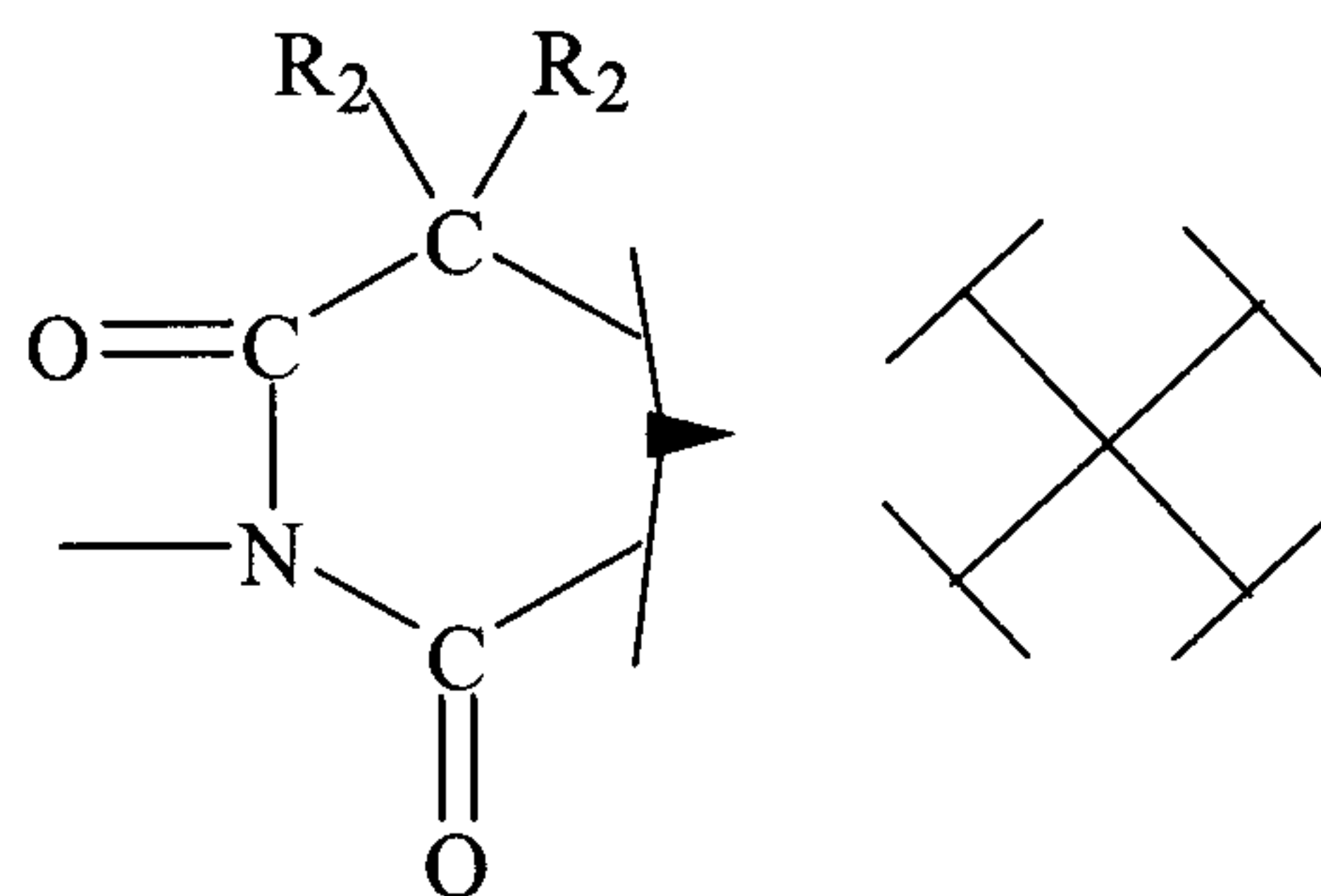
The ureides which have been shown to be alkylated belong to the family of compounds having structure I:



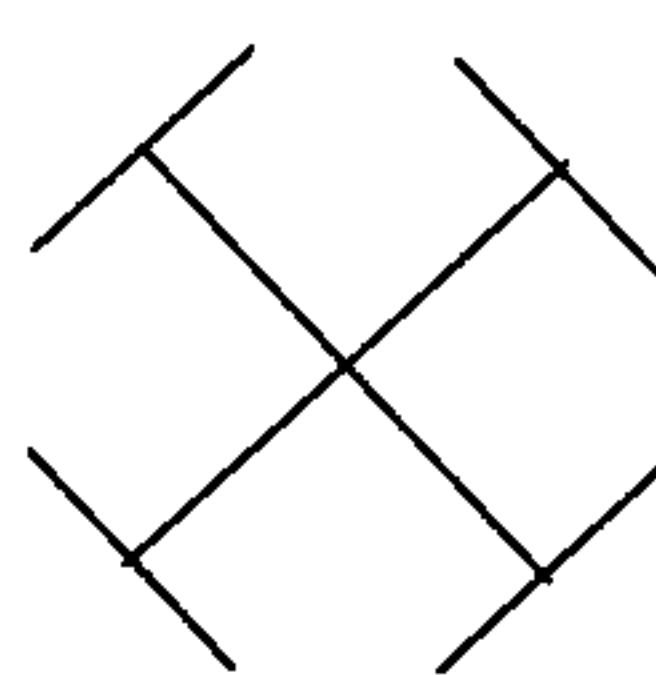
- 5 which may be linear (with R_1 and R_2 being alkyl, aryl, or arylalkyl), or cyclic (R_1 and R_2 bonded to form a ring). Tables 2 and 3 (taken from Foye et al., Principles of Medicinal Chemistry, 3rd Edition (Lea and Febiger 1990), pp. 164 and 179) depict ureide drugs.

TABLE 2

Structure of Anticonvulsant Drugs Containing the Ureide Structure

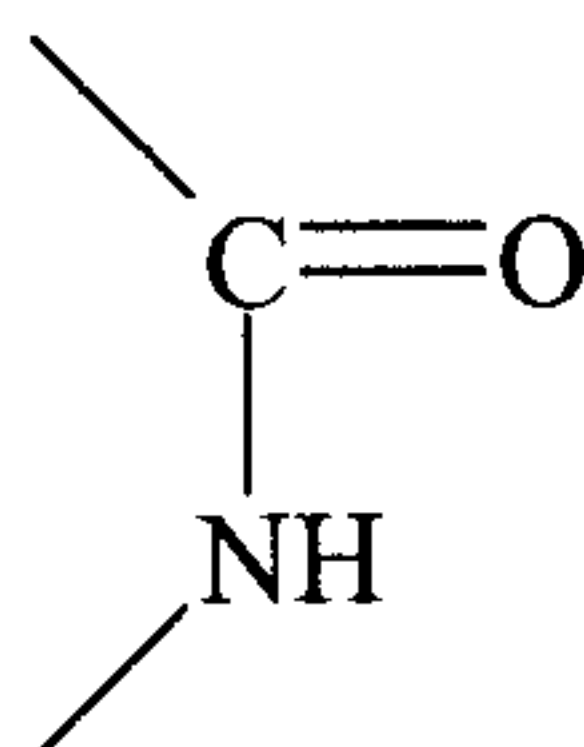


Ureide Structure

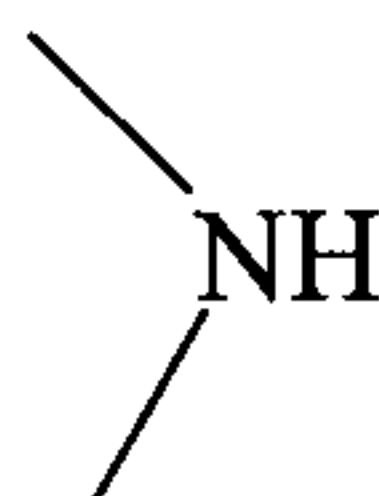


Class of Compounds

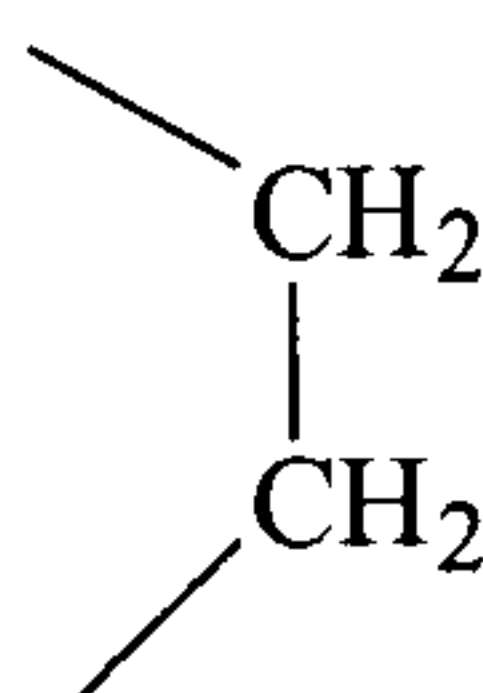
Barbiturates



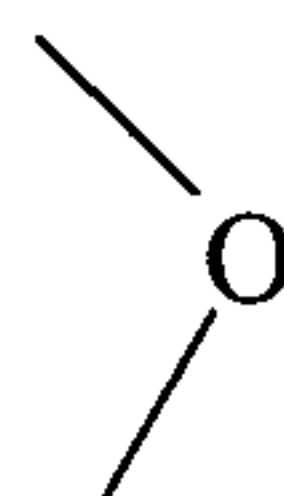
Hydantoias



Glutarimides



Oxazolidipediopes



Succinimides

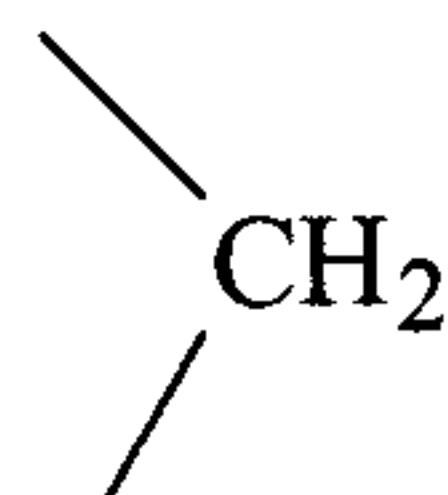
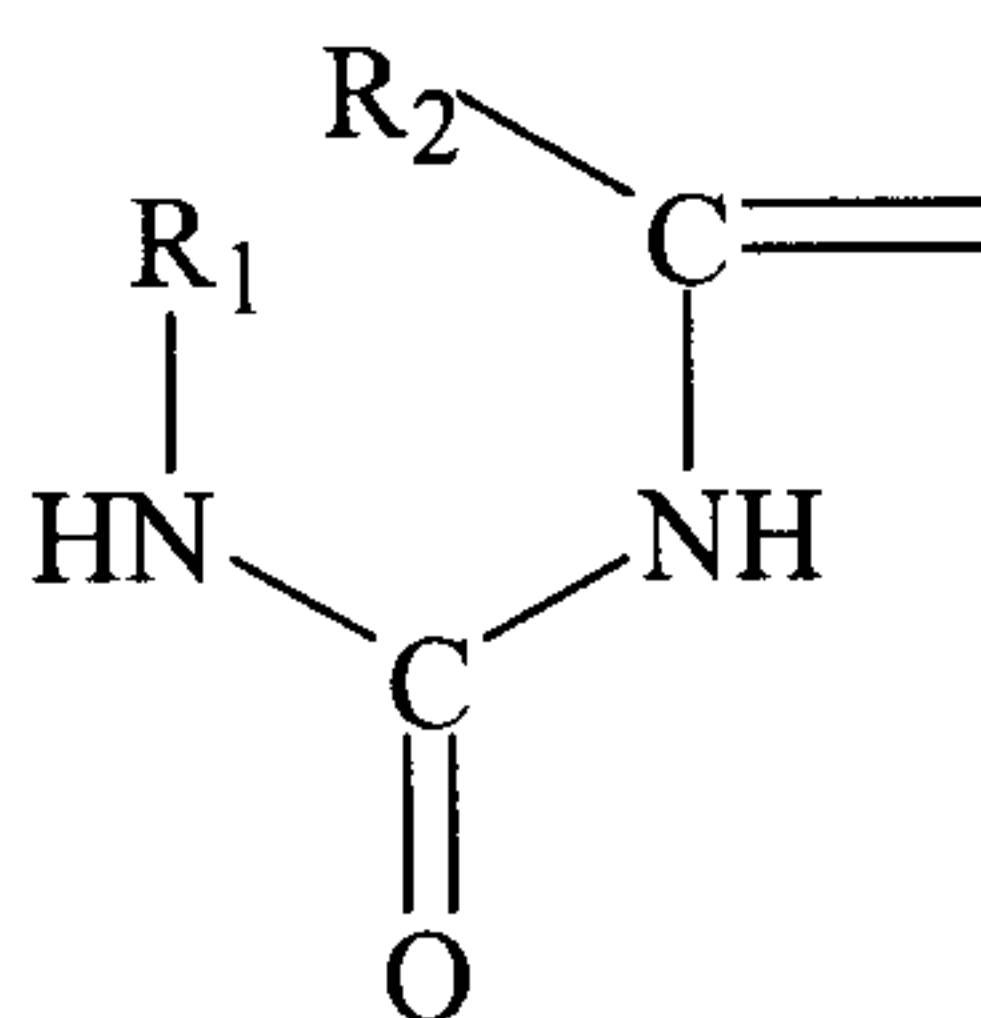


TABLE 3

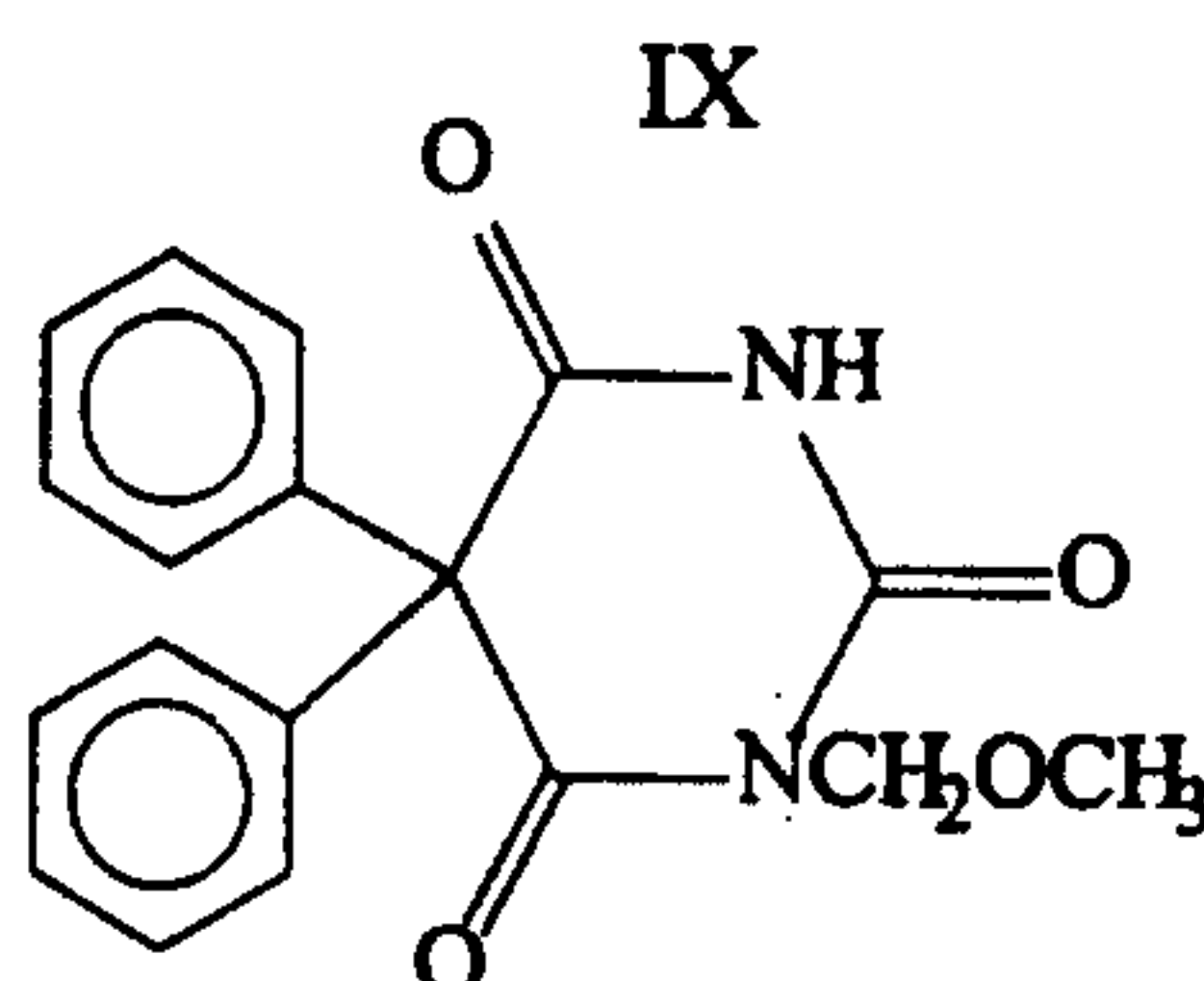
Ureide Hypnotics



General Structure

Generic Name	Chemical Name	R ₁	R ₂
Acecarbromal	(1-acetyl)-2-(2-bromo-2-ethylbutyryl)urea	CH ₃ CO	$ \begin{array}{c} (\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{C} - \\ \\ \text{Br} \end{array} $
Aprohalide	(2-isopropyl-4-pentencyl)urea	H	$ \begin{array}{c} (\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH} - \text{CH} - \\ \\ \text{CH}_2 = \text{CH} - \text{CH}_2 \end{array} $
Bromisovalum	(2-bromo-3-methylbutyryl)urea	H	$ \begin{array}{c} (\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH} - \text{CH} - \\ \\ \text{Br} \end{array} $
Capuride	(2-ethyl-3-methylvaleryl)urea	H	$ \begin{array}{c} \text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{CH} - \text{CH} - \\ \\ \text{CH}_3\text{C}_2\text{H}_5 \end{array} $
Carbromal	(2-bromo-2-ethylbutyryl)urea	H	$ \begin{array}{c} (\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{C} - \\ \\ \text{Br} \end{array} $
Ectylurea	(2-ethyl-cis-crulonoyl)urea	H	$ \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{C} - \\ \\ \text{CH}_2\text{CH} \end{array} $

The N-methoxymethyl derivative of 5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid (Formula IX) may be prepared by the process of this invention.



The substrate 5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid is converted to its di-anion salt with a very strong base (as strong as a hydride, e.g. NaH) and then one equivalent is added of the alkoxyalkylating agent, reagent 1 of Table 1. N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid is obtained by optimizing the reaction to favor monosubstitution. For example, an excess of the very strong base NaH is used, greater than two molar equivalents per mole of the ureide. The monosubstituted product is separated by chromatography or other conventional methods and may be characterized by melting point and nuclear magnetic resonance.

Pharmaceutically-effective salts of the alkylated ureides are also contemplated within the scope of the invention.

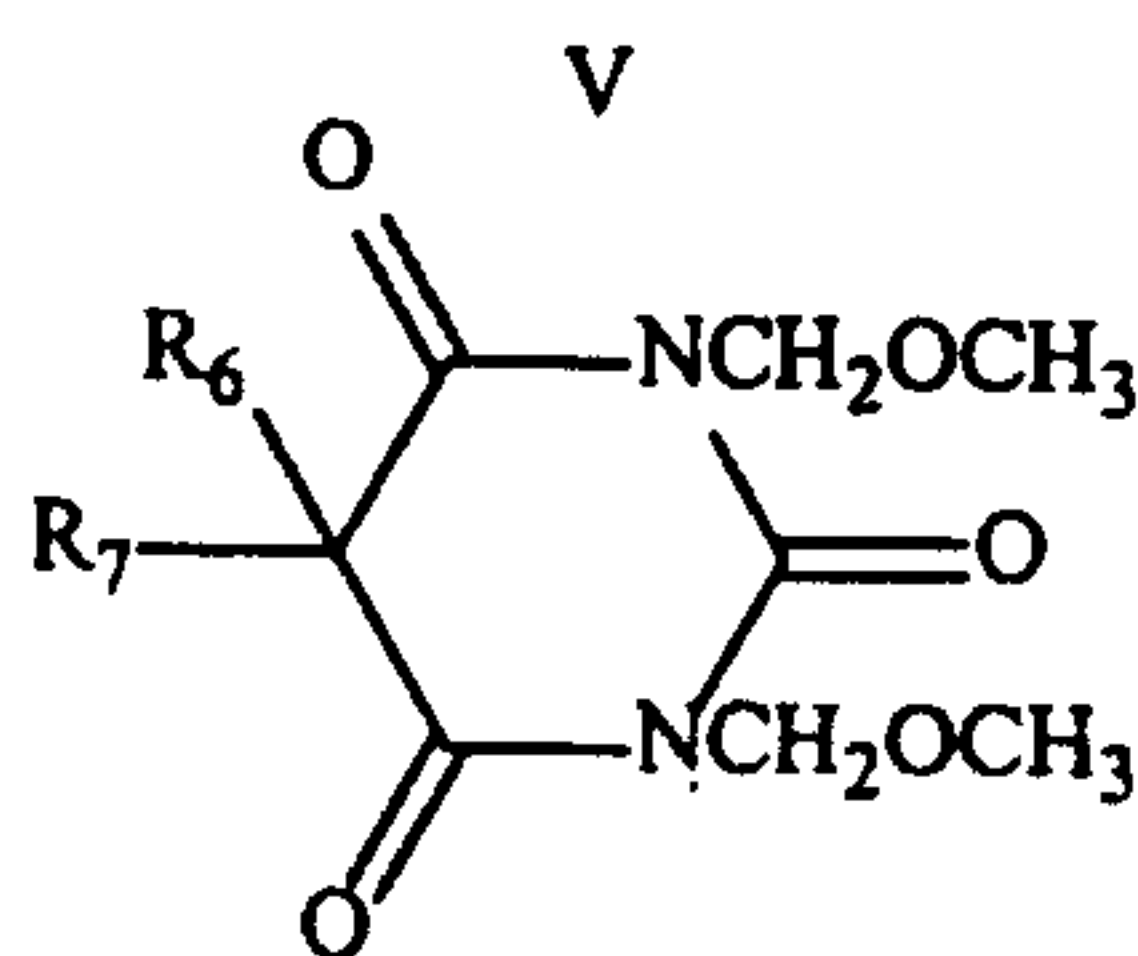
In general, stoichiometric amounts of the components are used. That is, for mono-alkylation, the ratio of ureide:alkylating agent:base is about 1:1:2; for di-substitution, the ratio is about 1:2:2, and so on. Different ratios may be appropriate depending on the reaction conditions. A person of ordinary skill will recognize that by varying these ratios, the reaction may proceed faster or slower and have higher or lower yield of end products. For example, as discussed above, monosubstitution of a ureide of the barbituric acid family is favored by using excess base.

For the reaction to proceed a non-aqueous basic catalyst is required. The base may be as strong as sodium hydride or as weak as a tertiary amine. For disubstituted products, the basic catalyst is preferably an amine that does not compete with the substrate ureide (or imide).

To this end primary and secondary amine catalysts are excluded. Tertiary amines, which react more slowly with the alkylating species, are preferred to minimize the competing reaction through steric hindrance (branching in the amine substituents). Especially preferred for this attribute are highly hindered amines, such as the readily available amine, ethyl di-isopropyl amine. The hindrance inhibits quarternization of the catalyst amine by the alkylating agent in competition with the ureide substrate, while not interfering significantly with ability of the amine to act as a base (accept a proton). Useful bases include sodium hydride, potassium hydride, lithium hydride, triethylamine, tri-n-propylamine, and di-isopropyl ethyl amine.

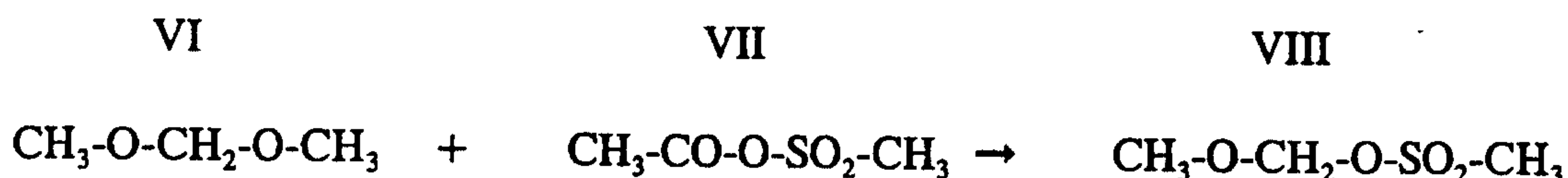
The solvent is chosen so as not to compete with the substrate and to maximize the rate of alkylation. The use of dipolar aprotic solvents such as dimethyl formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, dimethylacetamide, sulfolane, N-methylpyrrolidone, etc., appears to optimize these attributes. Otherwise, any dipolar aprotic solvent may be selected by the person of ordinary skill so long as the solvent is capable of bringing the reactants into solution. The preferred temperature range for the alkylation process is at or near ambient temperature ($25 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$). Higher temperatures tend to stimulate competitive side-reactions between the alkylating agent and the tertiary amine catalyst (where the latter is being used).

Yields according to the invention are at least as high as with prior art methods. The high yields complement the other advantages of the inventive method including the facts that it is much safer, more convenient, and economical, and allows for ready synthesis of new compounds. A preferred embodiment of the inventive alkylation process (which employs the preferred substrate and preferred reagent illustrated above) affords the N,N' disubstituted barbituric acid depicted as structure V where the R groups are phenyl.



N,N'-bismethoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid

The alkylation preferably takes place in a solvent which is usually a dipolar aprotic solvent like an N,N - dialkylamide. However, other types of aprotic solvents may also be employed, so long as they are compatible with the base. This alkylating technique is particularly novel and convenient in that the active alkylating species may also be generated in situ by employing precursor substances without isolation of the sulfonate reagent itself. Thus, dimethoxymethane (structure VI) may be reacted with the mixed anhydride of acetic and methanesulfonic acids (structure VII) and the resulting in situ generated sulfonate ester, methoxymethyl methanesulfonate (structure VIII, which is structure III where $R_3=H$, $R_4=H$, and $R_5=CH_3$) may be applied without isolation or purification to the N-alkylation of the barbituric acid.



The following examples are intended to illustrate various embodiments of the invention without limiting its scope.

EXAMPLE 1. N,N'-bismethoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid

A. Using a hindered tertiary amine catalyst

Dimethoxymethane (10.85 g) was added at 0°C to 19.7 g of acetylmethanesulfonate. The reaction was stirred at 25°C for 2 hours. The resultant solution was then added gradually over 45 minutes to a mixture of 10 g of 5,5 - diphenylbarbituric acid and 13.85 g of N,N - diisopropyl ethyl amine in 60 ml of dry dimethylformamide. The resultant reaction mixture was stirred for about 15 minutes and then diluted with 180 ml of 2 N HCl, followed by 300 ml of ethyl acetate. The phases were separated and the ethyl acetate phase was washed first with 150 ml of saturated aqueous sodium chloride and then with 150 ml of 2N aqueous NaOH. The organic (ethyl acetate) phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and

concentrated to dryness to give 12.2 g of N,N' -bismethoxymethyl - 5,5 - diphenylbarbituric acid. Crystallization from 48 ml of toluene afforded 10.5 g of pure product (79.6% yield).

B. Using triethylamine as catalyst

By the procedure of example A, using 10.84 g. of triethylamine (in place of 13.85 g of diisopropylethylamine), there resulted 10.62 g of crude alkylated product. Crystallization from 40 ml of toluene afforded 7.6 g (58.5%) of N,N' - bismethoxymethyl 5,5 - diphenylbarbituric acid.

C. Using sodium hydride as catalyst

By the procedure of example A, using 3.57 g of sodium hydride (60% dispersion in mineral oil) in place of the amine catalyst, there resulted after crystallization from toluene 5.0 g (38%) of N,N' - bismethoxymethyl - 5,5 - diphenylbarbituric acid.

D. Using acetylbenzenesulfonate in place of acetylmethanesulfonate

By the procedure of example A, using 28.55 g of acetylbenzenesulfonate in place of acetylmethanesulfonate (19.7 g), the pure alkylated product resulted in 75.5% yield.

Completion of the reaction may be checked using conventional methods such as by TLC on silica (mobile phase chloroform methanol 98:2). The reaction mixture is diluted with 360ml of water and extracted with 480ml of ethyl acetate. The organic layer is separated and washed twice with 150ml of water. The solvent is removed by distillation under reduced pressure in order to obtain crude product. The crude product may be purified by crystallization from 4 parts of toluene. The mixture is heated to reflux to dissolve and cooled to room temperature. According to HPLC the product of the inventive method has 98-100% purity, and yields of about 60-80% may be expected.

EXAMPLE 2. N,N'-Bisethoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid

By the procedure of Example 1A, using diethoxymethane (15.42 g) in place of dimethoxymethane (10.85 g), there is obtained a 68% yield of pure N,N' - bisethoxymethyl - 5,5 - diphenylbarbituric acid.

EXAMPLE 3. 3-Methoxymethylphenytoin

By the procedure of 1A, using phenytoin (18 g) in place of 5,5 - diphenylbarbituric acid (10 g), there is obtained a 70% yield of 3 - methoxymethylphenytoin.

EXAMPLE 4. N-Methoxymethylglutethimide

By the procedure of 1A, using glutethimide (15.5 g) in place of 5,5 - diphenylbarbituric acid (10 g) there is obtained a 65% yield of N - methoxymethylglutethimide.

EXAMPLE 5. N-Methoxymethylethosuximide

By the procedure of 1A, using ethosuximide (10 g) in place of 5,5 - diphenylbarbituric acid (10 g), there is obtained a 60% yield of N - methoxymethylethosuximide.

EXAMPLE 6. N-Methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid

The monosubstituted methoxymethyl derivative is obtained by optimizing the procedure of Example 1A to favor monosubstitution, using an excess of NaH and one equivalent of alkylating agent per equivalent of ureide. The monosubstituted product is separated and characterized.

The compounds of examples 2-6 have advantageous pharmaceutical properties over a sustained period of time. They may be used to treat mammals including humans for convulsions, seizures, muscle stiffness, nervous strain or anxiety, by administering an effective amount of the compound in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to the patient.

The embodiments illustrated and discussed in this specification are intended only to teach those skilled in the art the best way known to the inventors to make and use the invention. Nothing in this specification should be considered as limiting the scope of the present invention. Modifications and variations of the above-described embodiments of the invention are possible without departing from the invention, as appreciated by those skilled in the art in light of the above teachings. It is therefore to be understood that, within the scope of the claims and their equivalents, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of N-alkoxyalkylating ureides comprising reacting a ureide of formula I



with an alkylating agent selected from methoxymethyl methanesulfonate, ethoxymethyl methanesulfonate, benzyloxymethyl methanesulfonate, methoxymethyl ethanesulfonate, methoxymethyl benzenesulfonate, methoxymethyl p-toluenesulfonate, methoxybenzylidene methanesulfonate, and methoxyethylidene methanesulfonate, in the presence of a non-aqueous basic catalyst in solution of a dipolar aprotic reaction medium, to provide a corresponding alkylated ureide,

- a) wherein R_1 and R_2 are alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl,
- b) or R_1 and R_2 are bonded together to form a cyclic group having 5 or 6 atoms, each of which is selected from the group consisting of carbon, nitrogen and oxygen,
- c) or wherein one of R_1 and R_2 is NH_2 , NHCOCH_3 , or non-cyclic alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, or haloalkyl, and the other of R_1 and R_2 is non-cyclic alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkyl, or haloalkyl,
- d) or wherein R_1 and R_2 together form a cyclic group selected from the group consisting of $\text{NHCO}(\text{R}_6)(\text{R}_7)$, $\text{NHC}(\text{R}_6)(\text{R}_7)$, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{R}_6)(\text{R}_7)$, $\text{OC}(\text{R}_6)(\text{R}_7)$ and $\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{R}_6)(\text{R}_7)$, wherein R_6 and R_7 are each independently either alkyl or aryl.

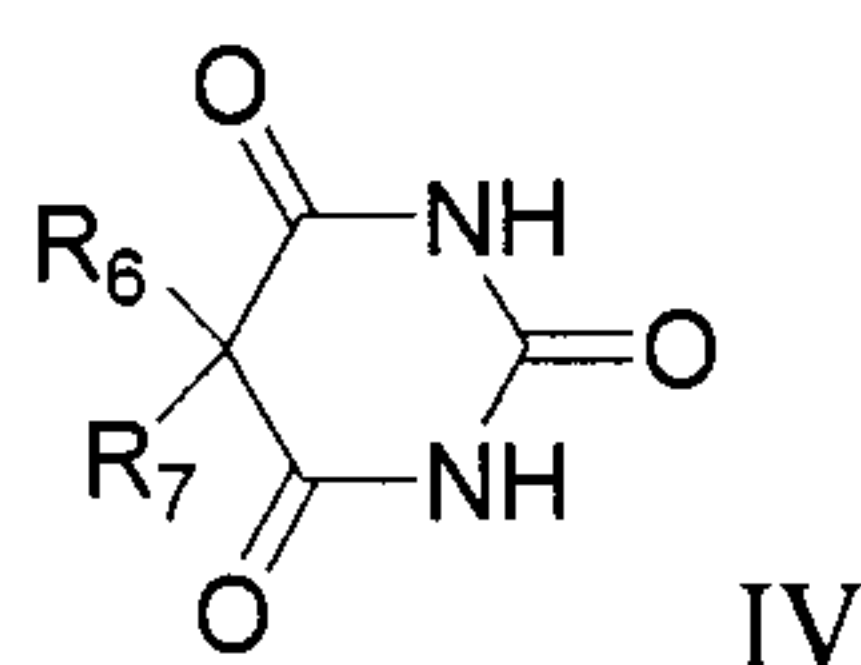
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the ureide is 5,5-diphenyl barbituric acid, the alkylating agent is selected from the group consisting of methoxymethyl methanesulfonate, methoxymethyl ethanesulfonate, methoxymethyl benzenesulfonate, and methoxymethyl p-toluenesulfonate, the basic catalyst is di-isopropyl ethyl amine, and the corresponding alkylated ureide is N,N'-bismethoxymethyl-5,5-diphenyl barbituric acid.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the ureide is selected from the group consisting of 5,5-diphenyl barbituric acid, phenytoin, glutethimide, ethosuximide, 5-phenyl-5-ethylbarbituric acid, and 5,5-diethylbarbituric acid.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the ureide is selected from the group consisting of acecarbromal, apronalide, bromisolvalum, capuride, carbromal, ectylurea, hydantoins, glutarimides, oxazolidinediones, succinimides, and barbiturates.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the alkylating agent is methoxymethyl methanesulfonate.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the basic catalyst is a tertiary amine.
7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the basic catalyst is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydride, potassium hydride, lithium hydride, triethyl amine, tri-n-propylamine, and di-isopropyl ethyl amine.
8. A method according to claim 1, wherein alkylating agent is produced in situ and is combined directly with the ureide without isolating the alkylating agent.

9. A method according to claim 1, further comprising reacting a mixed anhydride of acetic acid and a sulfonic acid with a dialkoxymethane to provide the alkylating agent in situ and combined with the ureide without isolating the alkylating agent.
10. A method according to claim 1, wherein the ureide is 5,5-disubstituted barbituric acid, which is converted to its di-anion salt with a strong base, and one equivalent of the alkylating agent is added, to provide the corresponding mono-alkylated barbituric acid.
11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the dipolar aprotic reaction medium comprises a dipolar aprotic solvent selected from the group consisting of dimethyl formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, dimethylacetamide, sulfolane, and N-methylpyrrolidone.
12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the ureide is 5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid, the basic catalyst is selected from a hydride or a tertiary amine, and the method further comprises isolating the resultant alkoxyalkylated 5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid.
13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the ureide is alkoxyalkylated to an N-mono-alkoxyalkylated 5,5-diphenyl barbituric acid.
14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the alkylating agent is a methoxymethyl sulfonate ester, the basic catalyst is present in excess, and the isolated compound is N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid.
15. An alkoxyalkylated ureide compound selected from the group consisting of N-methoxymethyl ethosuximide, N-methoxymethyl glutethimide, and pharmaceutically effective salts thereof.
16. A compound according to claim 15, wherein the compound is N-methoxymethyl ethosuximide or a pharmaceutically effective salt thereof.

17. A compound according to claim 15, wherein the compound is N-methoxymethyl glutethimide or a pharmaceutically effective salt thereof.

18. A pharmaceutical composition for treating a mammal for a condition selected from convulsions, seizures, muscle stiffness, nervous strain, and anxiety, comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 15.

19. A method according to claim 1, wherein said ureide of formula I is a compound of formula IV



wherein R_6 and R_7 are the same or different and are alkyl or aryl groups.

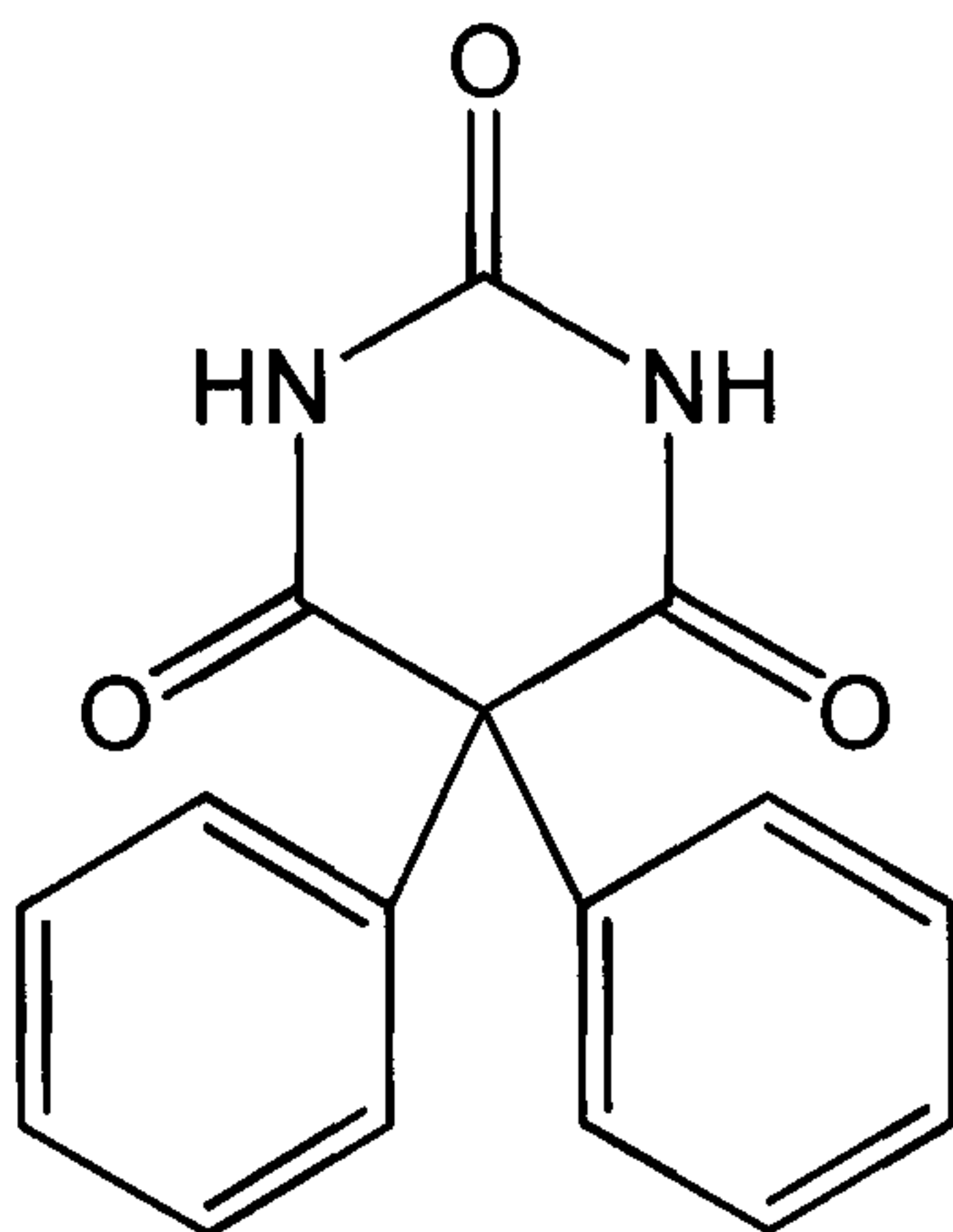
20. A method according to claim 19, wherein said ureide of formula I is 5,5-diphenyl barbituric acid, the alkylating agent is selected from methoxymethyl methanesulfonate, methoxymethyl ethanesulfonate, methoxymethyl benzenesulfonate, and methoxymethyl p-toluenesulfonate, the non-aqueous basic catalyst is selected from a hydride or a tertiary amine, and the method further comprises isolating N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid.

21. A method according to claim 20, wherein the non-aqueous basic catalyst is sodium hydride.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein the alkylating agent is methoxymethyl methanesulfonate.

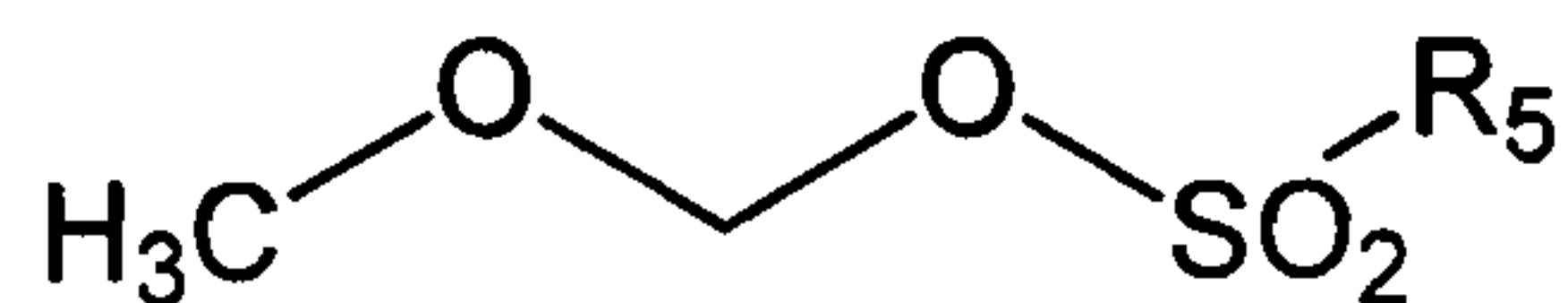
23. A method according to claim 22, wherein the methoxymethyl methanesulfonate is produced *in situ* and is combined directly with the ureide of formula I without isolating the methoxymethyl methanesulfonate.

24. A method for making N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid comprising reacting a ureide of structure X



X

with an alkylating agent of structure XI



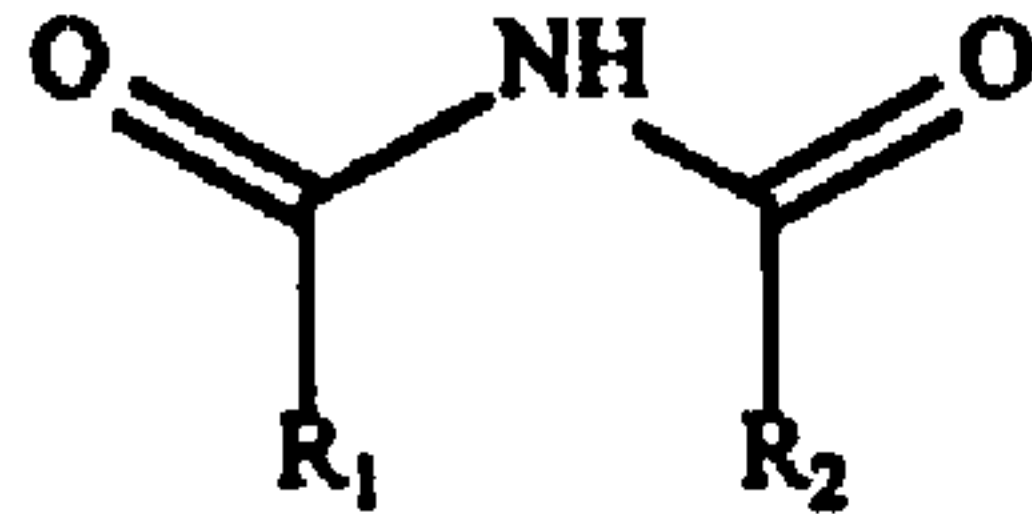
XI

in the presence of a non-aqueous base, wherein R₅ is a lower alkyl, a phenyl, or an alkyl substituted phenyl.

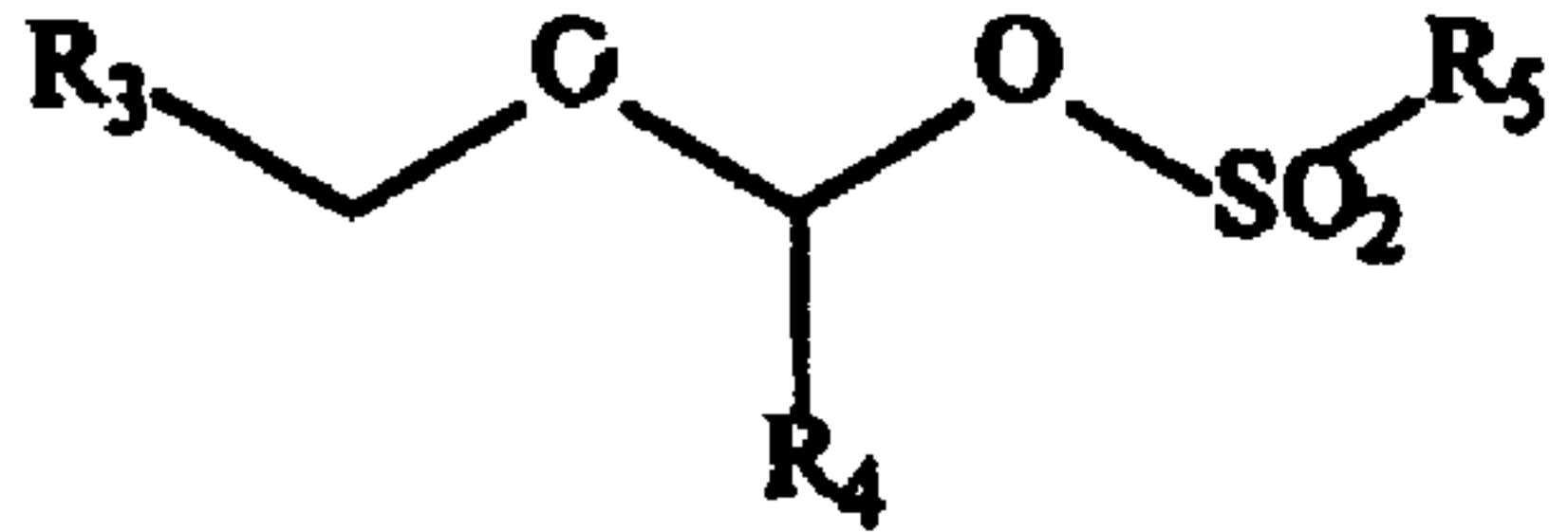
25. A method according to claim 24, wherein the base is in excess.
26. A method according to claim 24, wherein the base is NaH, present in an amount greater than two molar equivalents per mole of the ureide.
27. A method according to claim 24, wherein the base is non-aqueous with a strength between sodium hydride and a tertiary amine.
28. A method according to claim 24, wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of potassium hydride and lithium hydride.

29. A method according to claim 24, wherein the alkylating agent is an ester of a sulfonic acid produced *in situ* and is combined directly with the ureide without isolating the ester of a sulfonic acid.
30. A method according to claim 24, wherein the alkylating agent is produced by reacting a mixed anhydride of acetic acid and a sulfonic acid with a dialkoxymethane.
31. A method according to claim 24, wherein the ureide of structure X is converted to its di-anion salt with a strong base, and one equivalent of the alkylating agent is added, to provide the corresponding N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbaturic acid.
32. A method according to claim 24, wherein the reaction is carried out in a dipolar aprotic solvent.
33. A method according to claim 32, wherein the dipolar aprotic solvent is selected from the group consisting of dimethyl formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, dimethylacetamide, sulfolane, and N-methylpyrrolidone.
34. A method according to claim 24, further comprising separating the N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid.
35. A pharmaceutically acceptable salt of N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid.
36. A pharmaceutical composition for treating a mammal in need of treatment for a medical condition selected from convulsions, seizures, muscle stiffness, nervous strain, and anxiety, comprising an effective amount of a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt of N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbaturic acid.

37. Isolated N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid.
38. A pharmaceutical composition for treating a mammal in need of treatment for a condition selected from the group consisting of convulsions, seizures, muscle stiffness, nervous strain, and anxiety, comprising an effective amount of N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid.
39. Isolated chemically synthesized N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid.
40. Isolated N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid prepared by reacting 5,5 diphenylbarbituric acid with methoxymethyl methanesulfonate.



(I)



(III)