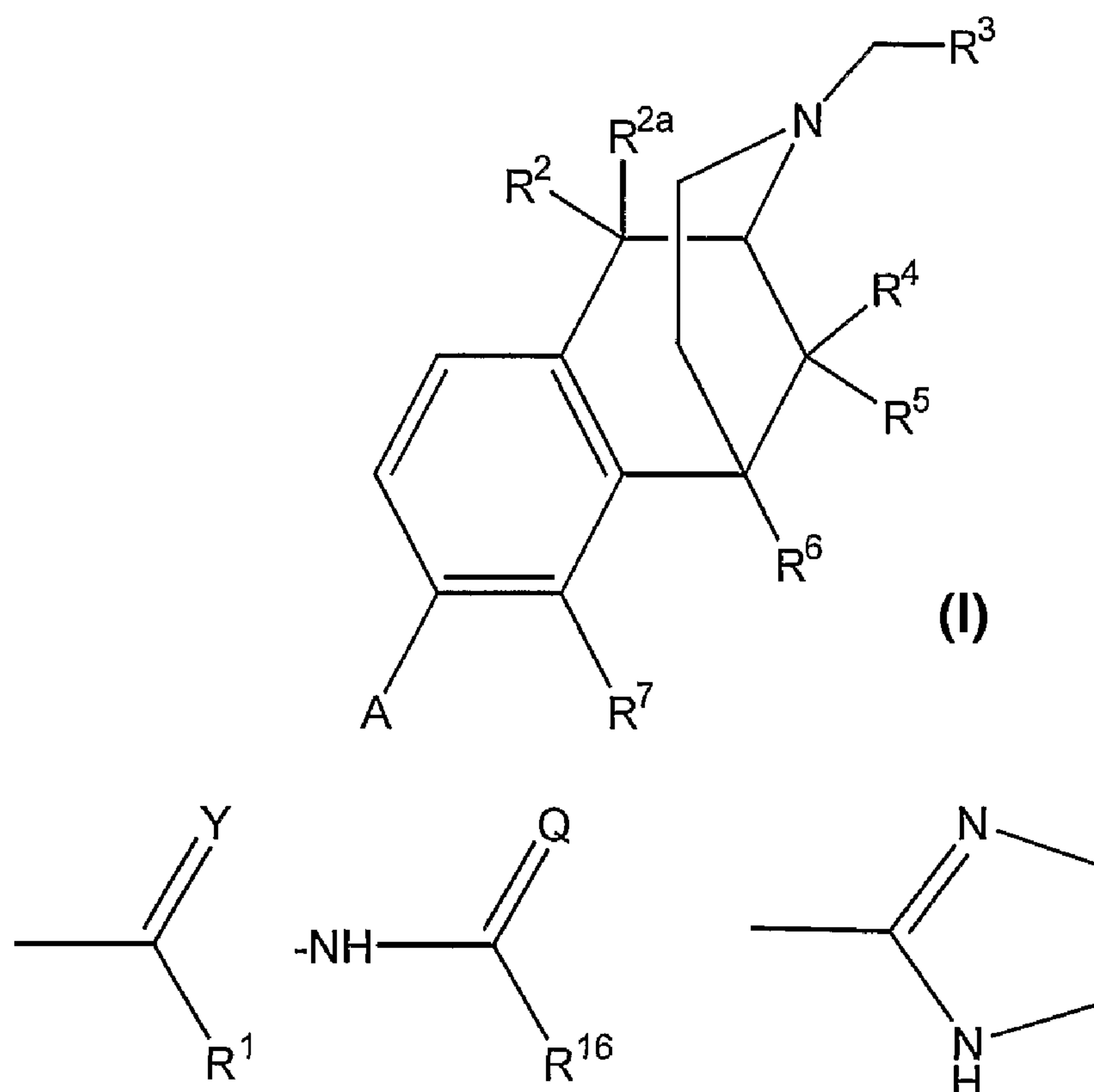




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(54) Titre : 8-CARBOXAMIDO-2,6-METHANO-3-BENZAZOCINES  
(54) Title: 8-CARBOXAMIDO-2,6-METHANO-3-BENZAZOCINES



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

8-Substituted-2,6-methano-3-benzazocines of general structure I in which A is -CH<sub>2</sub>-OH, -CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, and Y is O, S or NOH are useful as analgesics, anti-diarrheal agents, anticonvulsants, antitussives and anti-addiction medications. 8-Carboxamides, thiocarboxamides, hydroxyamidines and formamides are preferred.



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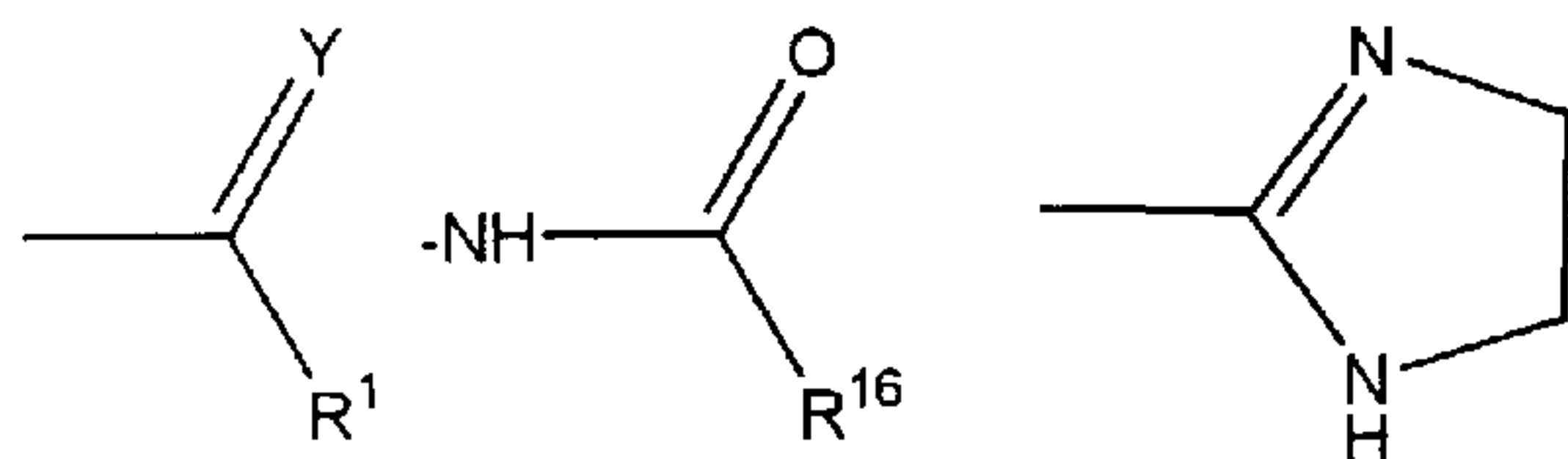
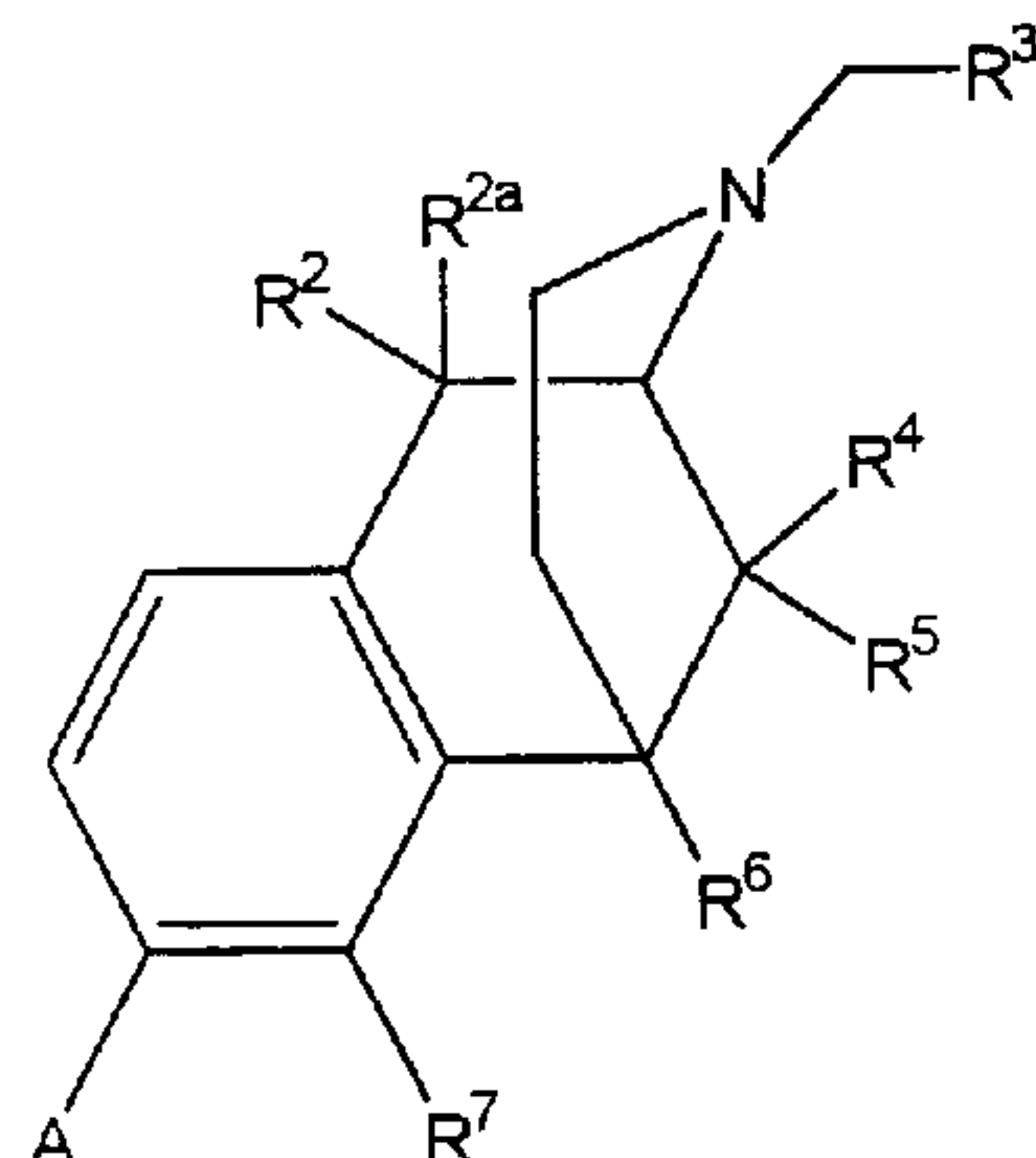
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(54) Title: 8-CARBOXAMIDO-2,6-METHANO-3-BENZAZOCINES

(57) Abstract: 8-Substituted-2,6-methano-3-benza-  
zocines of general structure I in which A is -CH<sub>2</sub>-OH,  
-CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, and Y is O, S or NOH are useful  
as analgesics, anti-diarrheal agents, anticonvulsants, anti-  
tussives and anti-addiction medications. 8-Carboxamides,  
thiocarboxamides, hydroxyamidines and formamides are  
preferred.

(I)

WO 02/36573 A2

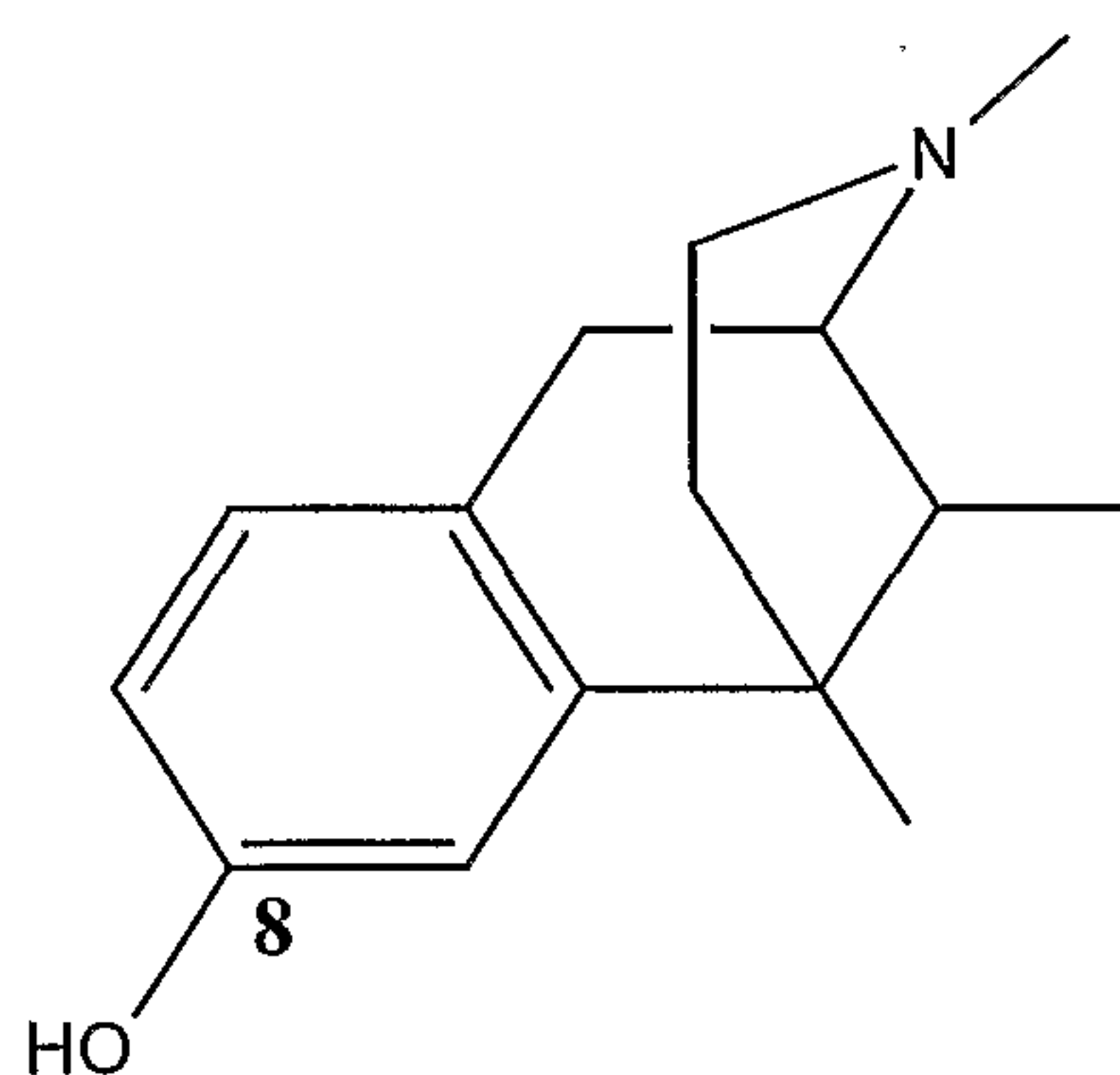
## 8-CARBOXAMIDO-2,6-METHANO-3-BENZAZOCINES

### Field of the Invention

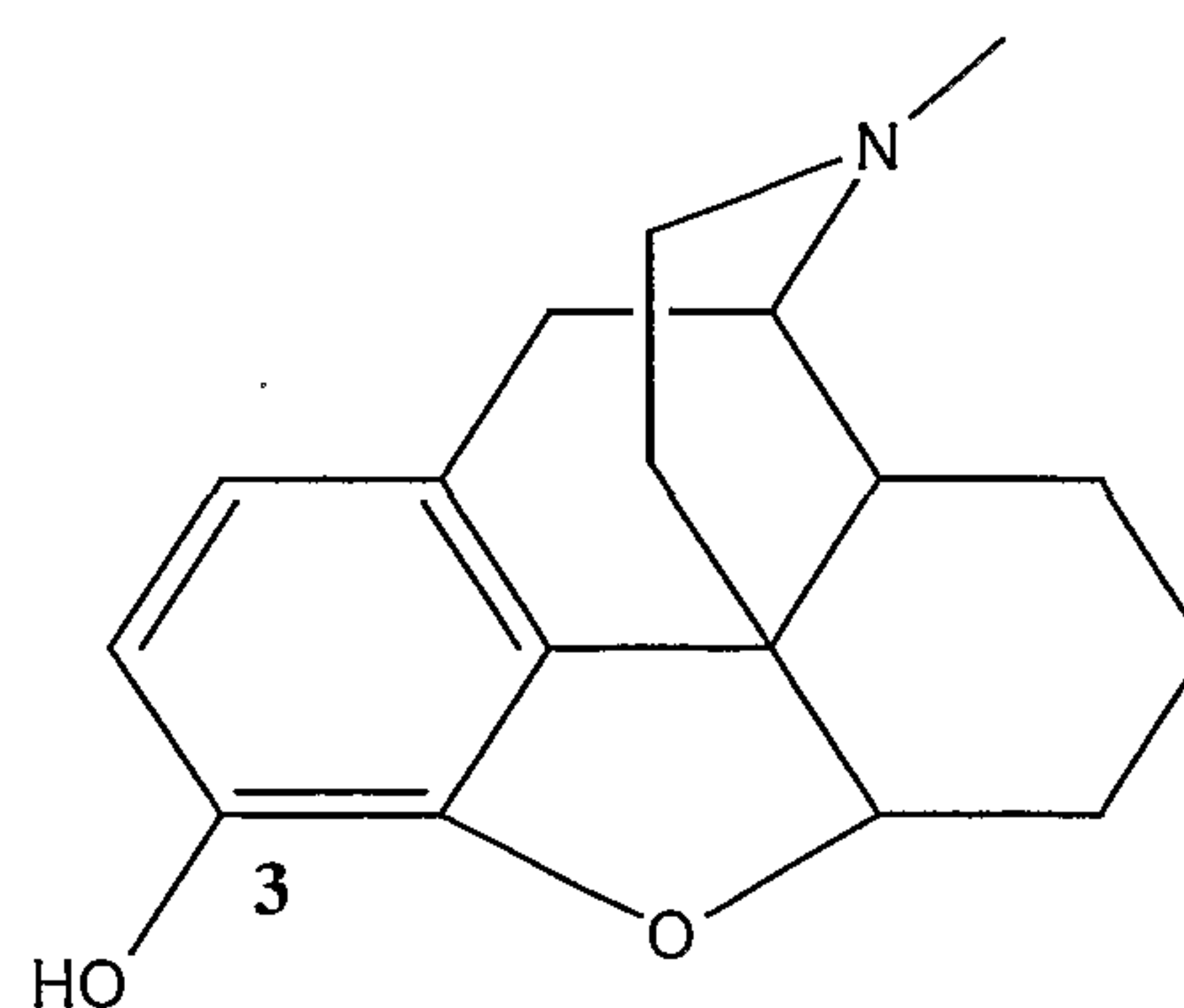
**[0001]** The invention relates to opioid receptor binding compounds containing carboxamides, formamides, thiocarboxamides and hydroxyamidines. The compounds are useful as analgesics, anti-diarrheal agents, anticonvulsants, antitussives, anti-cocaine, and anti-addiction medications.

### Background of the Invention

**[0002]** Opiates have been the subject of intense research since the isolation of morphine in 1805, and thousands of compounds having opiate or opiate-like activity have been identified. Many opioid receptor-interactive compounds including those used for producing analgesia (e.g., morphine) and those used for treating drug addiction (e.g., naltrexone and cyclazocine) in humans have limited utility due to poor oral bioavailability and a very rapid clearance rate from the body. This has been shown in many instances to be due to the presence of the 8-hydroxyl group (OH) of 2,6-methano-3-benzazocines, also known as benzomorphans [(e.g., cyclazocine and EKC (ethylketocyclazocine))] and the corresponding 3-OH group in morphinanes (e.g., morphine).



benzomorphan  
numbering



morphinan  
numbering

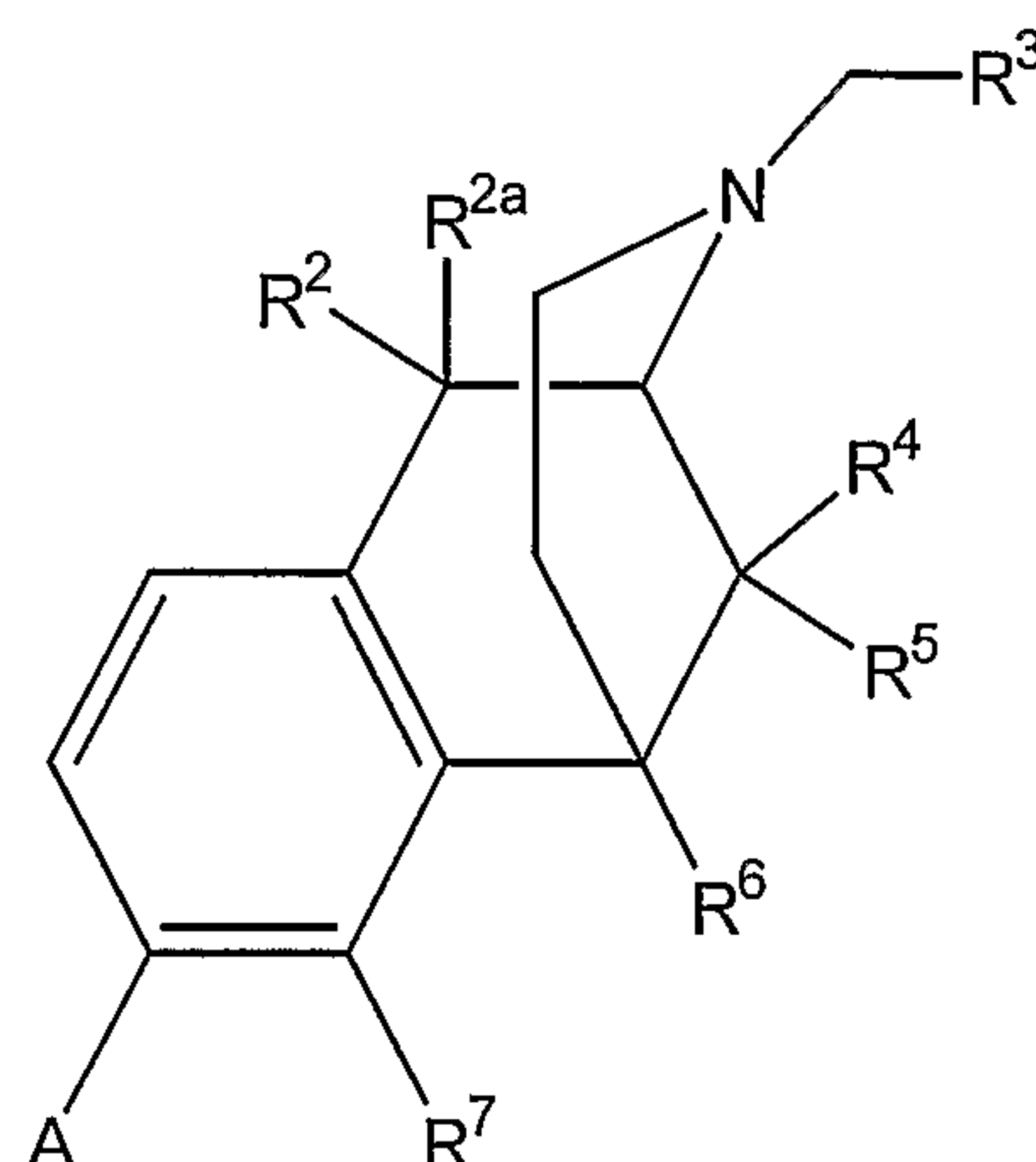


The high polarity of these hydroxyl groups retards oral absorption of the parent molecules. Furthermore, the 8-(or 3-)OH group is prone to sulfonation and glucuronidation (Phase II metabolism), both of which facilitate rapid excretion of the active compounds, leading to disadvantageously short half-lives for the active compounds. Unfortunately, the uniform experience in the art of the past seventy years has been that removal or replacement of the 8-(or 3-)OH group has lead to pharmacologically inactive compounds.

#### Summary of the Invention

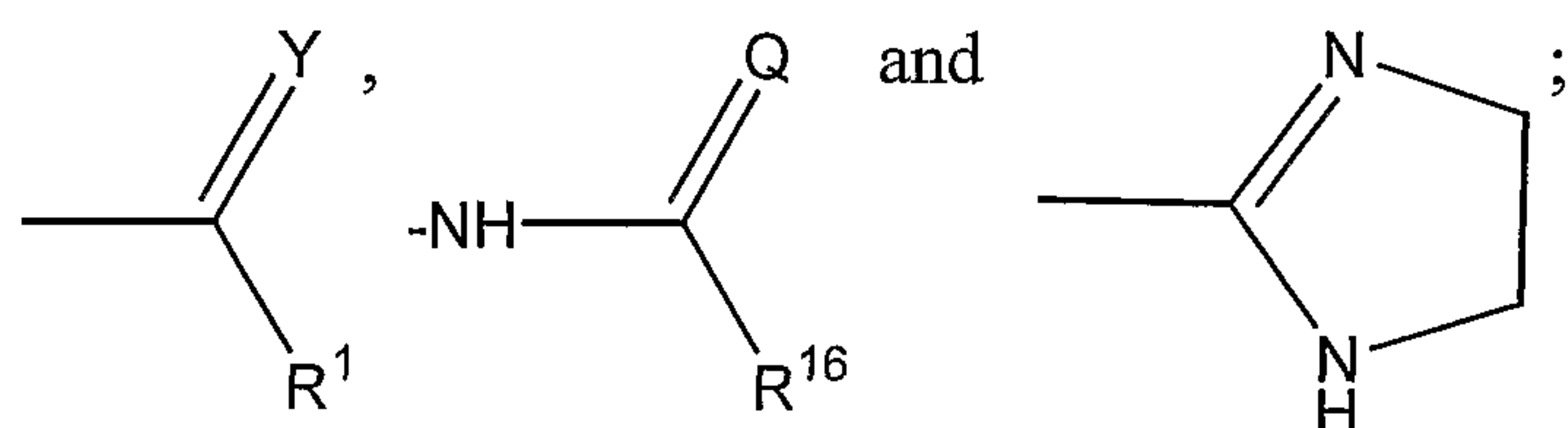
[0003] We have now found that the 8-(or 3-)hydroxyl group may be replaced by a number of small, polar, neutral residues, such as carboxamide, thiocarboxamide, hydroxyamidine and formamide groups. Not only do the benzomorphan, morphinan carboxamides have unexpectedly high affinity for opioid receptors, compounds containing these groups in place of OH are far less susceptible to Phase II metabolism and are generally more orally bioavailable. The compounds of the invention are therefore useful as analgesics, anti-pruritics, anti-diarrheal agents, anticonvulsants, antitussives, anorexics and as treatments for hyperalgesia, drug addiction, respiratory depression, dyskinesia, pain (including neuropathic pain), irritable bowel syndrome and gastrointestinal motility disorders. Drug addiction, as used herein, includes alcohol and nicotine addiction. There is evidence in the literature that the compounds may also be useful as immunosuppressants and antiinflammatories and for reducing ischemic damage (and cardioprotection), for improving learning and memory, and for treating urinary incontinence.

[0004] In one aspect, the invention relates to 2,6-methano-3-benzazocine-8-carboxamides and 2,6-methano-3-benzazocine-8-carboxylate esters of formula:



wherein

A is chosen from  $-\text{CH}_2\text{-Z}$ ,  $-\text{NH}\text{SO}_2\text{-(loweralkyl)}$ ,



Q is chosen from O, S and  $\text{NR}^{17}$ ;

Y is chosen from O, S,  $\text{NR}^{17}$  and  $\text{NOH}$ ;

Z is chosen from OH, SH and  $\text{NH}_2$ ;

$\text{R}^1$  is chosen from hydrogen, lower alkoxy, phenyl and  $-\text{NHR}^8$ ;

$\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^{2a}$  are both hydrogen or taken together  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^{2a}$  are  $=\text{O}$ ;

$\text{R}^3$  is chosen from hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, benzyl and hydroxyalkyl;

$\text{R}^4$  is chosen from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, lower alkoxy,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$  alkyl and  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$  alkyl substituted with hydroxy or carbonyl;

$\text{R}^5$  is lower alkyl;

$\text{R}^6$  is lower alkyl;

$\text{R}^7$  is hydrogen; or

together  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^5$ ,  $\text{R}^6$  and  $\text{R}^7$  may form from one to three rings, said rings having optional additional substitution;

$\text{R}^8$  is chosen from hydrogen,  $-\text{OH}$ ,  $-\text{NH}_2$  and  $-\text{CH}_2\text{R}^{15}$ ;

$R^{15}$  is chosen from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl and alkyl substituted with alkoxy, amino, alkylamino or dialkylamino;

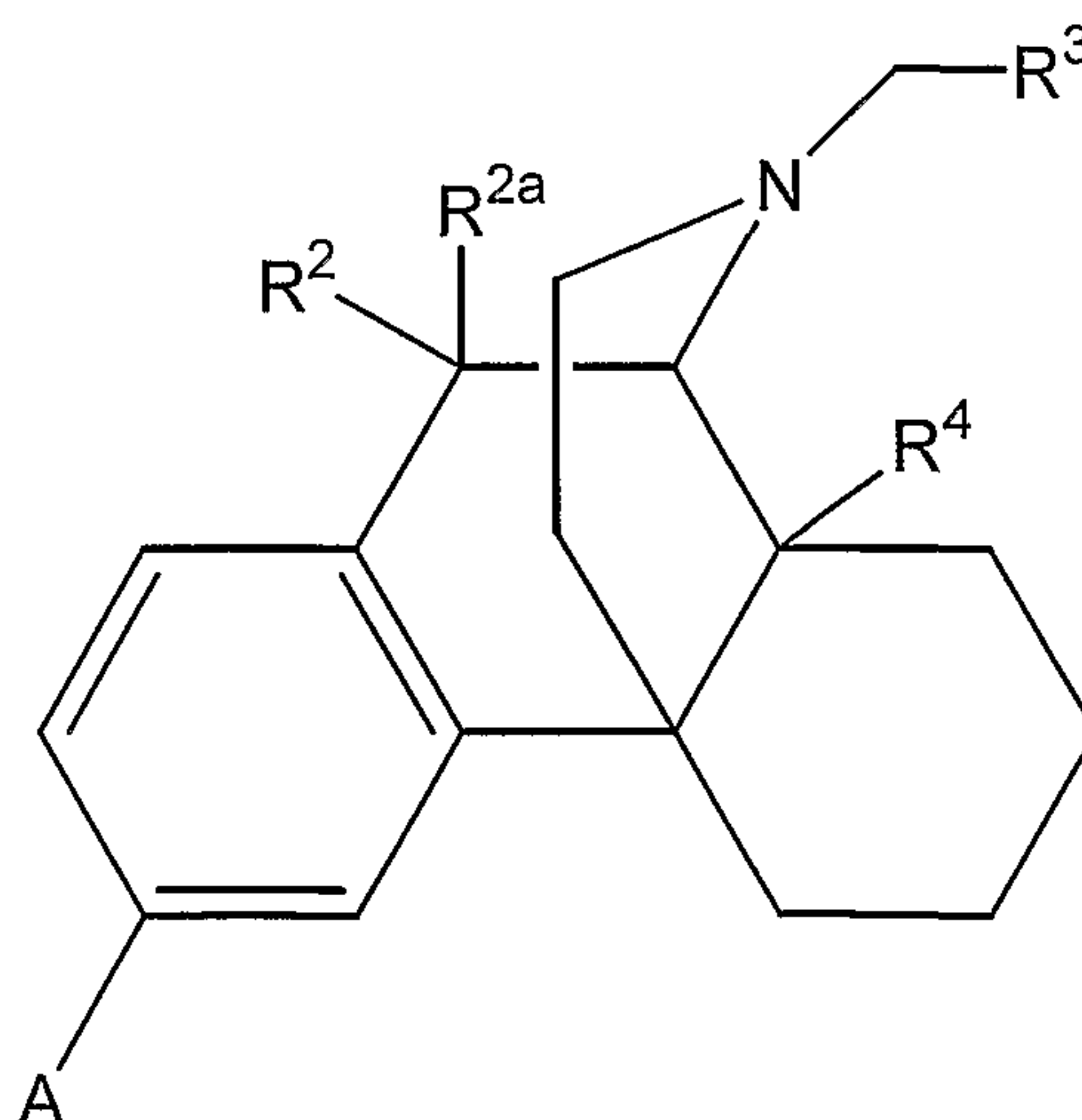
$R^{16}$  is chosen from hydrogen and  $NH_2$ ; and

$R^{17}$  is chosen from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl and benzyl;

with the provisos that, (1) when  $R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are hydrogen,  $R^3$  is hydrogen or cyclopropyl,  $R^4$  is hydroxy, and together  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  form two rings substituted with a spirodioxolane, A cannot be  $-COOCH_3$  or  $NHSO_2CH_3$ ; (2) when  $R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are hydrogen,  $R^3$  is hydrogen or cyclopropyl,  $R^4$  is hydroxy, and together  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  form the ring system of oxymorphone and naltrexone, A cannot be  $NHSO_2CH_3$ ; and (3) when  $R^2$ ,  $R^{2a}$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^7$  are hydrogen,  $R^3$  is cyclopropyl and  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are methyl, A cannot be  $-NHC(O)H$ . The explicit provisos exclude oxymorphone and naltrexone-3-sulfonamides, which were disclosed as having no activity *in vitro* or *in vivo* [McCurdy et al. Org. Lett. **2**, 819-821 (2000)] and cyclazocine formamide, which was disclosed as an intermediate in a synthesis in US patents 3,957,793; 4,032,529 and 4,205,171.

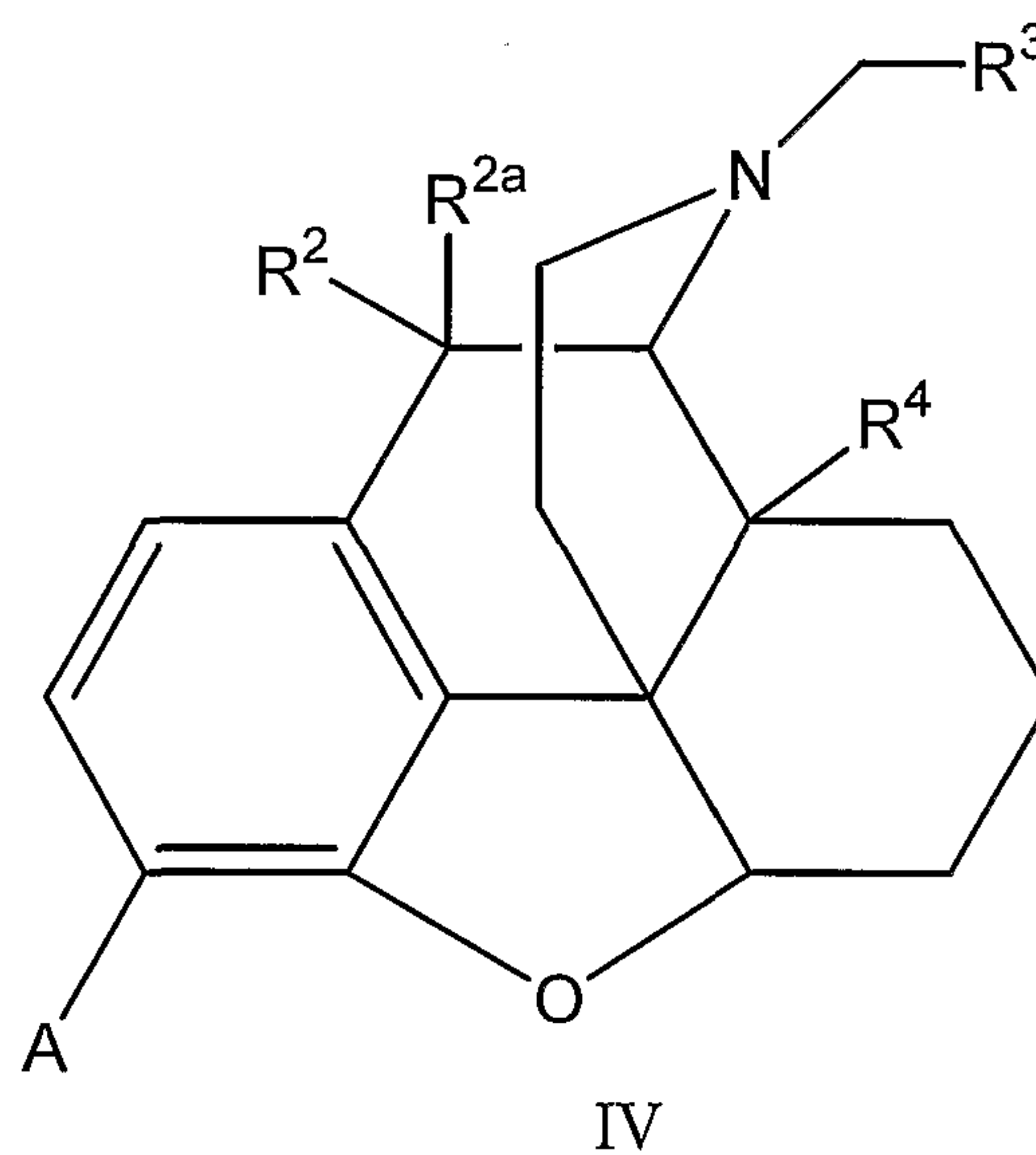
[0005] Subclasses of the foregoing structure include:

- II. 2,6-methano-3-benzazocines of the structure shown above, in which  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  do not form additional rings;
- III. morphinans in which  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  form one ring:



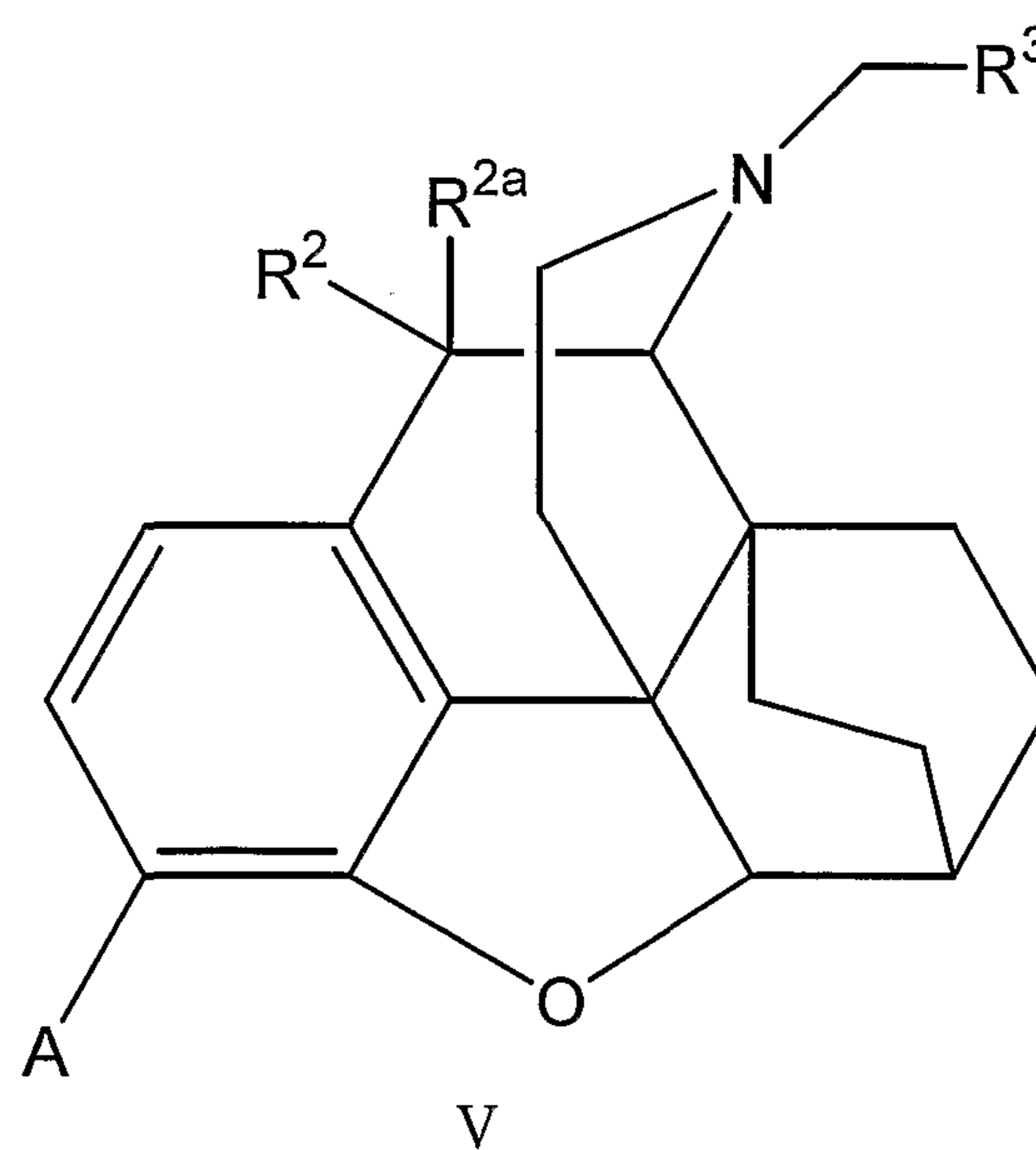
III

IV. morphinans in which  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  form two rings:



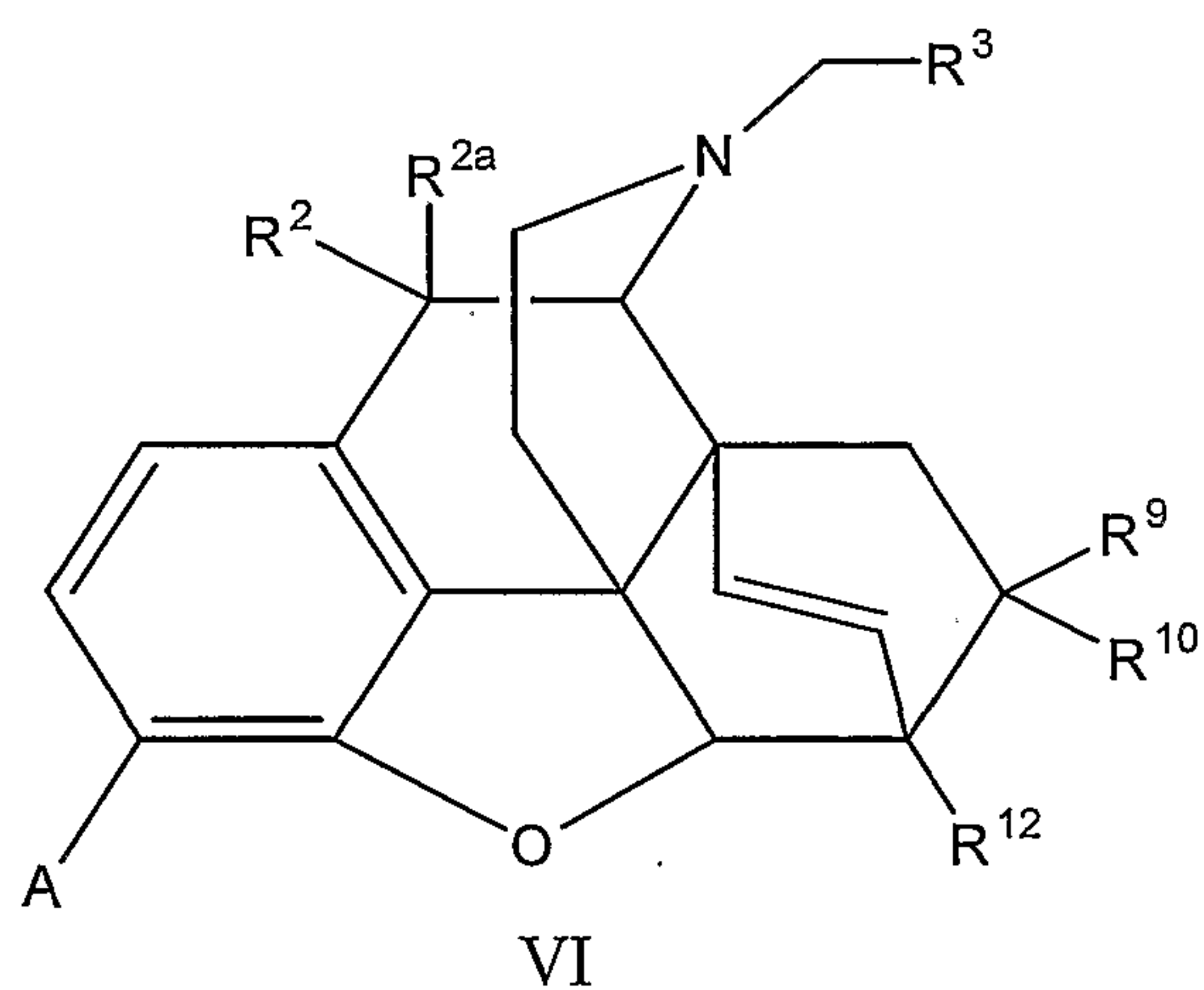
and

V. morphinans wherein  $R^4$  and  $R^{11}$  form an additional sixth ring, which may be saturated or unsaturated:

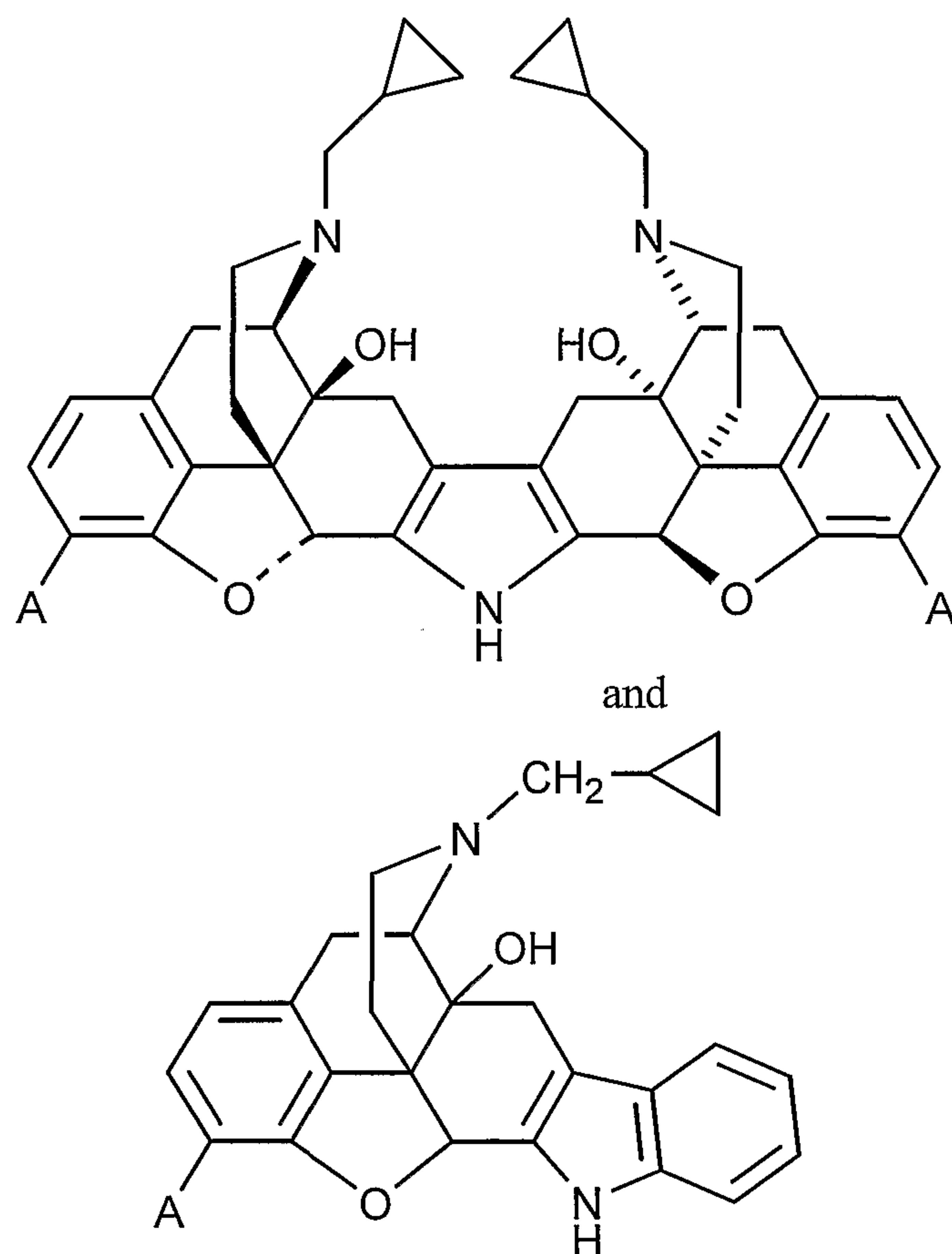


or





In addition to the major subclasses, there are compounds such as



which the person of skill recognizes as closely related to the major subclasses, but which defy easy description in a common Markush structure.



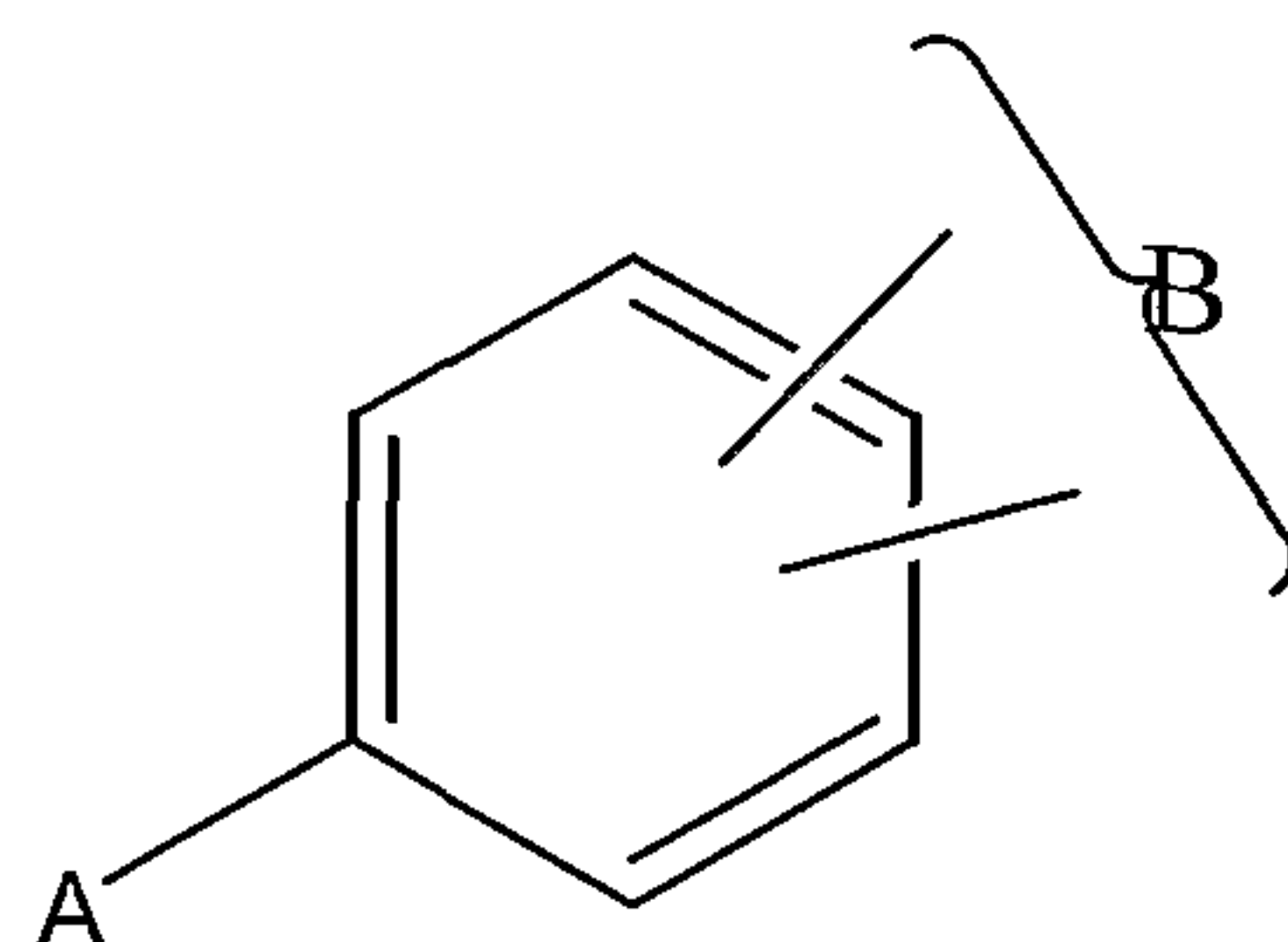
[0006] In another aspect, the invention relates to a method for preparing a second compound that interacts with an opioid receptor when a first compound that interacts with an opioid receptor is known. When the first compound contains a phenolic hydroxyl, the method comprises converting the phenolic hydroxyl to a residue chosen from the group described as the variable A above.

[0007] In another aspect, the invention relates to a method for decreasing the rate of metabolism of a compound that interacts at an opioid receptor. When the first compound contains a phenolic hydroxyl, the method comprises converting the phenolic hydroxyl to a residue chosen from the group described as the variable A above.

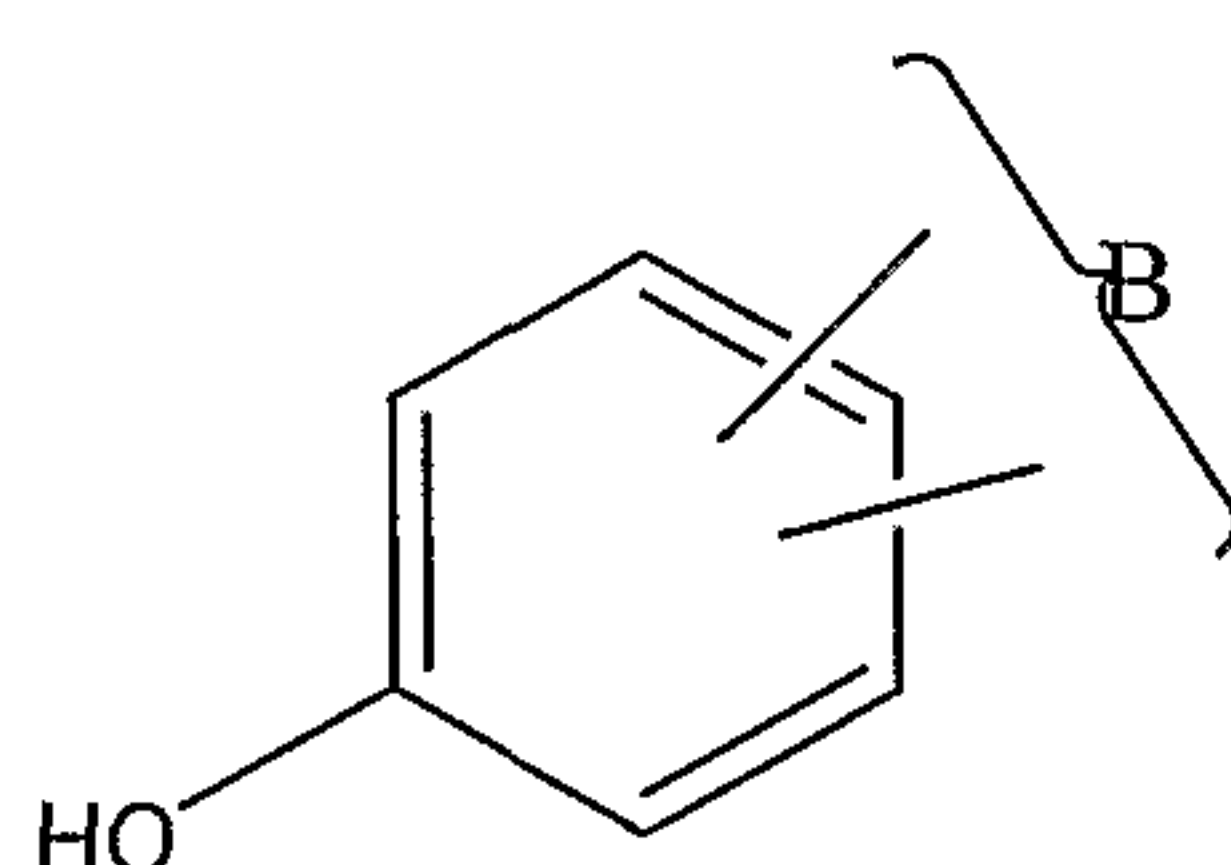
[0008] In another aspect, the invention relates to methods for inhibiting, eliciting or enhancing responses mediated by an opioid receptor comprising:

- (a) providing a first compound that inhibits, elicits or enhances an opioid receptor response;
- (b) preparing a second compound that interacts with an opioid receptor by converting a phenolic hydroxyl group on the first compound to a residue described as A above; and
- (c) bringing the second compound into contact with the opioid receptor.

[0009] In another aspect, the invention relates to a method for treating a disease by altering a response mediated by an opioid receptor. The method comprises bringing into contact with the opioid receptor a compound having the formula



wherein B represents the appropriate residue of a known compound of formula



and the known compound of that formula alters a response mediated by an opioid receptor.

- [0010]** In another aspect, the invention relates to processes for converting opioid-binding phenols or phenols on a benzomorphan or morphinane to a carboxamide. The carboxamide conversion processes comprise either:
- (a) reacting the phenol with a reagent to convert it to a group displaceable by  $\text{CN}^\ominus$ ;
  - (b) reacting that group with  $\text{Zn}(\text{CN})_2$  in the presence of a  $\text{Pd}(0)$  catalyst to provide a nitrile; and
  - (c) hydrolyzing the nitrile to a carboxamide; or:
  - (a) reacting the phenol with a reagent to convert the phenol to a triflate;
  - (b) reacting the triflate with carbon monoxide and ammonia in the presence of a  $\text{Pd}(\text{II})$  salt and a  $\text{Pd}(0)$  catalyst to provide a carboxamide; or
  - (a) reacting the phenol with a reagent to convert the phenol to a triflate;
  - (b) reacting the triflate with carbon monoxide and hexamethyldisilazane in the presence of a  $\text{Pd}(\text{II})$  salt and a  $\text{Pd}(0)$  catalyst to provide a silylated carboxamide precursor; and
  - (c) hydrolyzing the silylated carboxamide precursor to provide a carboxamide.

[0011] Similar processes convert phenols to amidines and thioamides by reacting the foregoing nitrile with hydroxylamine to produce a hydroxyamidine or reacting the foregoing carboxamide with a pentavalent phosphorus-sulfur reagent to produce a thioamide. For the purpose of the invention an “opioid-binding phenol” is one that exhibits binding at an opioid receptor below 25 nM.

#### Detailed Description of the Invention

[0012] From many years of SAR studies, it is known that the hydroxyl of morphinans and benzomorphans interacts with a specific site in the opiate receptor. Previous exploration of the tolerance of this site for functional groups other than phenolic hydroxyls has almost uniformly resulted in the complete or near-complete loss of opioid binding. We have now surprisingly found that the hydroxyl can be replaced with one of several bioisosteres. Although a fairly wide range of primary and secondary carboxamides, as well as carboxylates, aminomethyl, hydroxymethyl and even dihydroimidazolyl exhibit binding in the desired range below 25 nanomolar, optimal activity is observed with a carboxamido, thiocarboxamido, hydroxyamidino or formamido group.

[0013] Since the hydroxyl functionality of benzomorphans and morphinans can be chemically converted to an amide by a simple, flexible and convenient route described below, and since thiocarboxamido, hydroxyamidino and formamido compounds are also easily synthesized as described below, the door is opened to improving the bioavailability of virtually any of the known and new therapeutic agents that rely on opioid binding for their activity. Moreover, since the receptor seems to tolerate some variation beyond the  $\alpha$ -carbon of A, one may contemplate further modulating receptor specificity, affinity and tissue distribution by varying the properties of the alkyl or aryl substituents on A. Preferred residues A are  $-\text{COOCH}_3$ ,  $-\text{COOEt}$ ,  $-\text{CONH}_2$ ,  $-\text{C}(=\text{S})\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NHOH}$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NHNH}_2$ ,



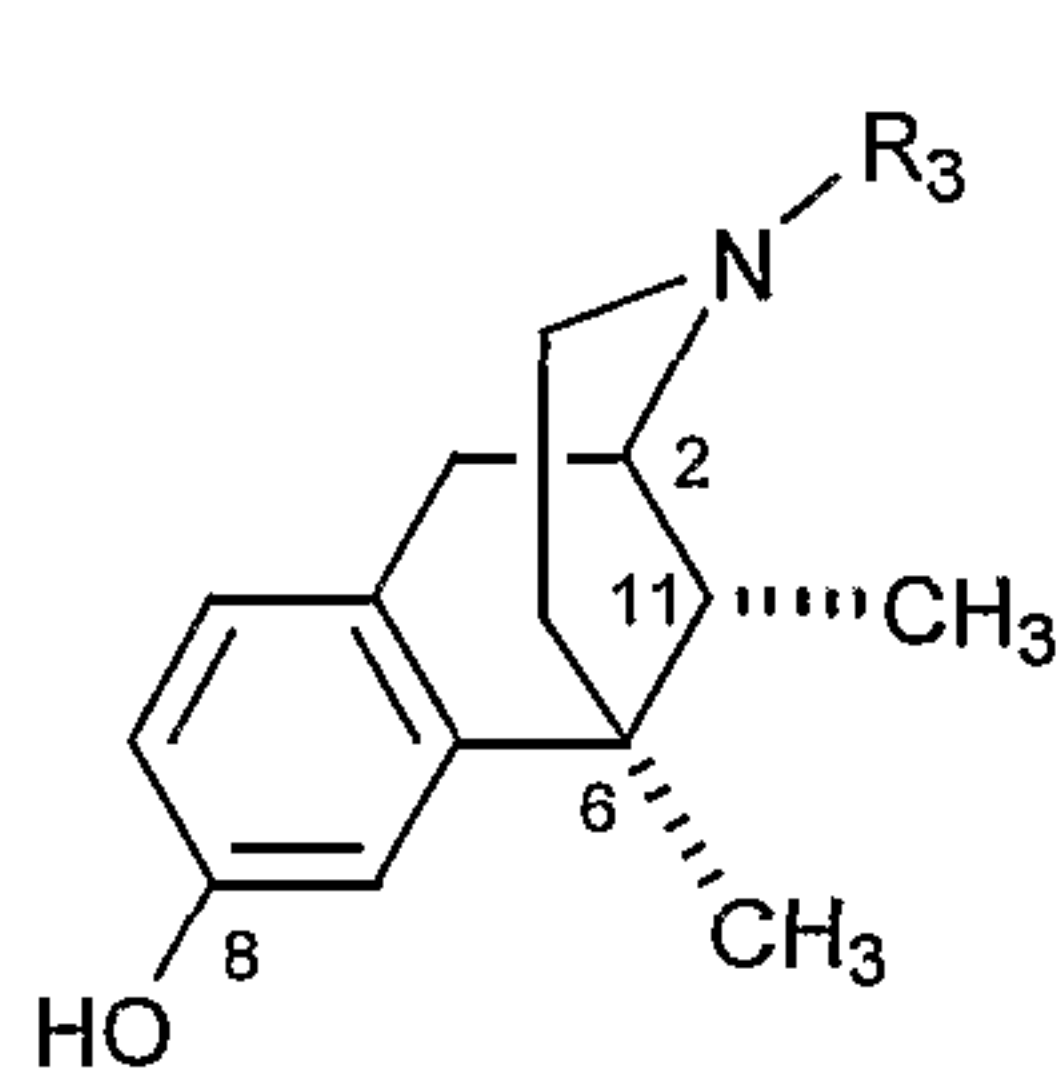
-CONHCH<sub>3</sub>, -CONHBn, -CONHCH<sub>2</sub>(4-MeOC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 2-(4,5-dihydroimidazolyl), -C(=NOH)NH<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, -COC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, -C(=NOH)C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, -NHCHO, -NHCHS and -NHSO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>. Most preferred are -CONH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=S)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=NOH)NH<sub>2</sub>, and -NHCHO.

**[0014]** It is known in the art that compounds that are  $\mu$ ,  $\delta$  and  $\kappa$  agonists exhibit analgesic activity; compounds that are selective  $\mu$  agonists exhibit anti-diarrheal activity and are useful in treating dyskinesia;  $\mu$  antagonists and  $\kappa$  agonists are useful in treating heroin, cocaine, alcohol and nicotine addiction;  $\kappa$  agonists are also anti-pruritic agents and are useful in treating hyperalgesia. In general, the dextrorotatory isomers of morphinans of type III above are useful as antitussives and anticonvulsants.

**[0015]** Opioid receptor ligands having known high affinity are shown in the following charts 1 and 2. Replacement of OH in these compounds produces compounds that exhibit similar activity and better bioavailability.



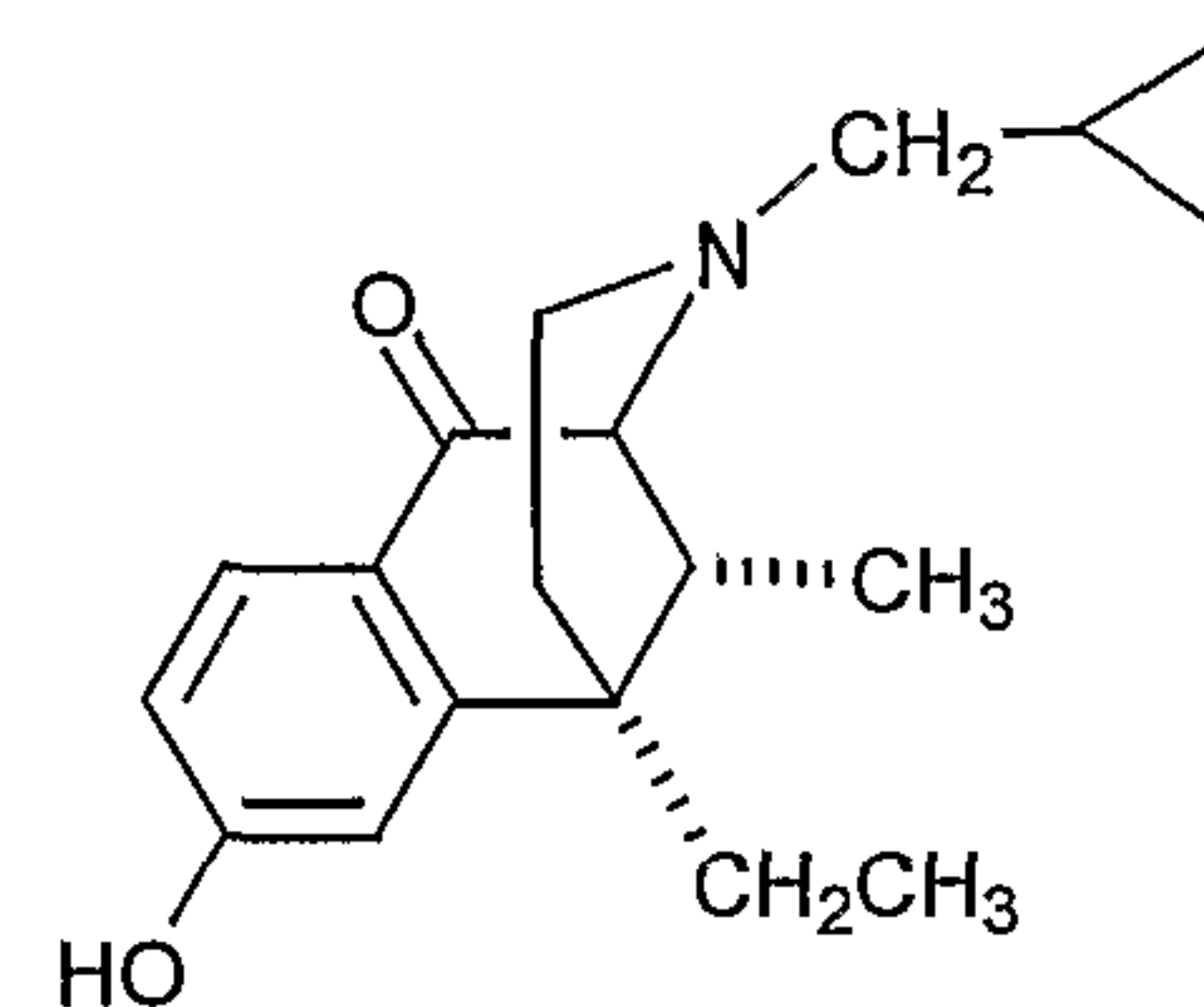
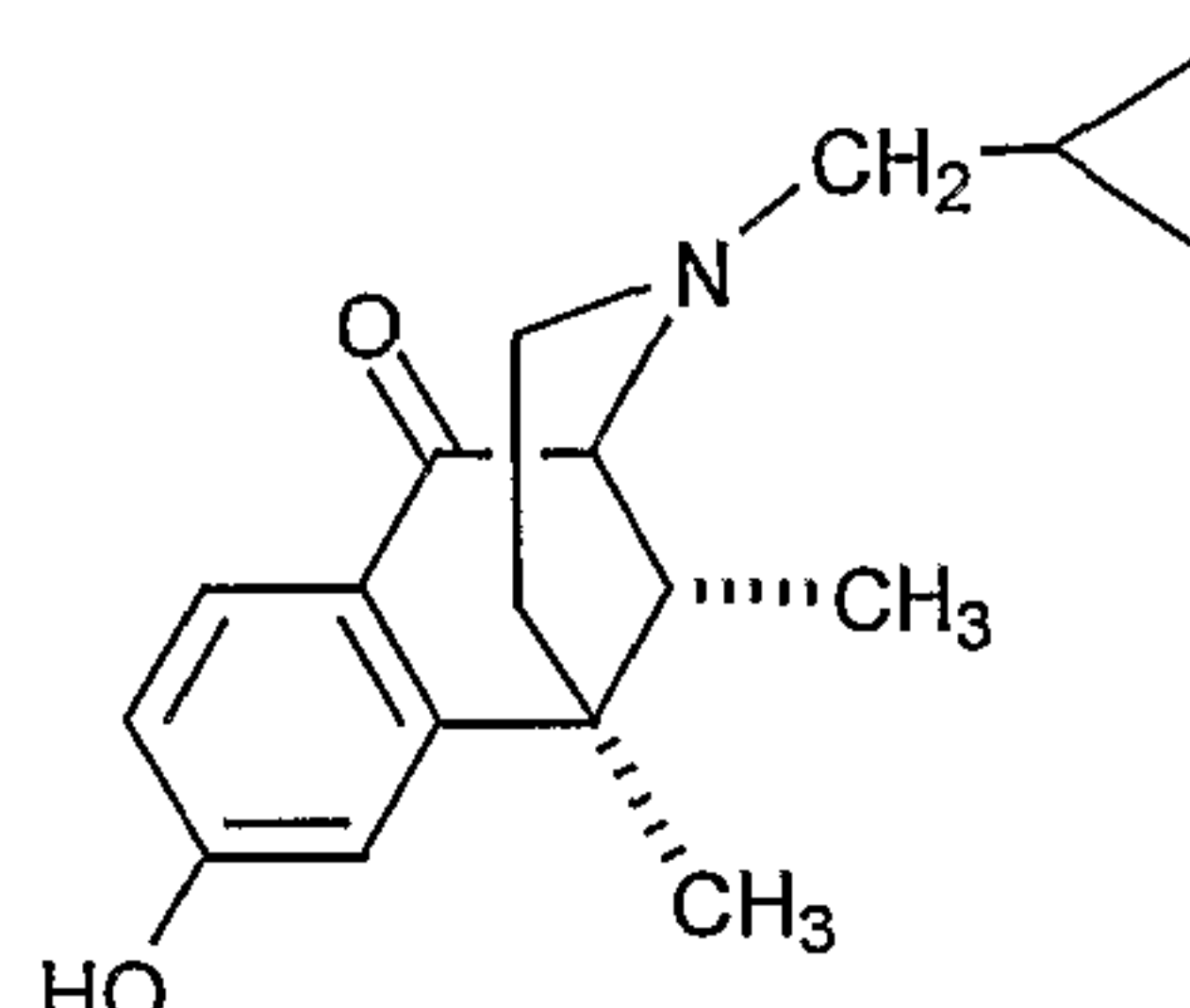
**Chart 1. Opioid Receptor Ligands**  
**Benzomorphinans (a.k.a. 2,6-Methano-3-benzazocines)**

Cyclazocine,  $R_3 = \text{CH}_2\text{-c-C}_3\text{H}_5$ 

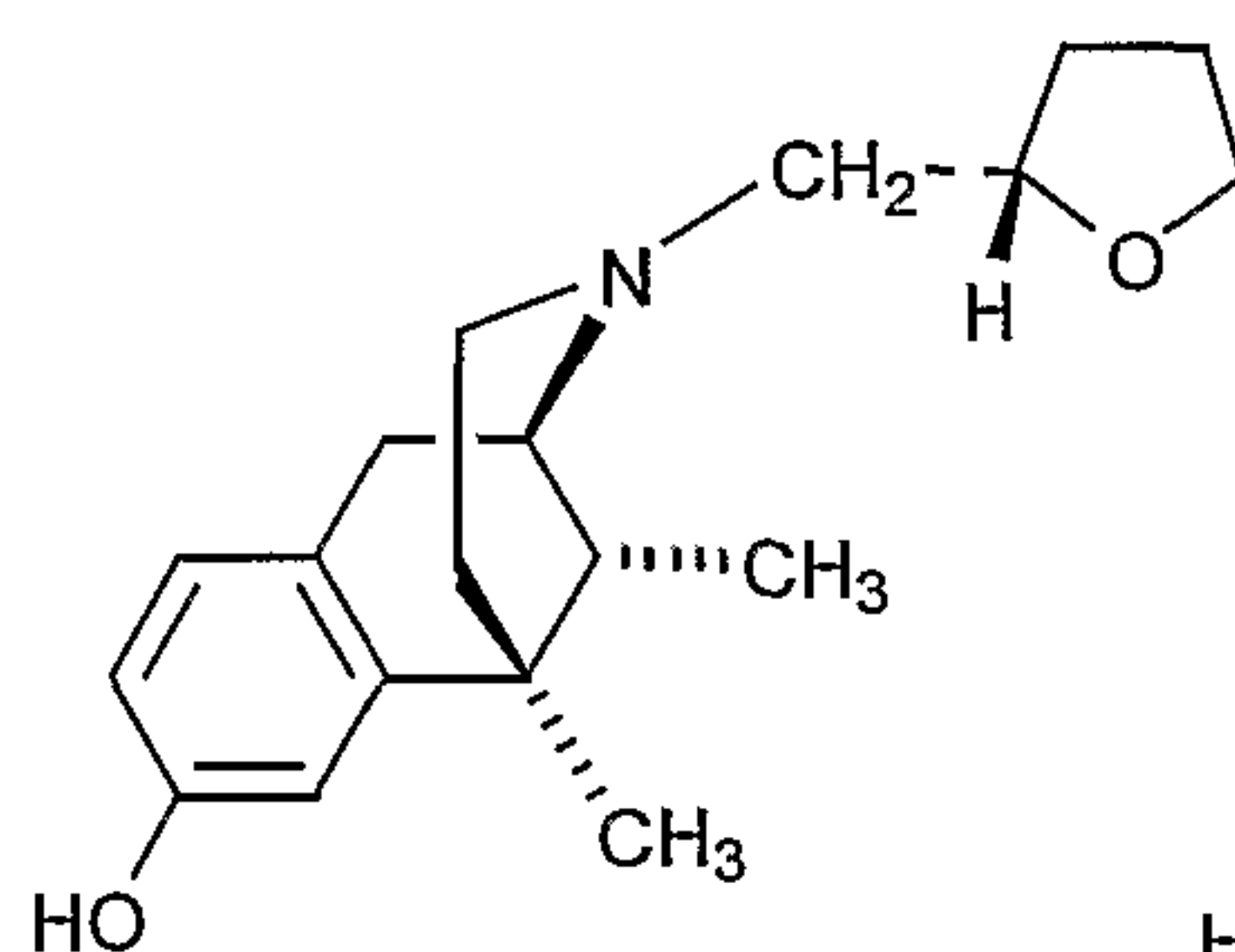
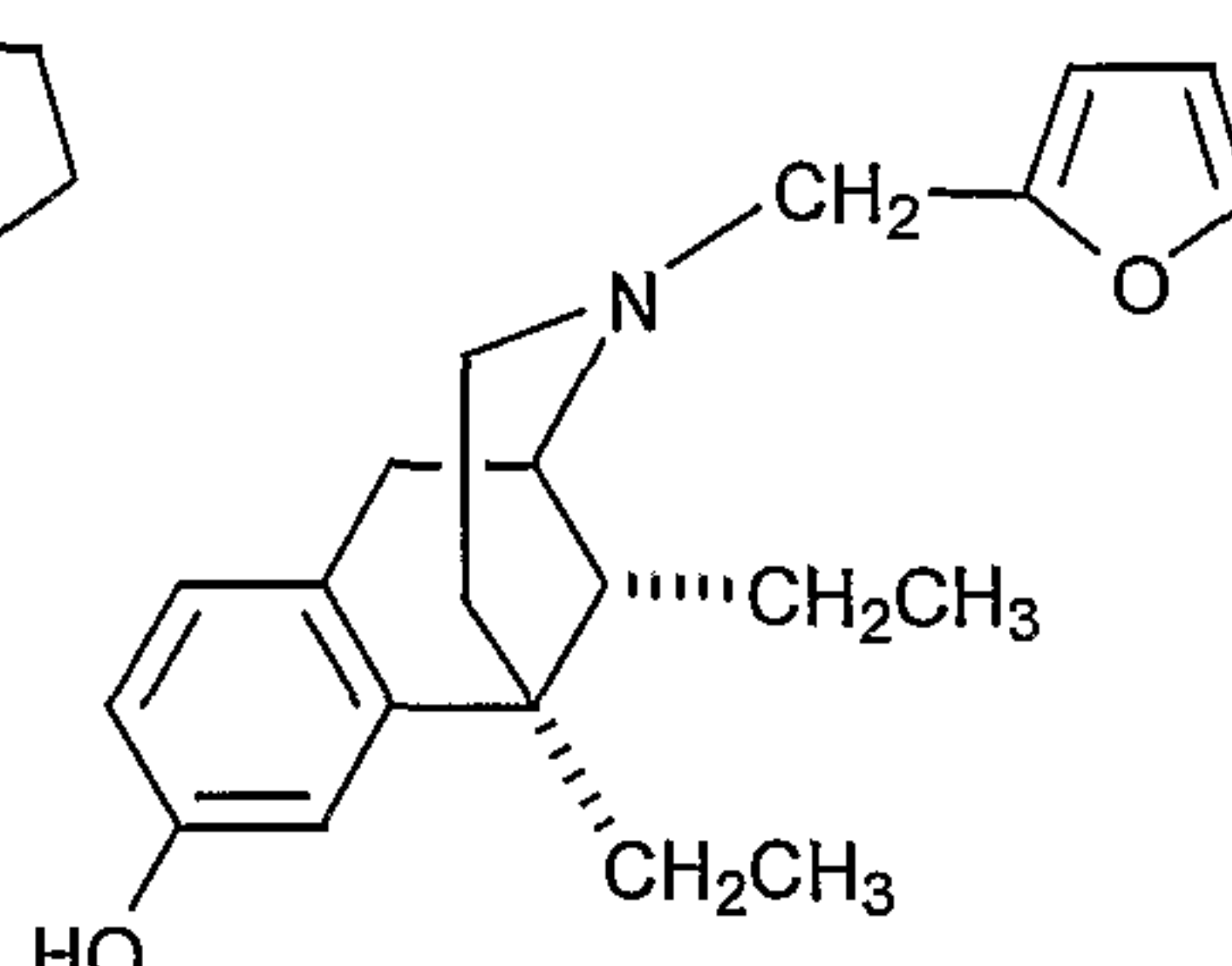
Ketocyclazocine

Metazocine,  $R_3 = \text{CH}_3$ Phenazocine,  $R_3 = \text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ SKF 10,047,  $R_3 = \text{CH}_2\text{CH=CH}_2$ Pentazocine,  $R_3 = \text{CH}_2\text{CH=C(CH}_3)_2$ 

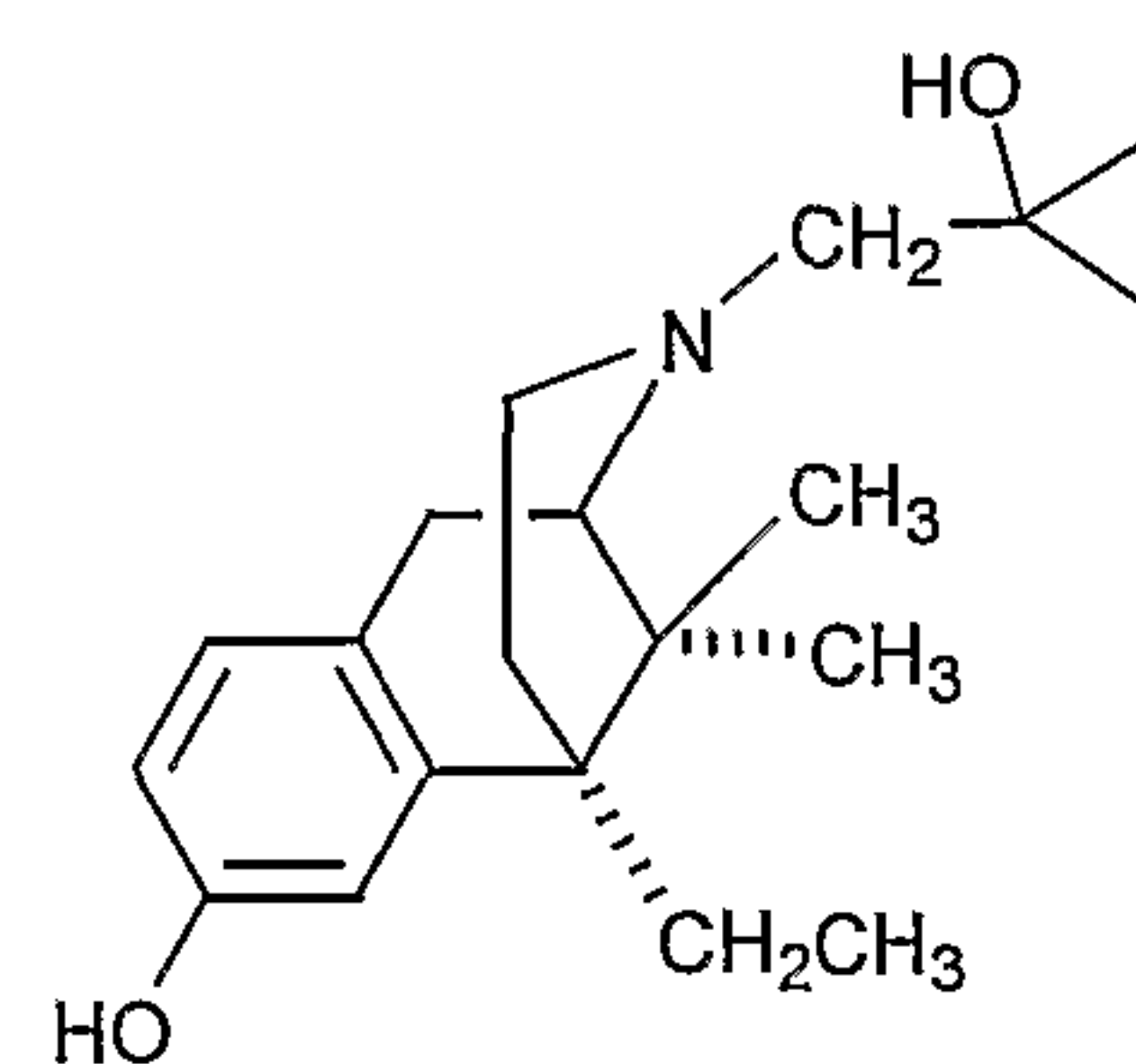
(all racemic)



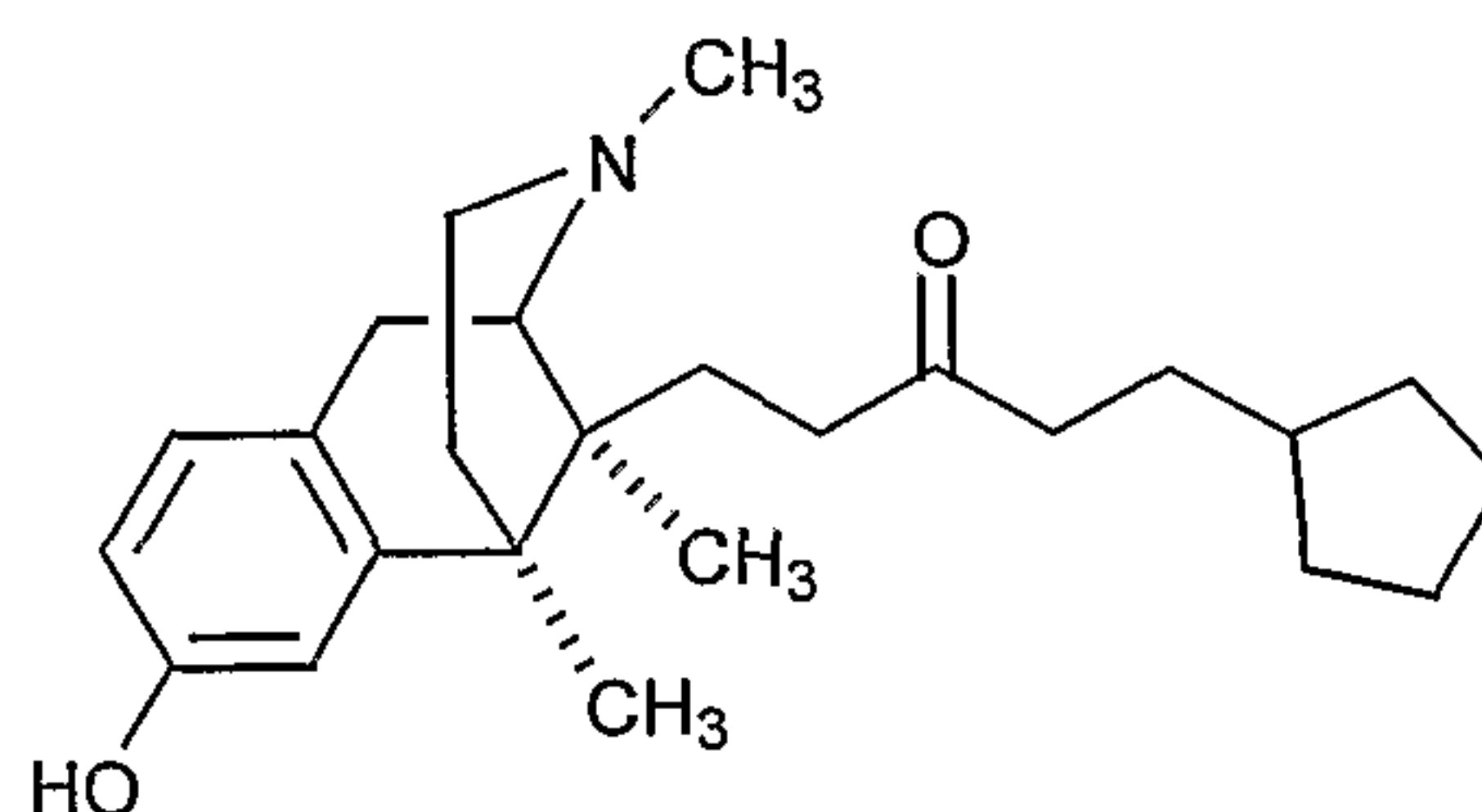
Ethylketocyclazocine (EKC)

MR2034 - "Merz" core  
structure (opt. active)

MR2266

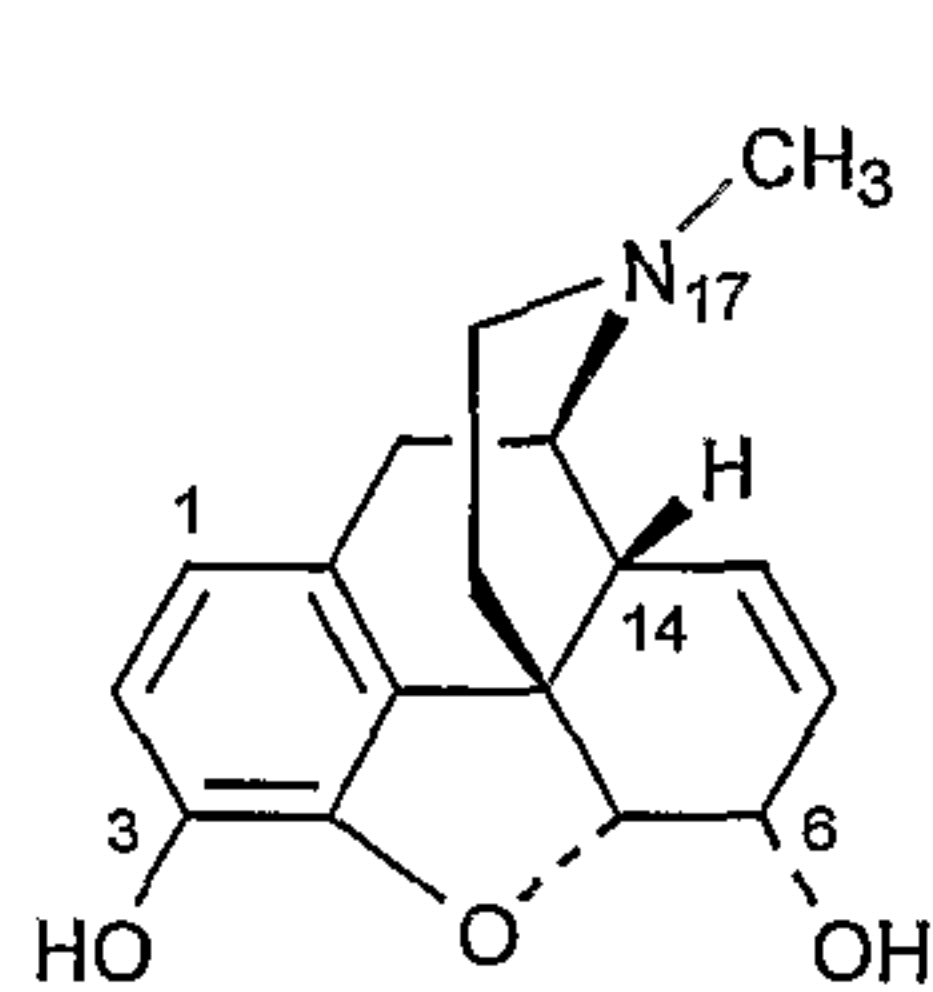


Bremazocine

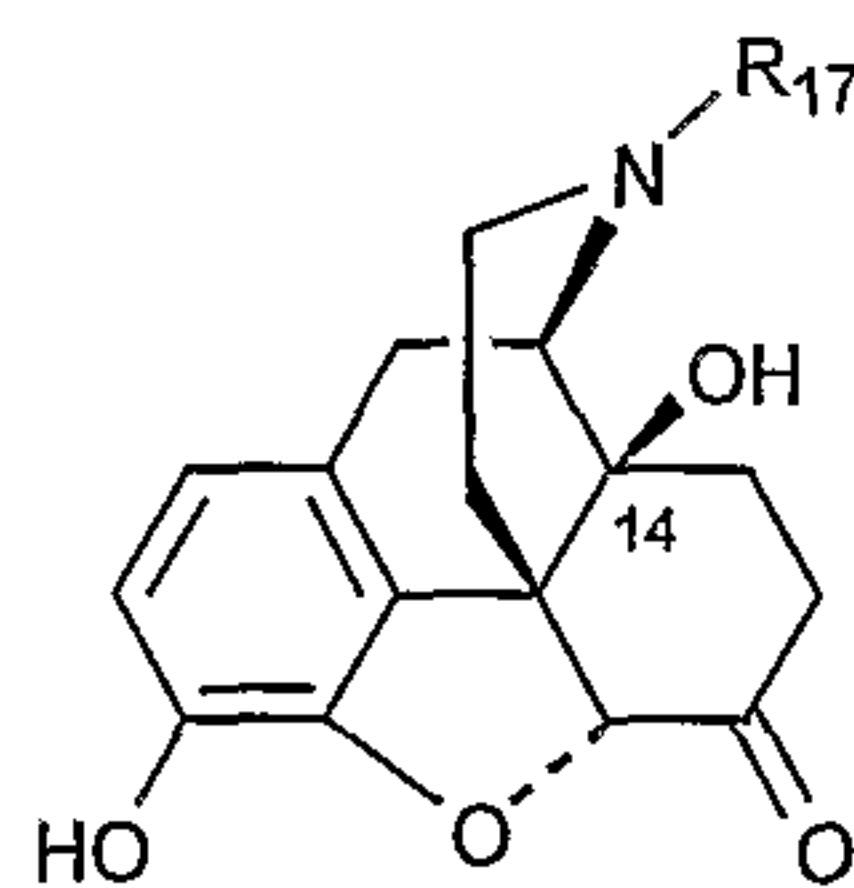


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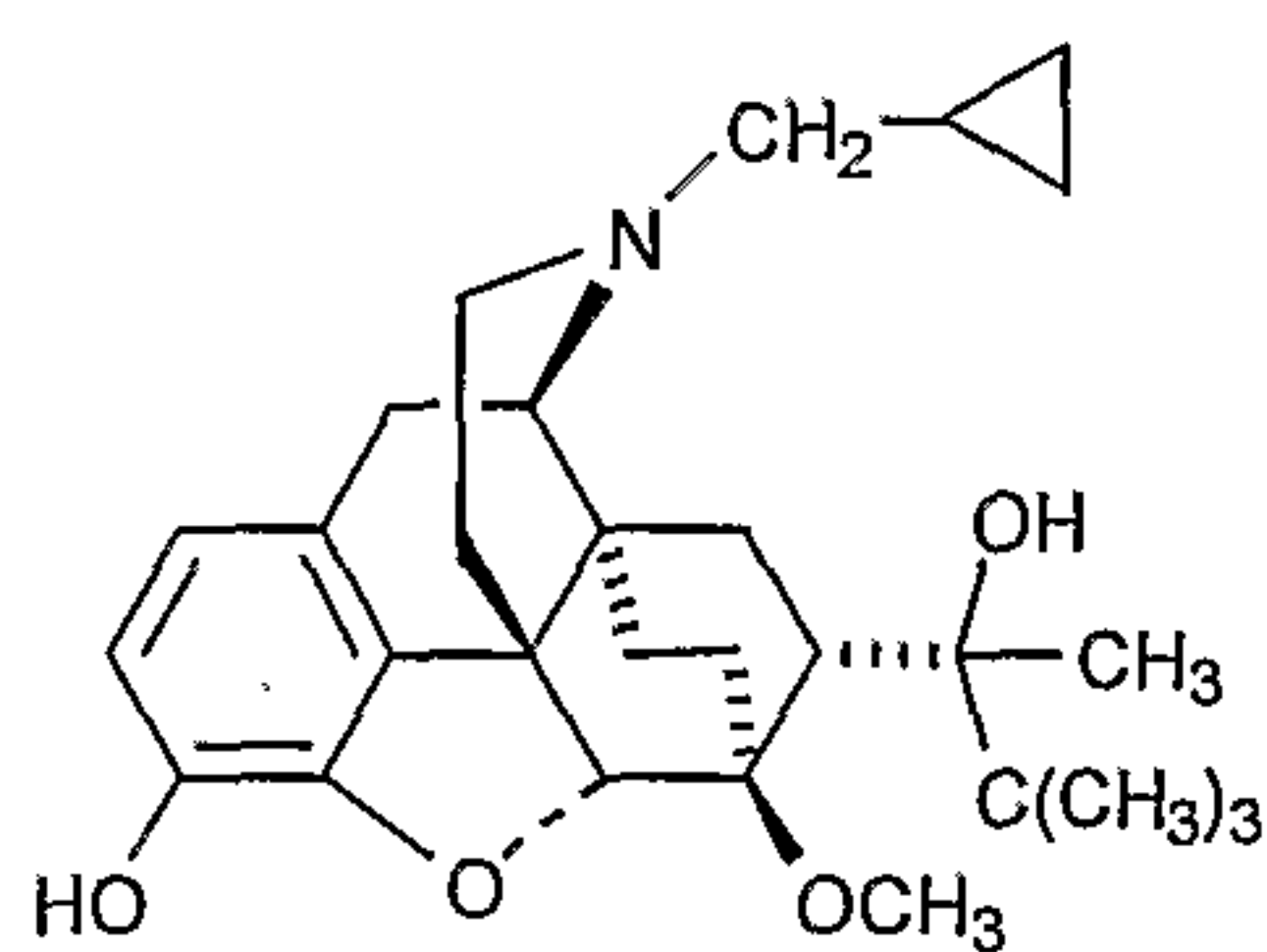
**Chart 2. Opioid Receptor Ligands  
Morphine and Morphinans**



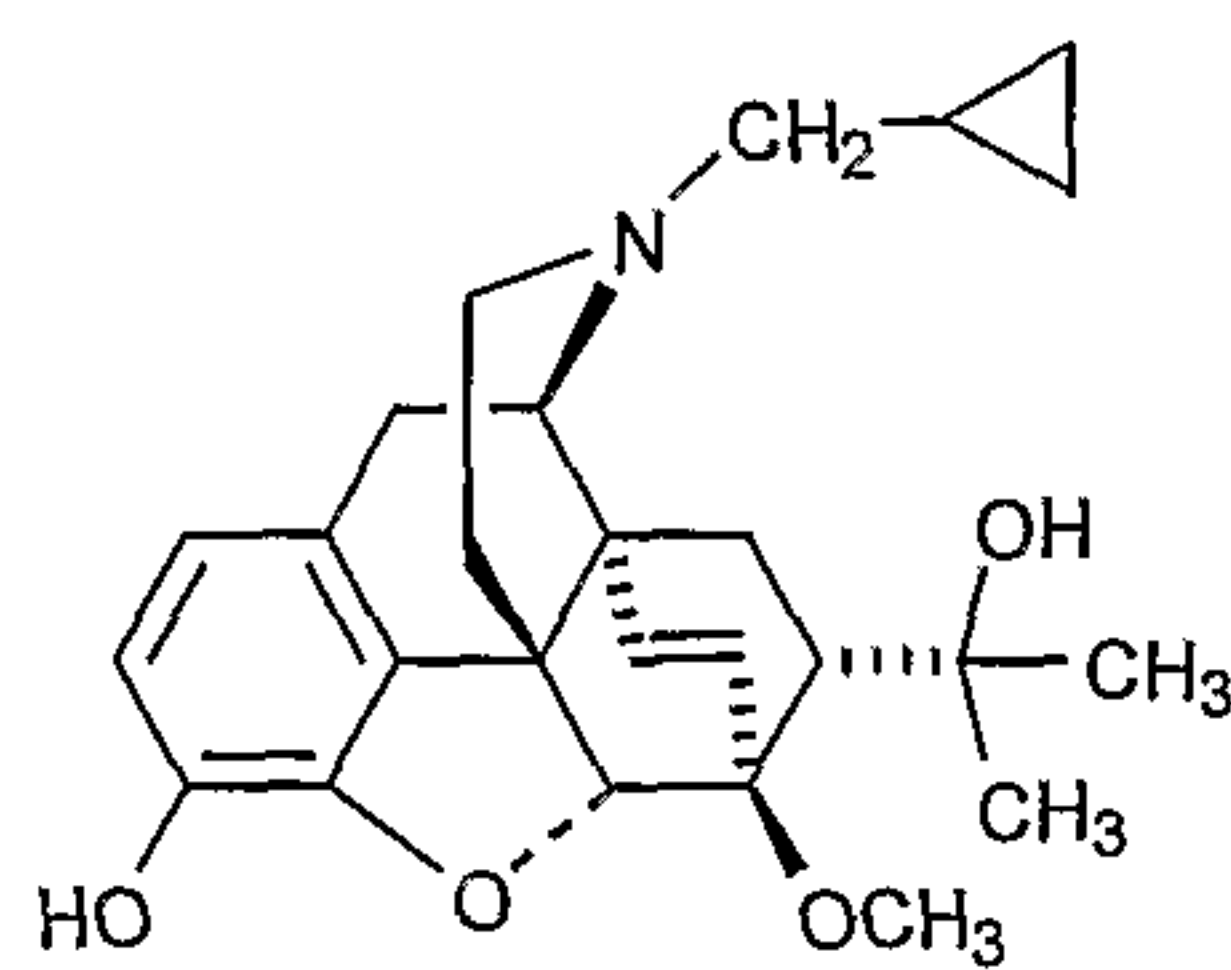
Morphine



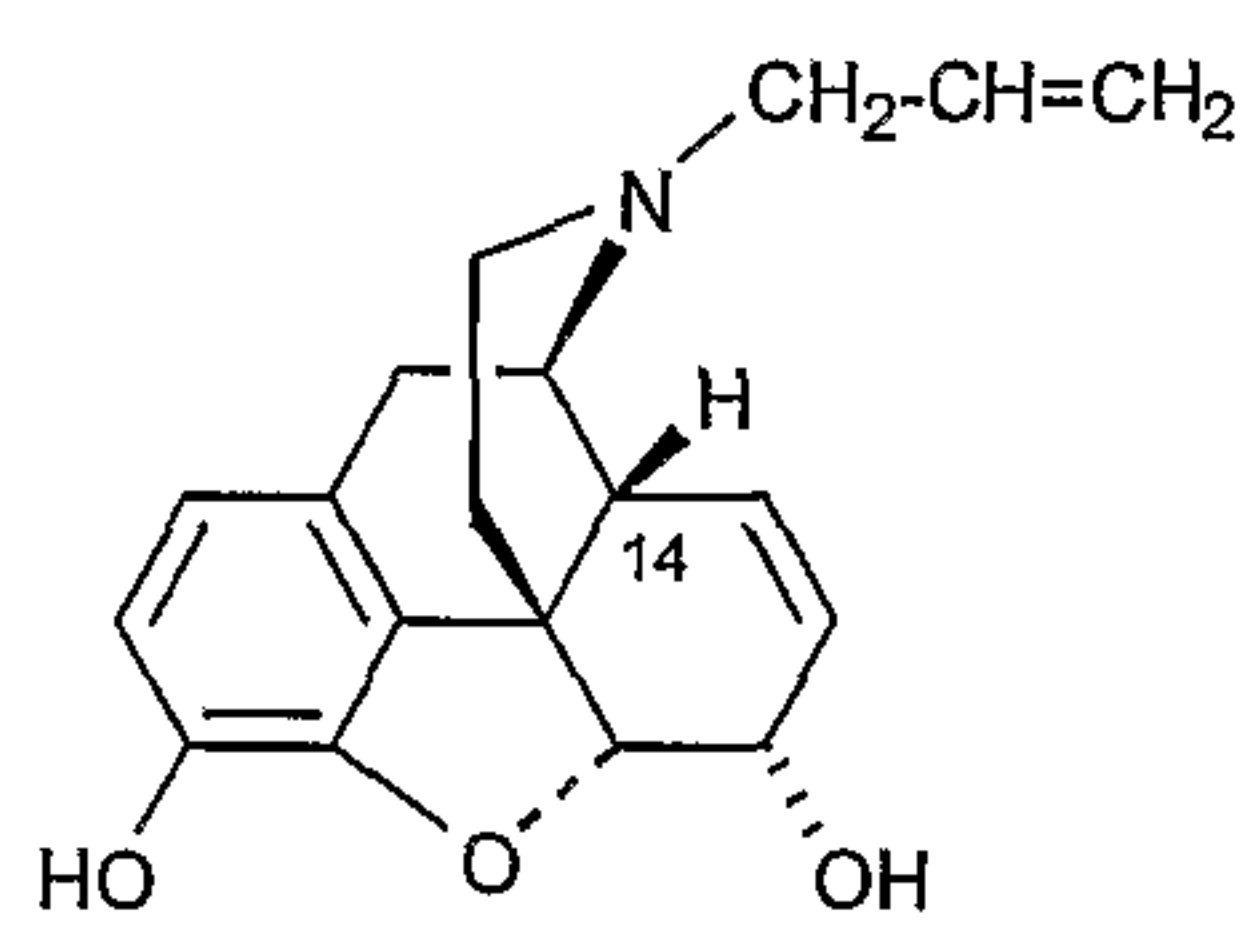
Naltrexone; R<sub>17</sub> = CH<sub>2</sub>-C-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>  
 Naloxone; R<sub>17</sub> = CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH<sub>2</sub>  
 Nalmexone; R<sub>17</sub> = CH<sub>2</sub>CH=C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>  
 Oxymorphone; R<sub>17</sub> = CH<sub>3</sub>



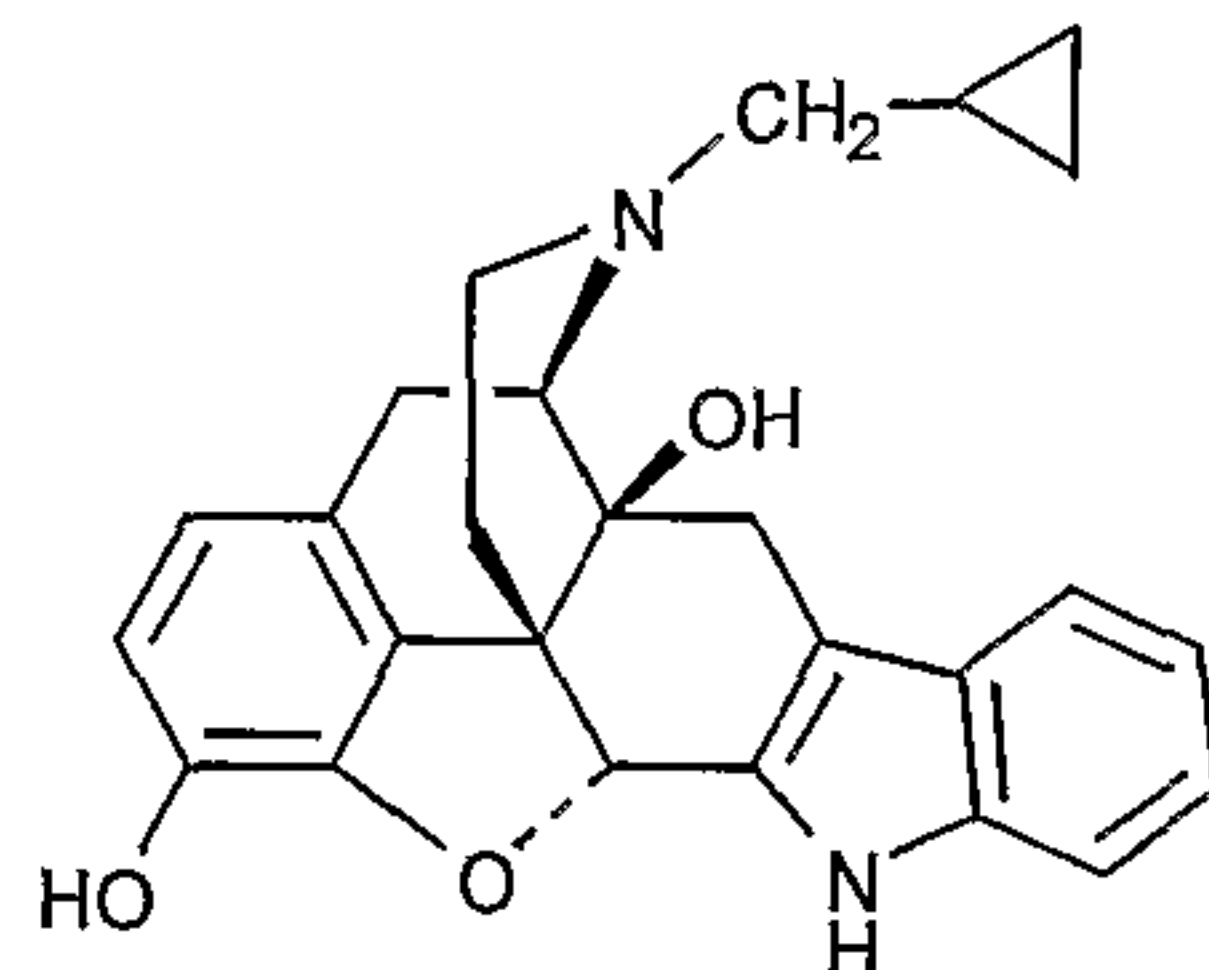
Buprenorphine



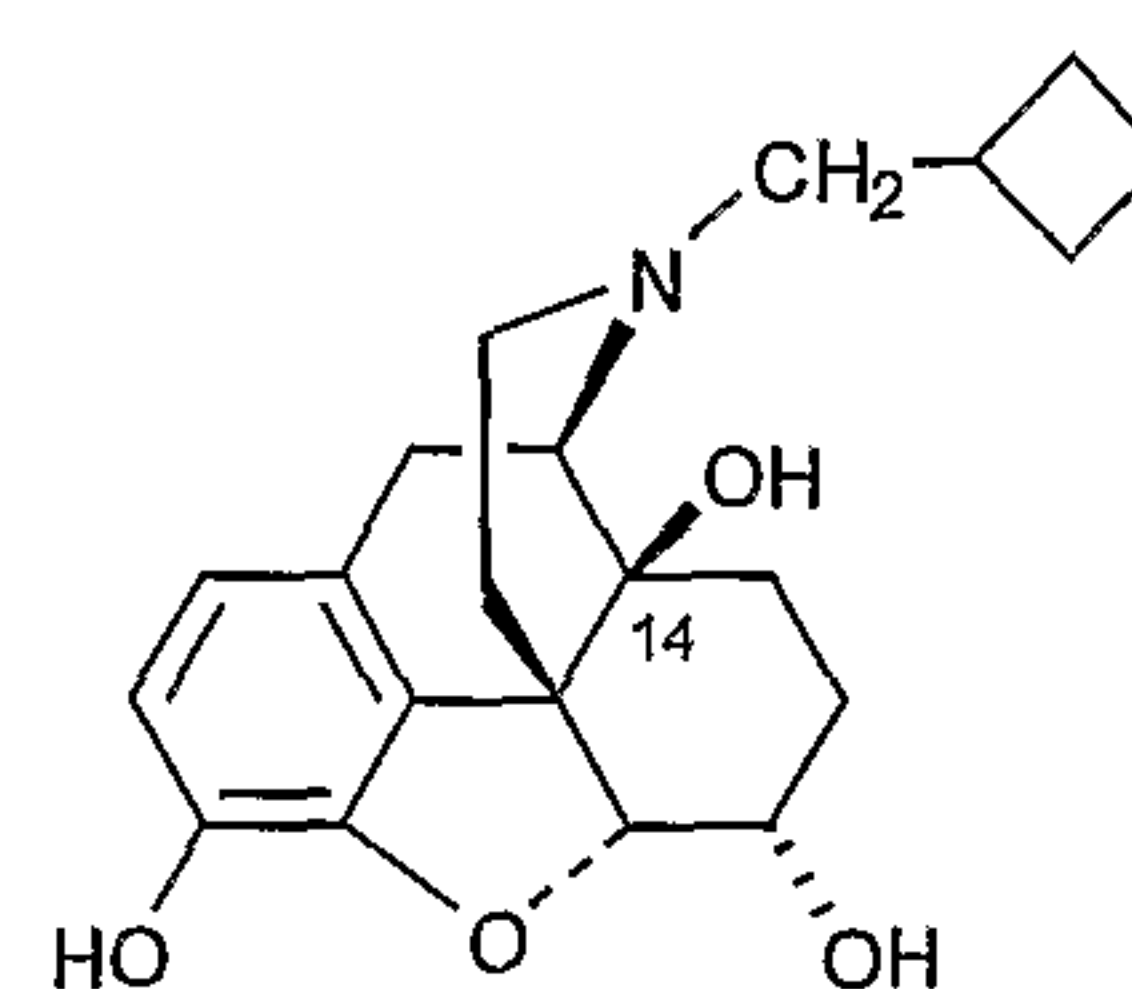
Diprenorphine  
 Etorphine (N-Me; n-Pr vs Me)



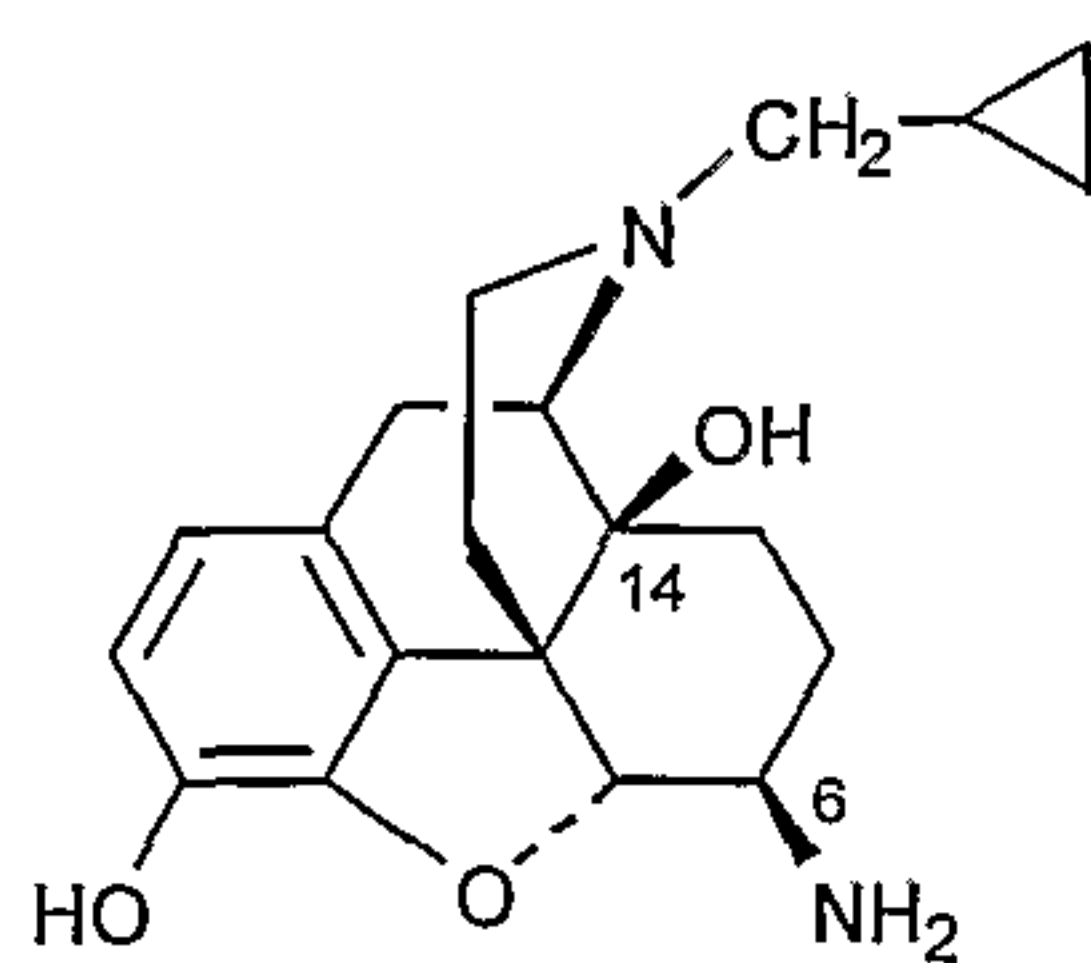
Nalorphine



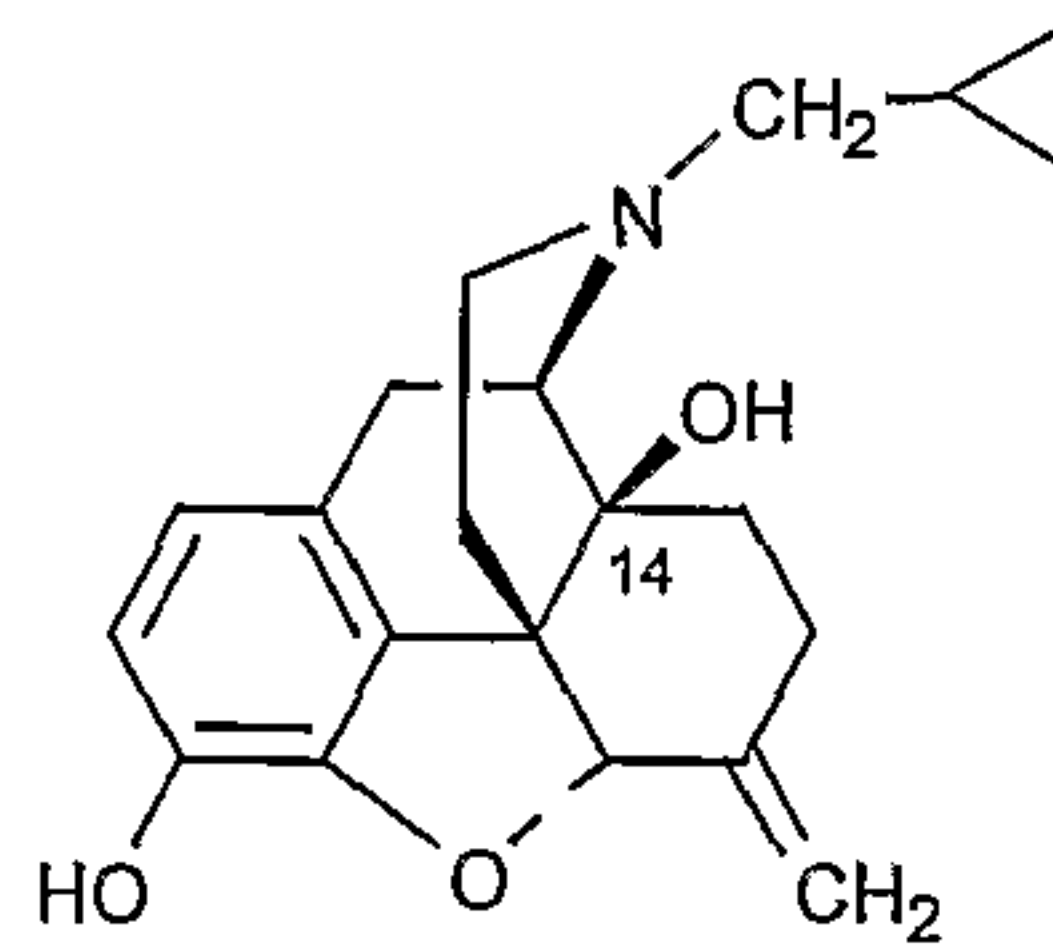
Naltrindole



Nalbuphine

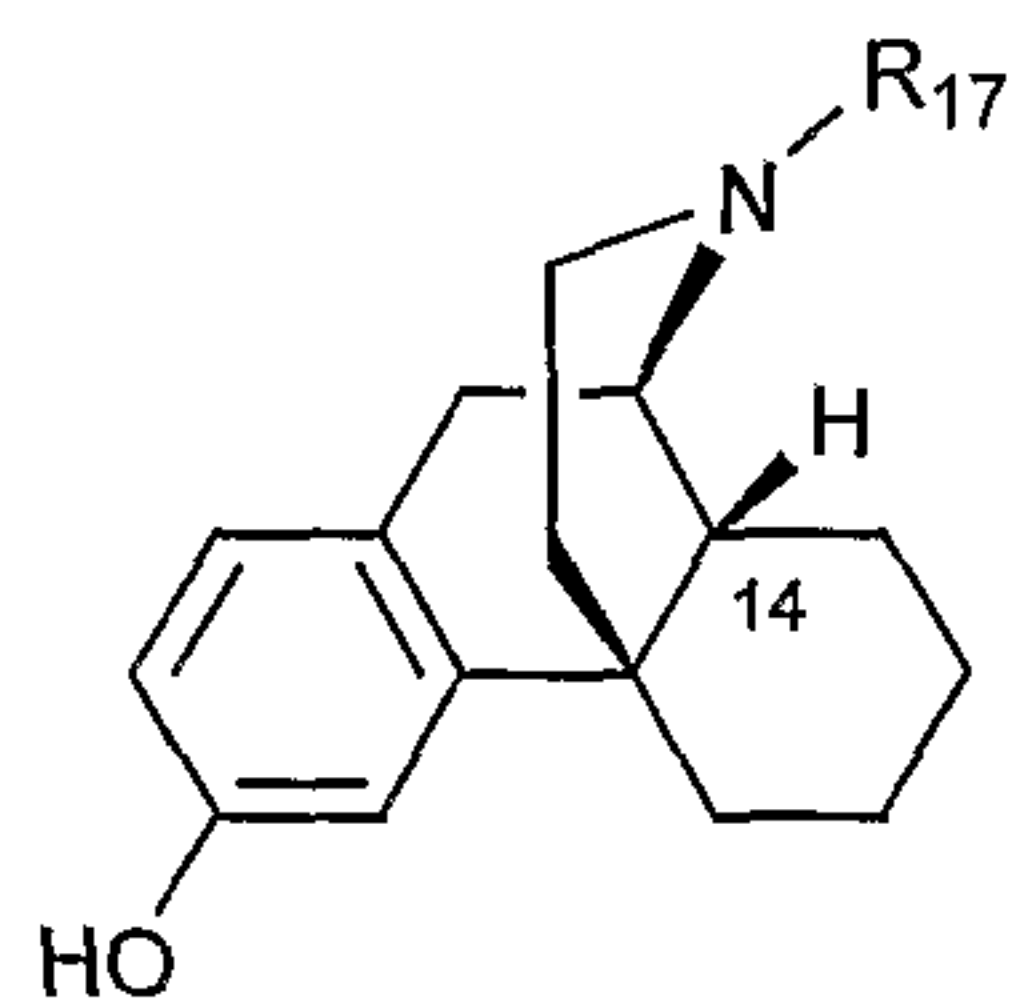
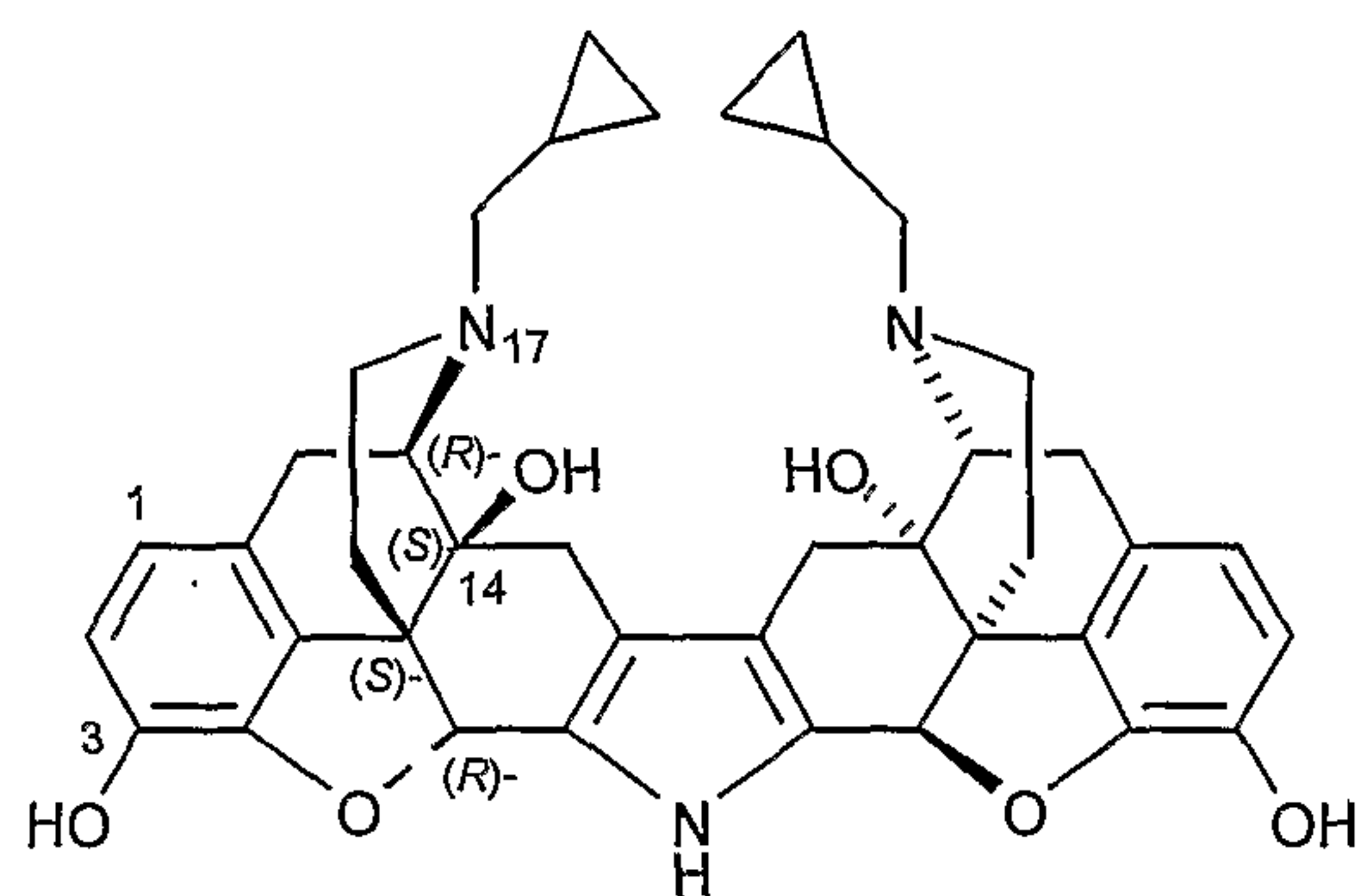
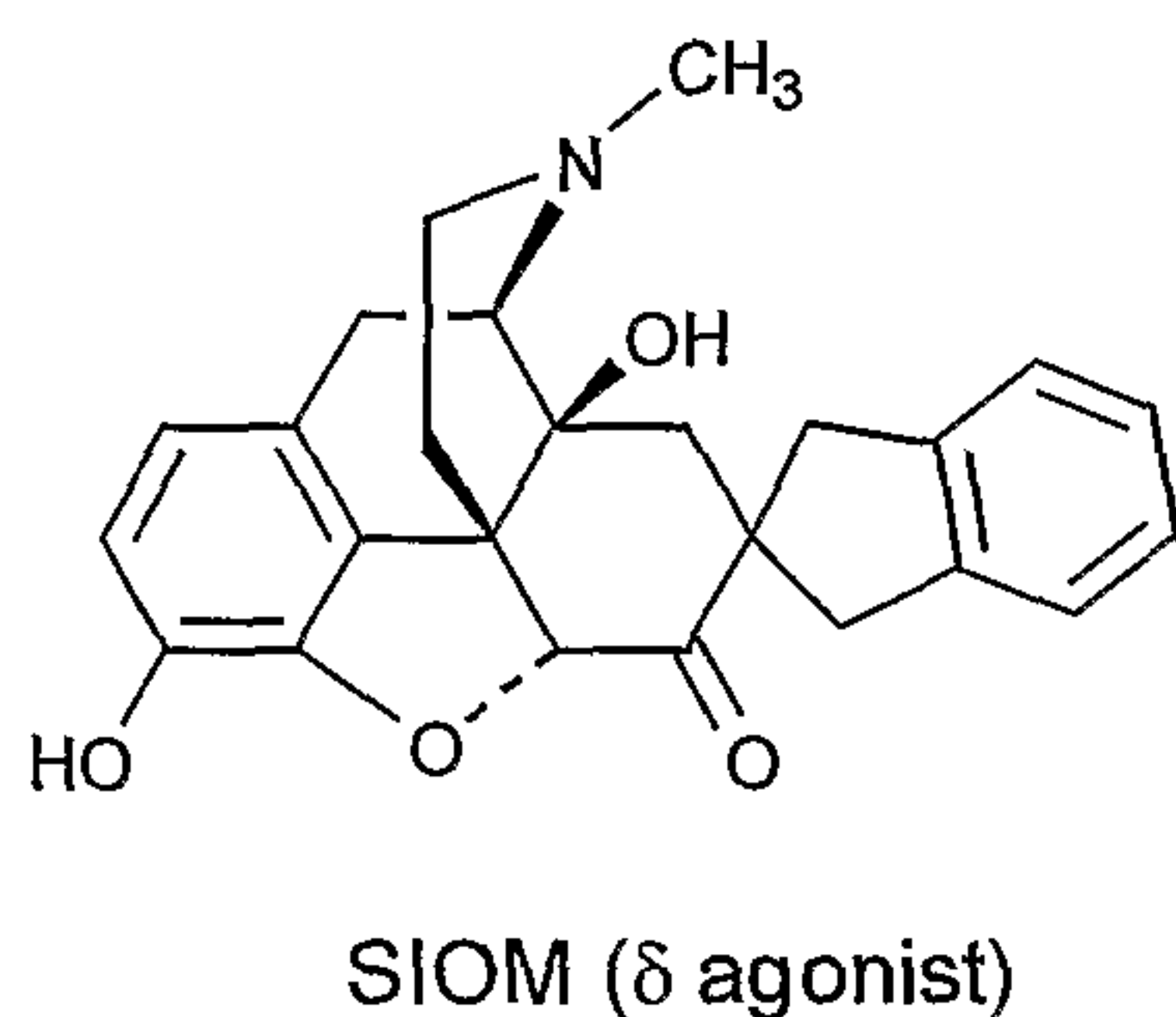
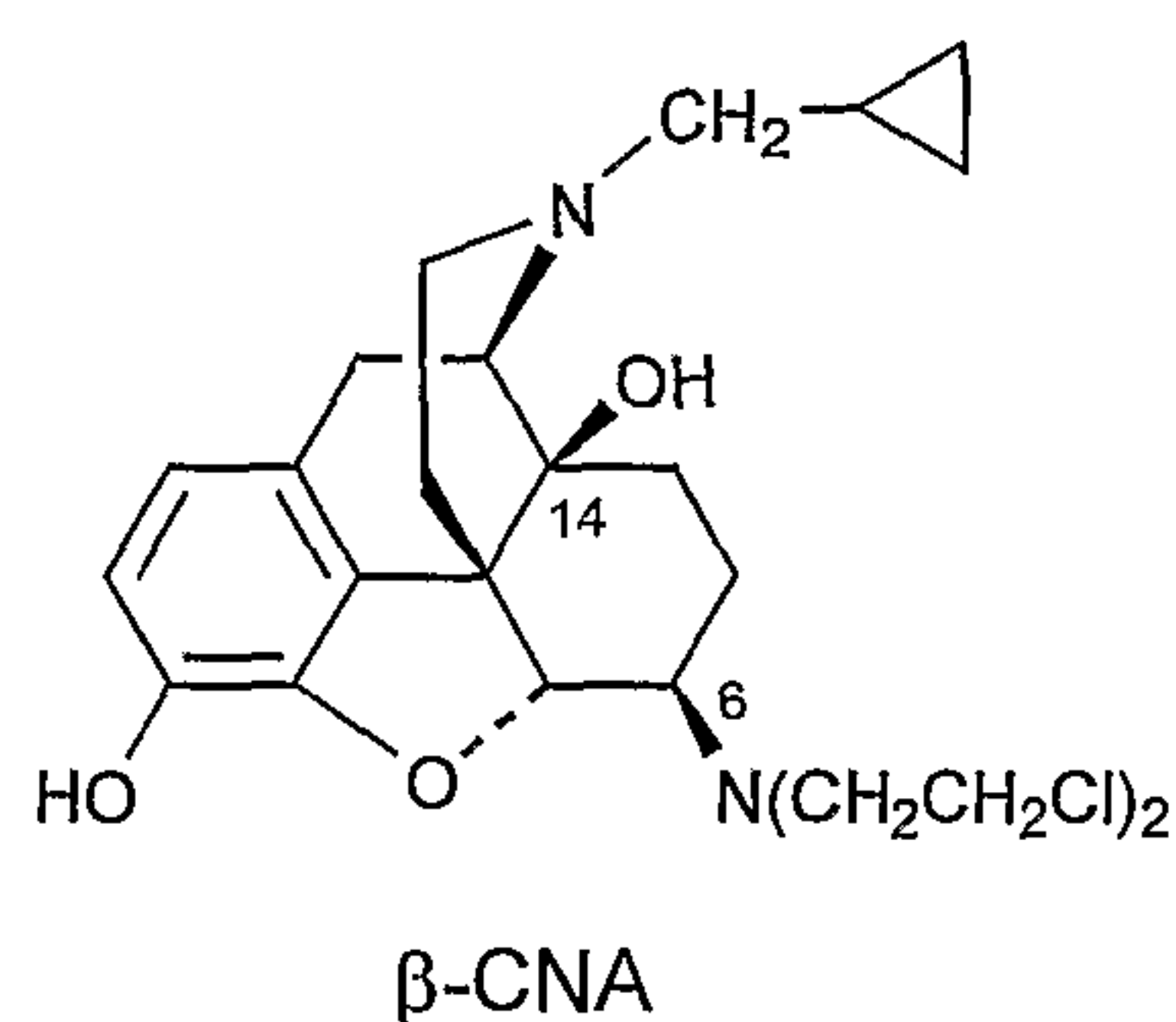
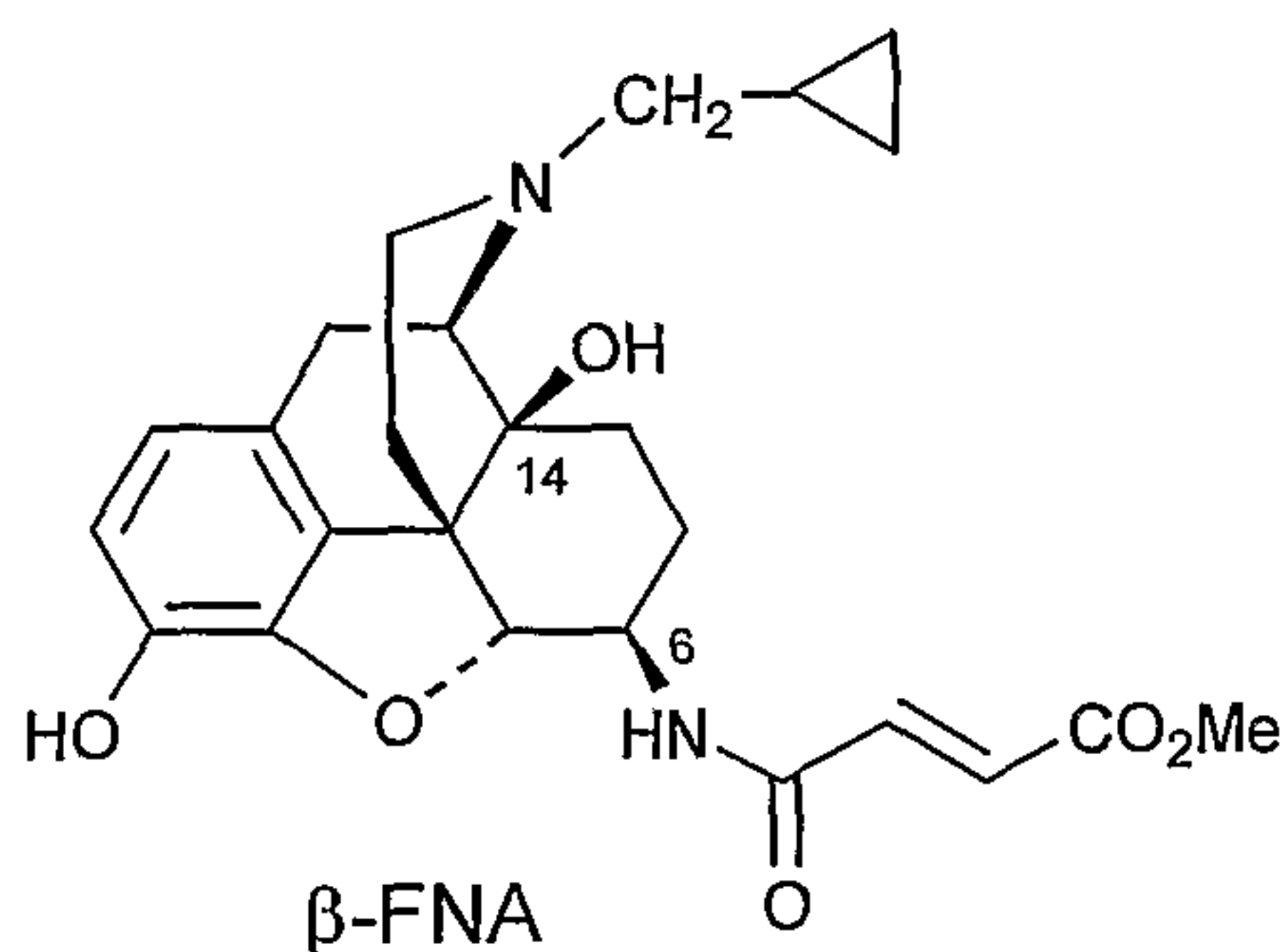


β-Naltrexamine

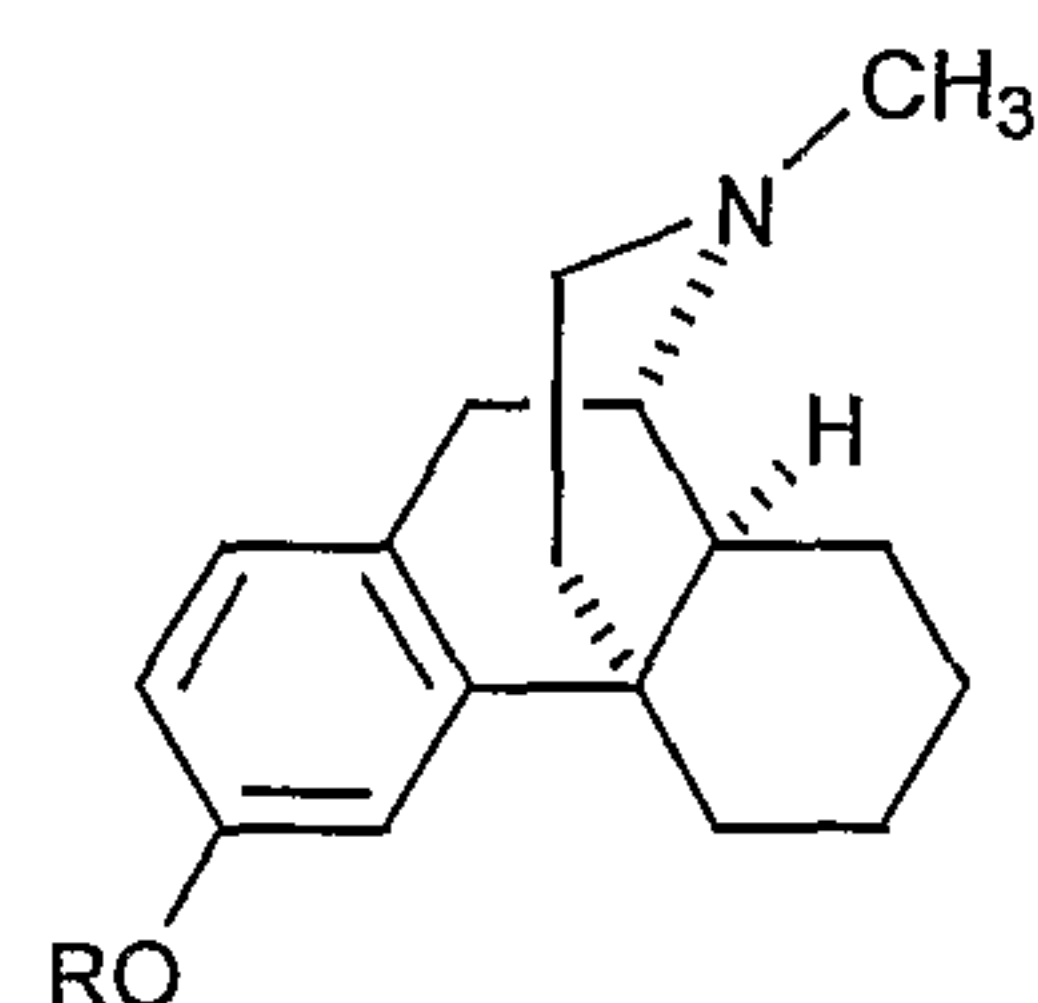


Nalmefene

**Chart 2 (continued). Opioid Receptor Ligands  
Morphine and Morphinans**

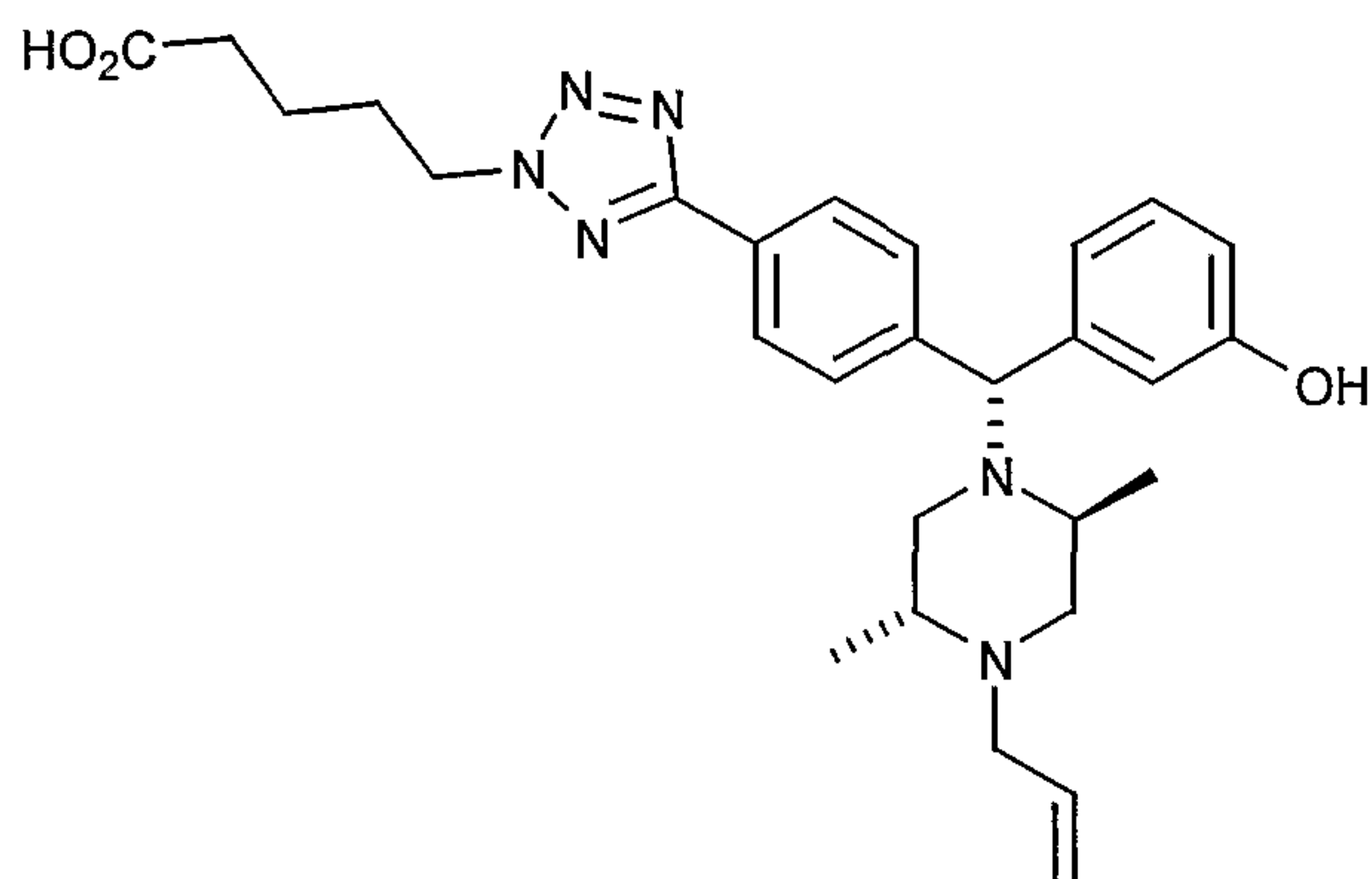


Levorphanol;  $R_{17} = \text{CH}_3$   
Cyclorphan;  $R_{17} = \text{CH}_2\text{-c-C}_3\text{H}_5$   
MCL 101;  $R_{17} = \text{CH}_2\text{-c-C}_4\text{H}_7$   
Butorphanol;  $R_{17} = \text{CH}_2\text{-c-C}_4\text{H}_7$   
and 14-OH  
Merz-morphinane hybrid core;  $R_{17} =$   
 $\text{CH}_2\text{-(S)-tetrahydrofurfuryl}$

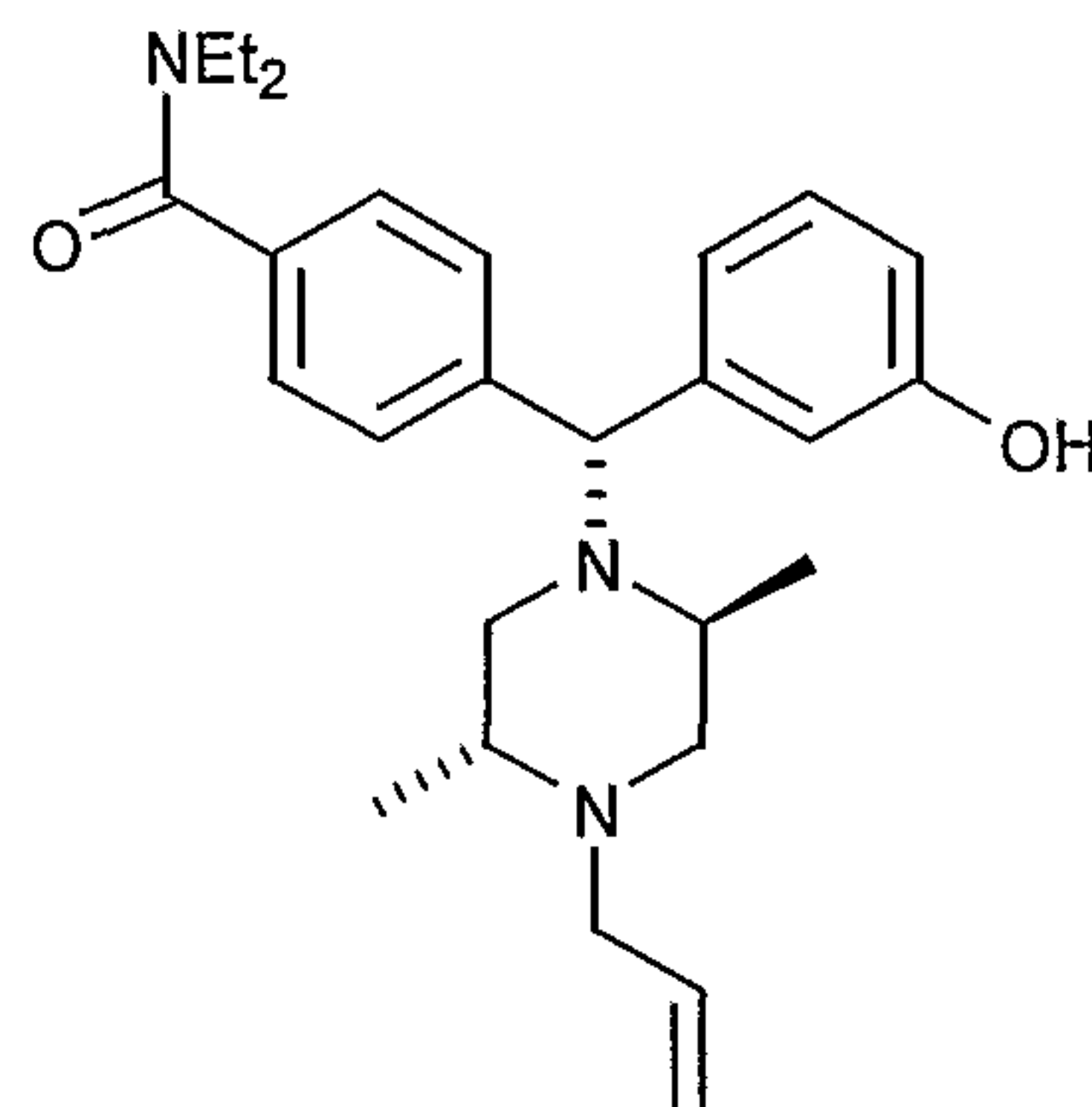


Dextromethorphan;  $R = \text{CH}_3$   
Dextrophan;  $R = \text{H}$   
(note "opposite" stereochemistry)

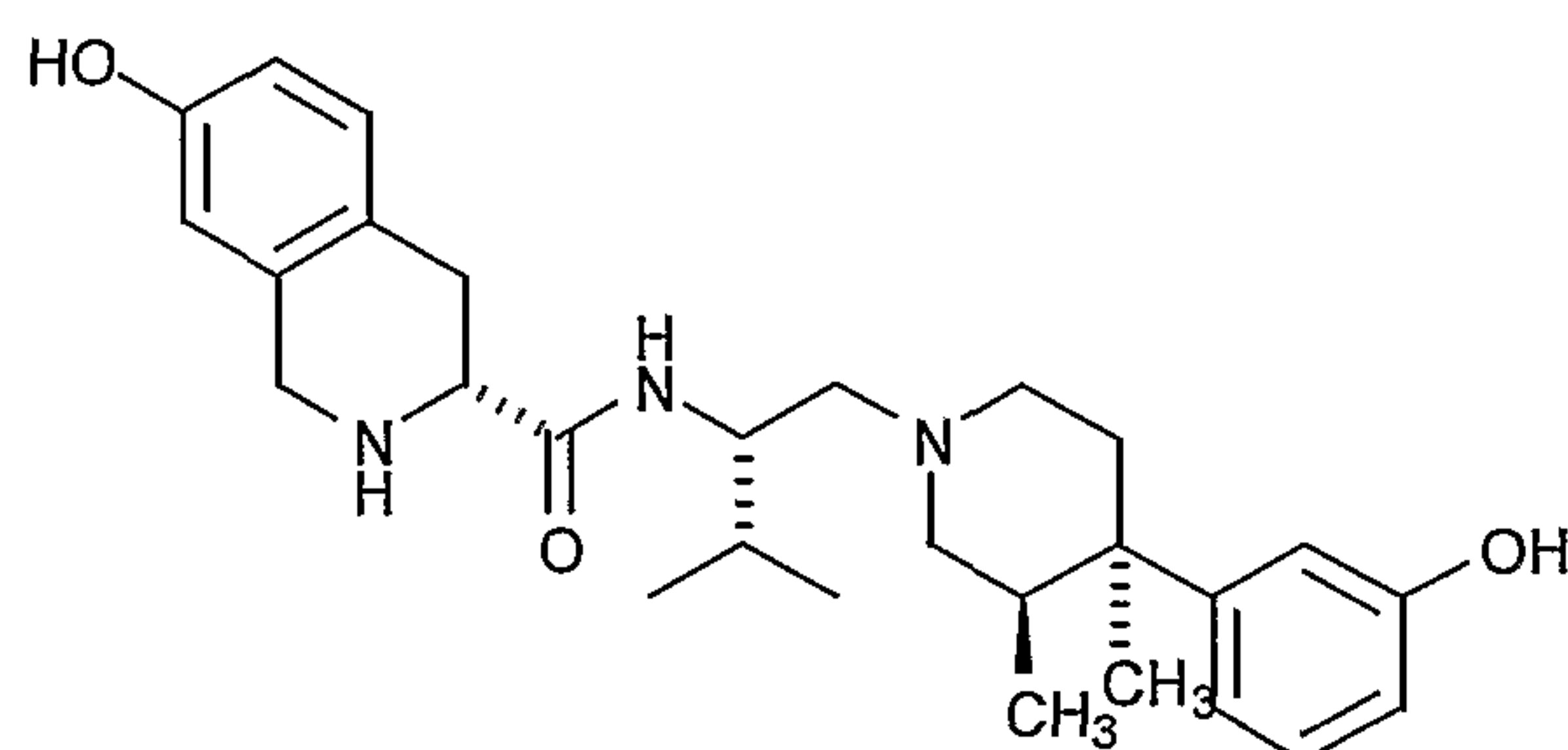
Chart 3 - Miscellaneous Opioid Receptor Ligands



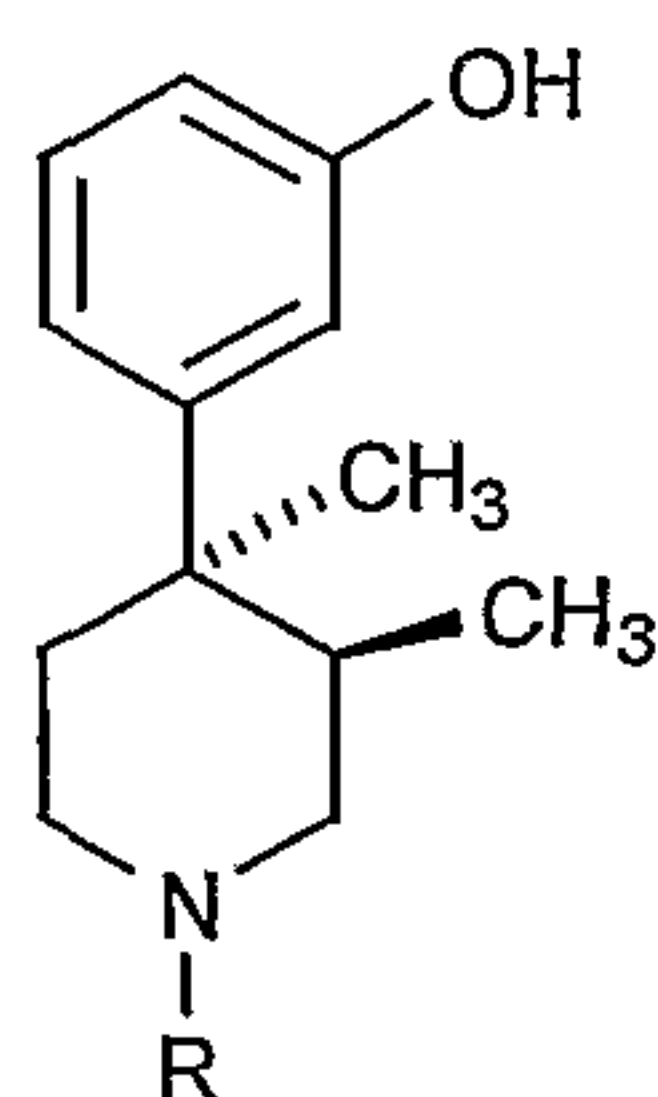
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Registry Number 155836-52-5



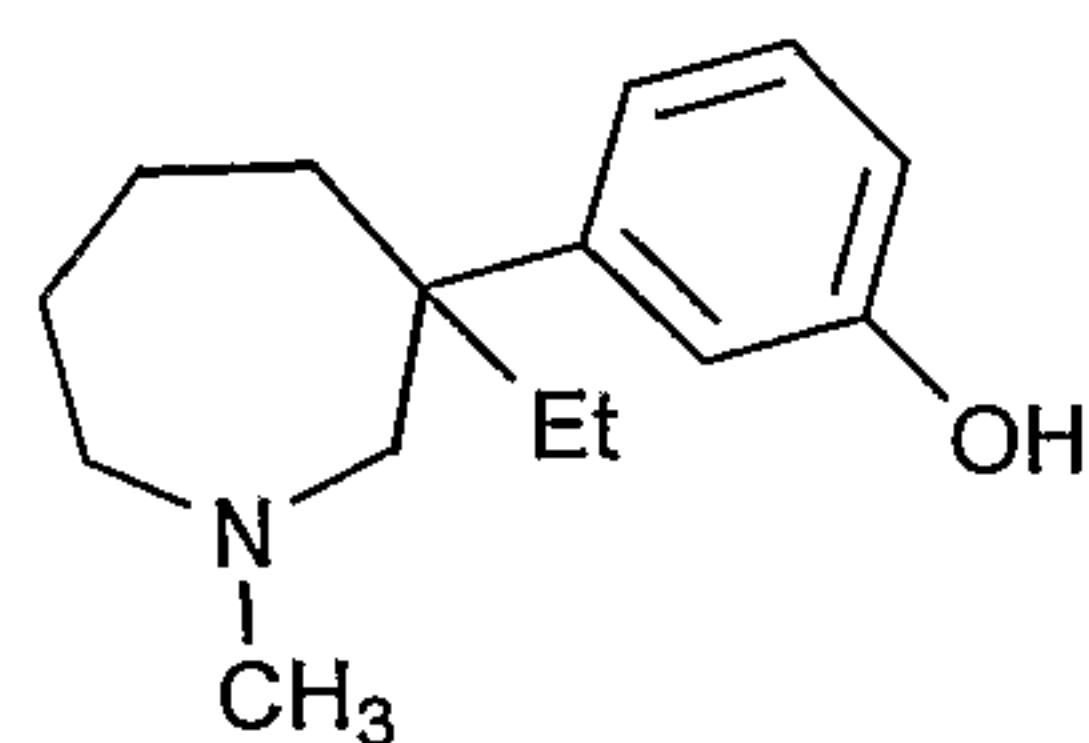
Registry number 361444-66-8

R = CH<sub>3</sub>; Registry Number: 69926-34-7R = CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(OH)C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>11</sub>;

Registry Number: 119193-09-8

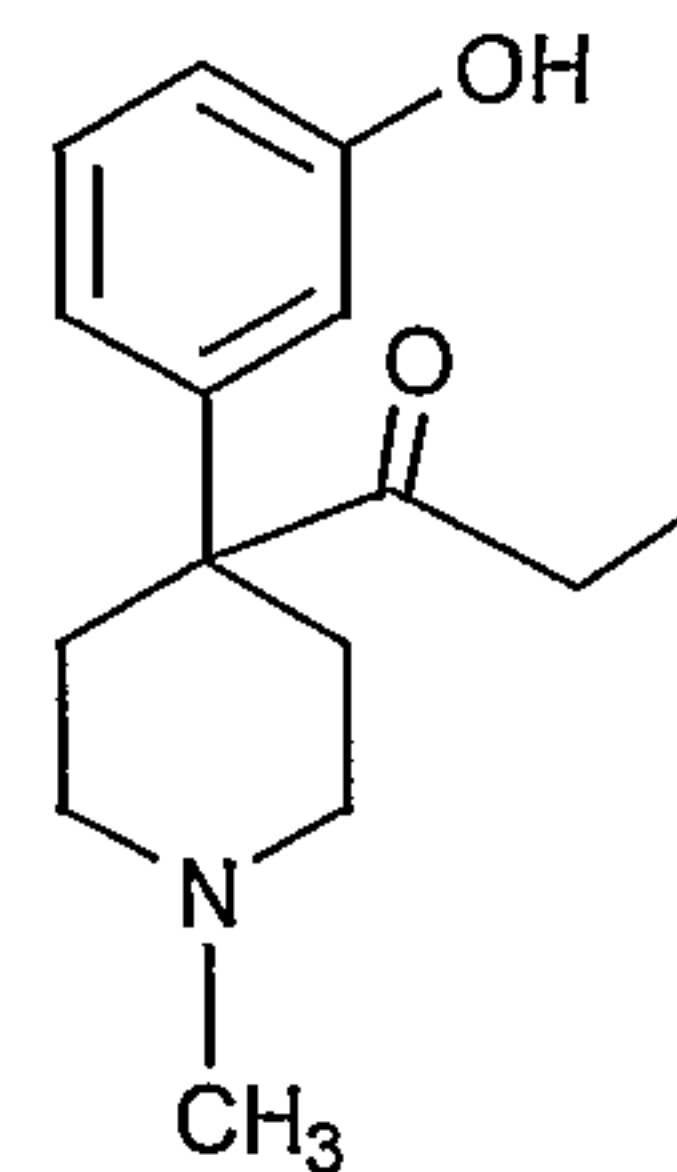
R = CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>2</sub>Ph)CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H;

Registry Number: 156130-44-8

R = (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>; Registry Number: 151022-07-0R = (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-2-thienyl; Registry Number: 149710-80-5

Meptazinol

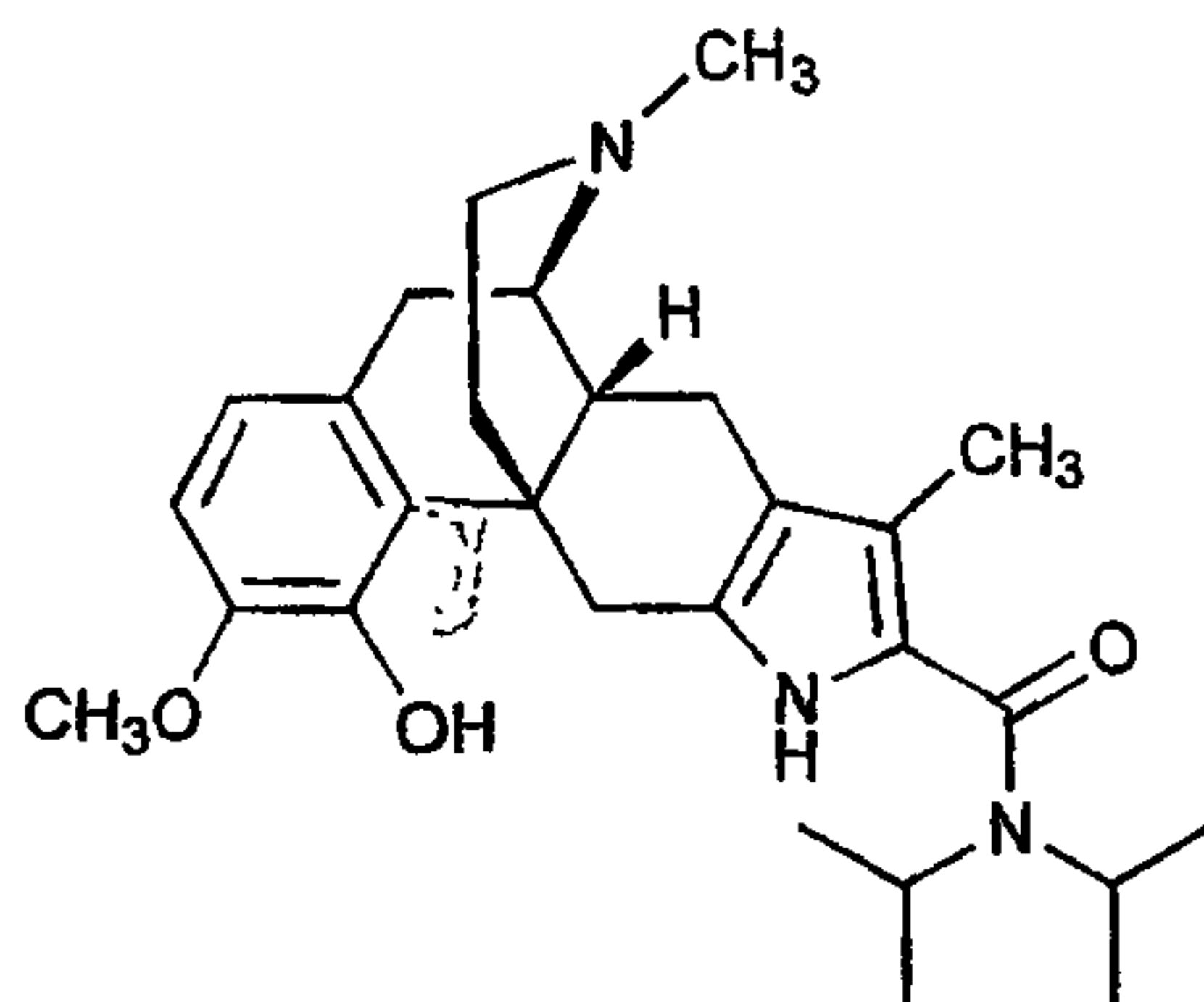
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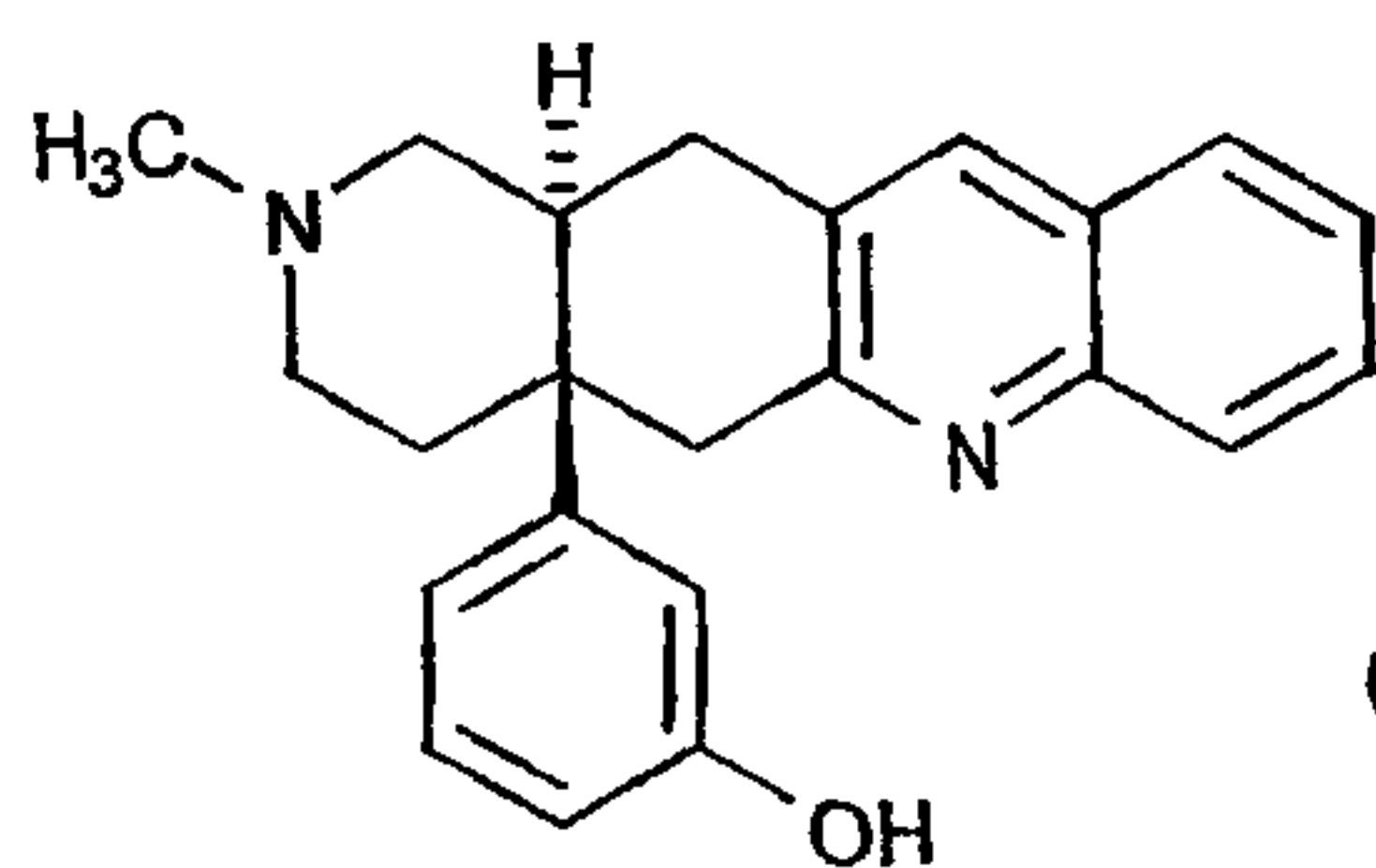
Ketobemidone

Registry Number 469-79-4



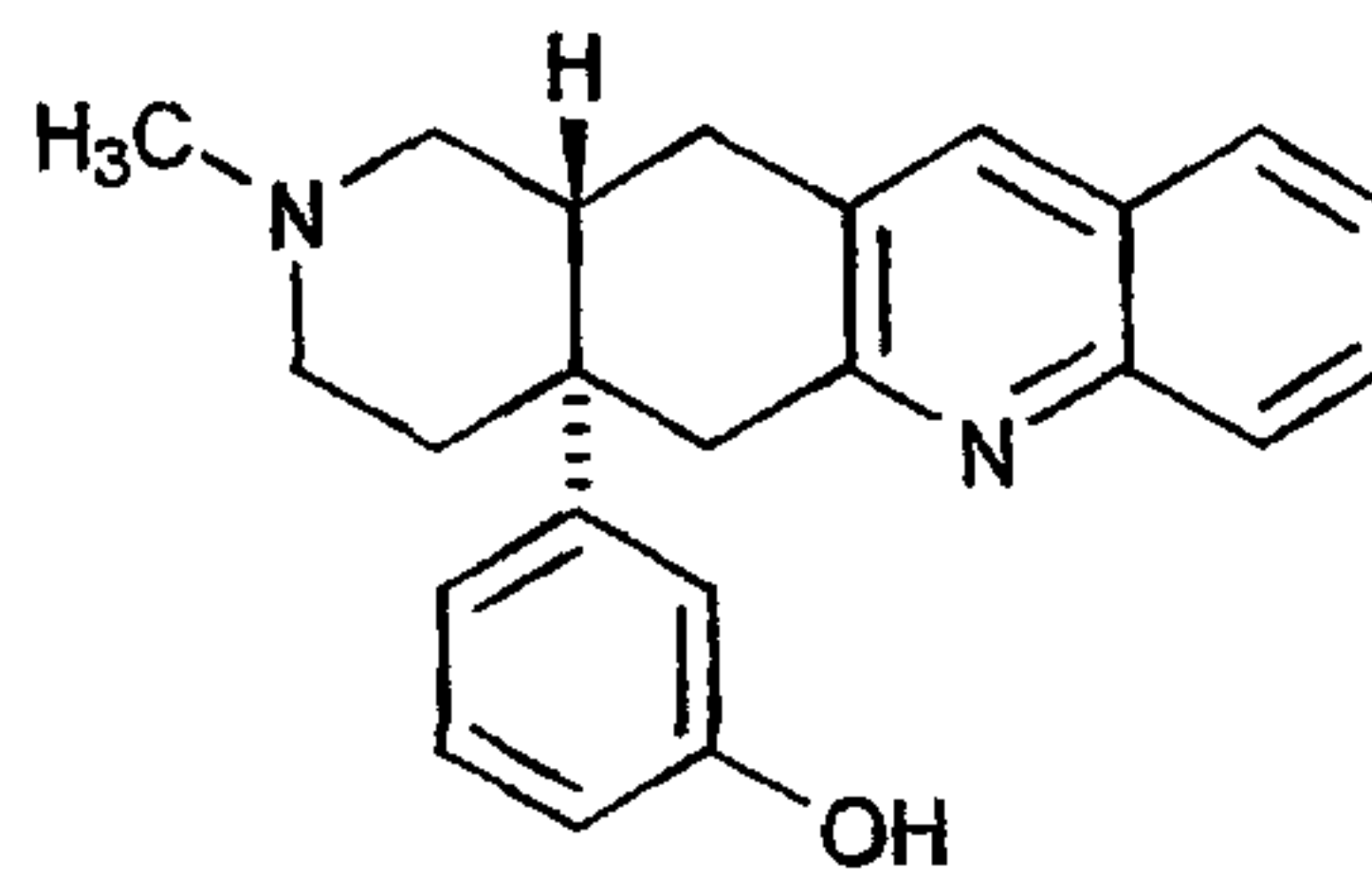


Registry number 177284-71-8



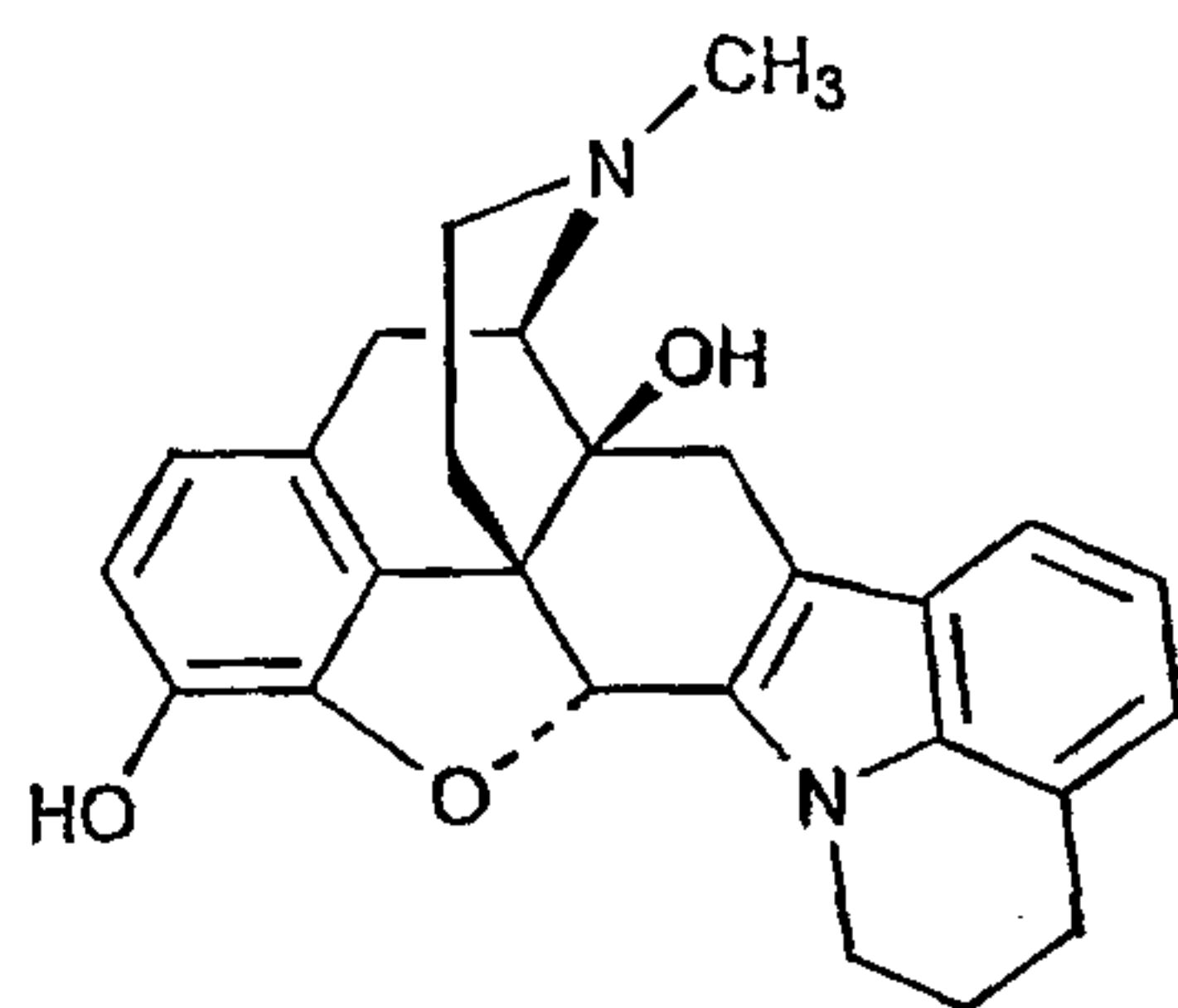
(+) - TAN 67

Registry number 189263-70-5

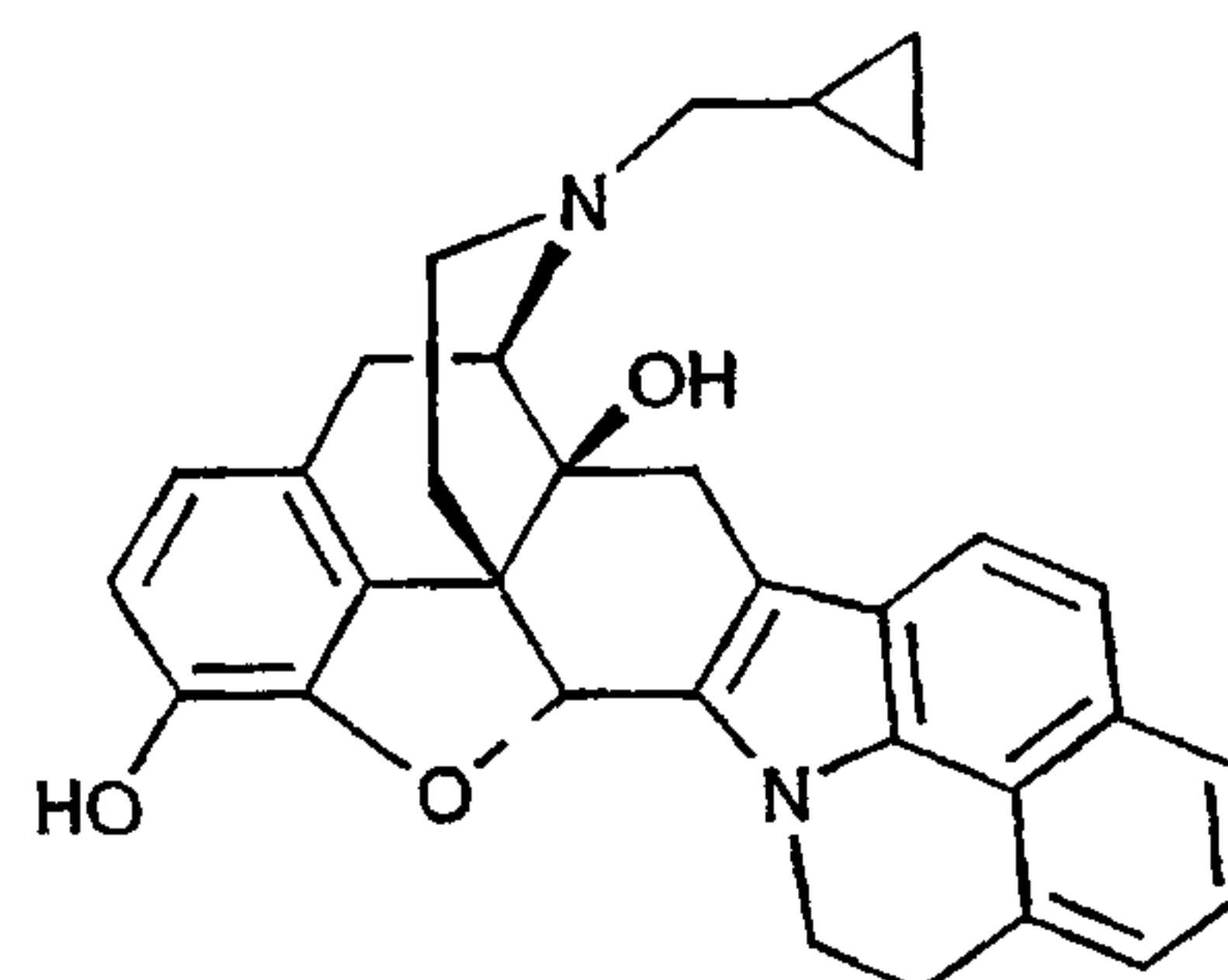


(-) - TAN 67

Registry number 173398-79-3



Registry number 189016-07-7

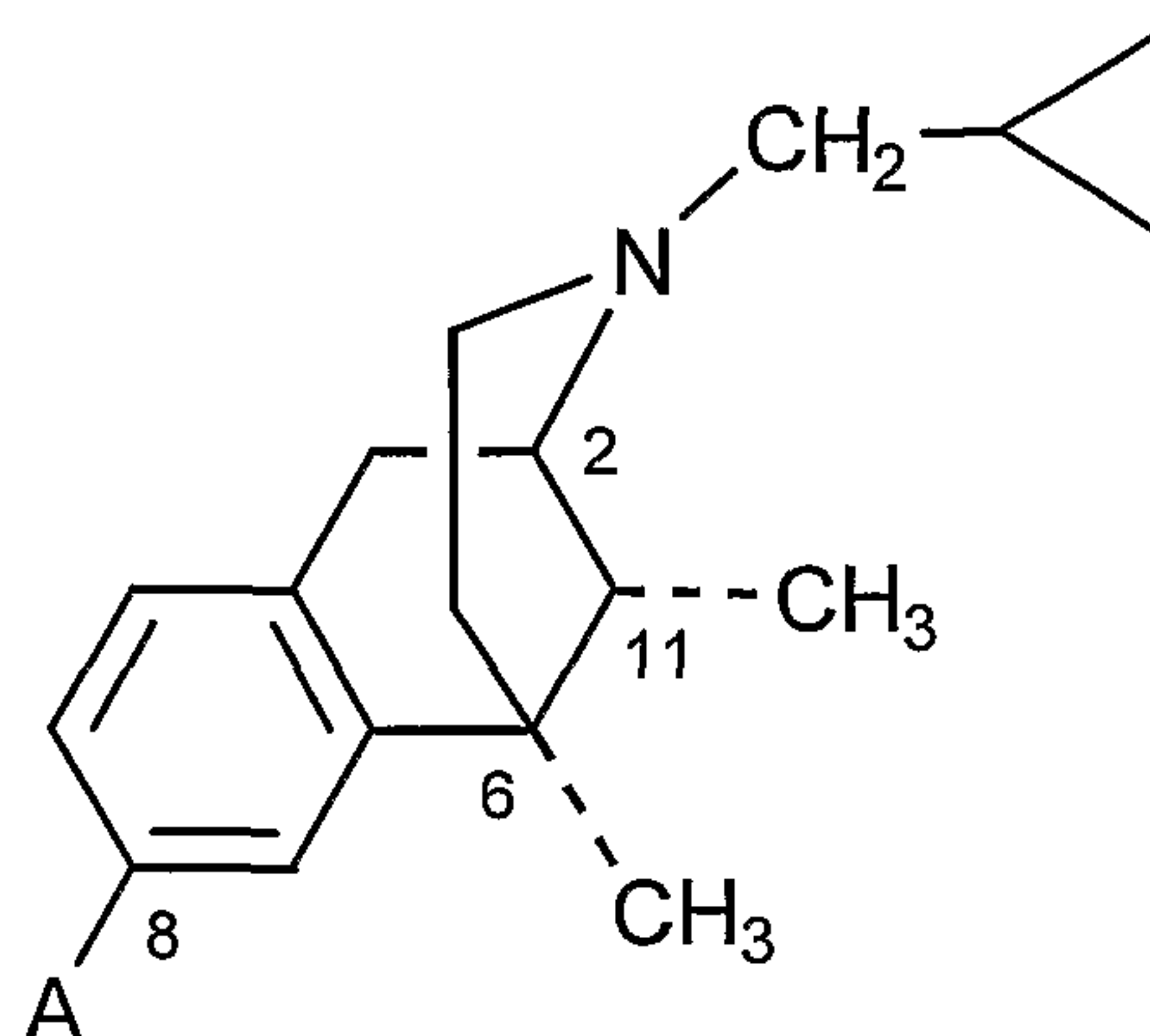


Registry number 189015-08-5

Other opioid receptor ligands are described in Aldrich, J.V. "Analgesics" in Burger's Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery, M.E. Wolff ed., John Wiley & Sons 1996, pages 321-44.

**[0016]** We have examined the opioid receptor binding of a series of analogs of known compounds that interact at opioid receptors in which the OH is replaced by the R-group shown in Tables 1-4. The standards are shown in Table 5.

Table 1.

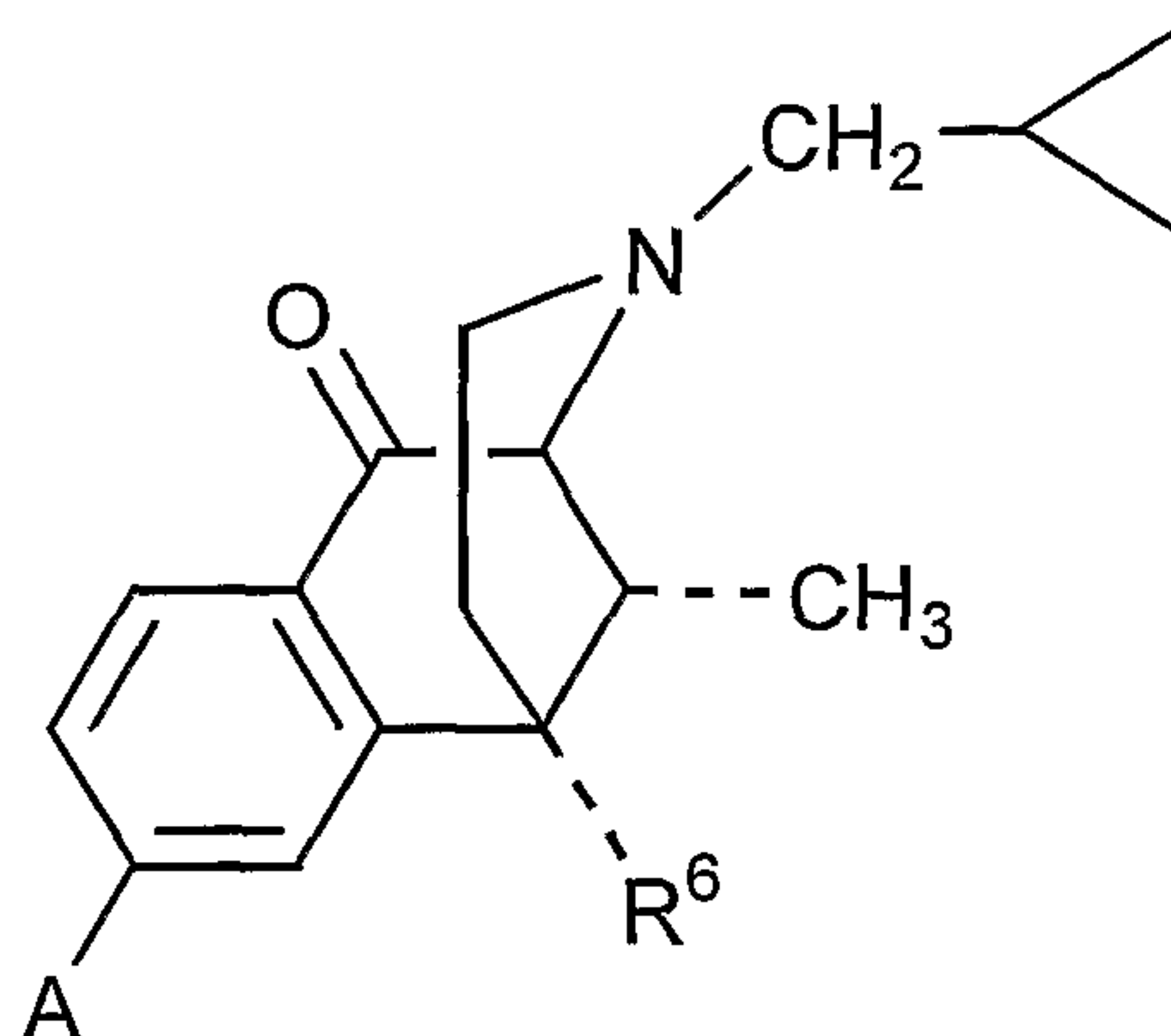
**A** $K_i$  (nM  $\pm$  S.E.)

Cyclazocine subseries (general structure A):

example	A =	[ <sup>3</sup> H]DAM GO ( $\mu$ )	[ <sup>3</sup> H]Naltrindole ( $\delta$ )	[ <sup>3</sup> H]U69,593 ( $\kappa$ )
1	CN	540 $\pm$ 50	2700 $\pm$ 1400	71 $\pm$ 13
2	COOH	58 $\pm$ 1.8	320 $\pm$ 14	31 $\pm$ 0.87
3	CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	45 $\pm$ 0.92	59 $\pm$ 2.1	2.0 $\pm$ 0.21
4	CONH <sub>2</sub>	0.41 $\pm$ 0.07	8.3 $\pm$ 0.49	0.53 $\pm$ 0.06
4	CONH <sub>2</sub>	0.32 $\pm$ 0.04	NT	0.60 $\pm$ 0.04
4	CONH <sub>2</sub> · HCl	0.34 $\pm$ 0.01	4.9 $\pm$ 0.80	0.42 $\pm$ 0.02
4a	(-)-CONH <sub>2</sub>	0.17 $\pm$ 0.04	2.6 $\pm$ 0.6	0.28 $\pm$ 0.01
4b	(+)-CONH <sub>2</sub>	63 $\pm$ 5.4	570 $\pm$ 50	67 $\pm$ 1.6
5	C(=S)NH <sub>2</sub>	0.22 $\pm$ 0.02	4.0 $\pm$ 0.48	0.67 $\pm$ 0.01
6	CONHOH	12 $\pm$ 0.32	210 $\pm$ 40	6.9 $\pm$ 0.61
7	CONHNH <sub>2</sub>	60 $\pm$ 9.3	450 $\pm$ 62	19 $\pm$ 1.4
8	CONHCH <sub>3</sub>	24 $\pm$ 1.6	63 $\pm$ 4.1	2.6 $\pm$ 0.19
9	CONHCH <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	20 $\pm$ 2.2	140 $\pm$ 18	78 $\pm$ 7.6
10	CONHCH <sub>2</sub> (4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	19 $\pm$ 1.5	150 $\pm$ 17	110 $\pm$ 3.1
11	CONHCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	26 $\pm$ 2.9	350 $\pm$ 51	44 $\pm$ 11

12	CONH(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	370 ± 54	3000 ± 230	310 ± 64
13	2-(4,5-H <sub>2</sub> )-imidazolyl	23 ± 1.9	55 ± 5.1	11 ± 0.69
14	C(=NOH)NH <sub>2</sub>	3.8 ± 0.42	16 ± 0.67	0.90 ± 0.15
15	CH <sub>2</sub> NH <sub>2</sub>	31 ± 5.4	390 ± 47	17 ± 2.9
16	CH <sub>2</sub> OH	21 ± 2.0	210 ± 29	7.6 ± 0.80
17	COC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	33 ± 0.90	490 ± 43	19 ± 2.6
18	C(=NOH)C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	86 ± 3.8	180 ± 15	7.2 ± 0.40
19	NHCHO	1.9 ± 0.14	37 ± 3.9	0.85 ± 0.080
19a	(-)NHCHO	1.1 ± 0.04	9.8 ± 0.28	0.49 ± 0.012
19b	(+)NHCHO	2300 ± 180	>10,000	900 ± 8.7
20	NHCHS	0.76 ± 0.09	16 ± 0.30	0.63 ± 0.15
21	NHSO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	15 ± 1.2	780 ± 170	21 ± 1.5

Table 2



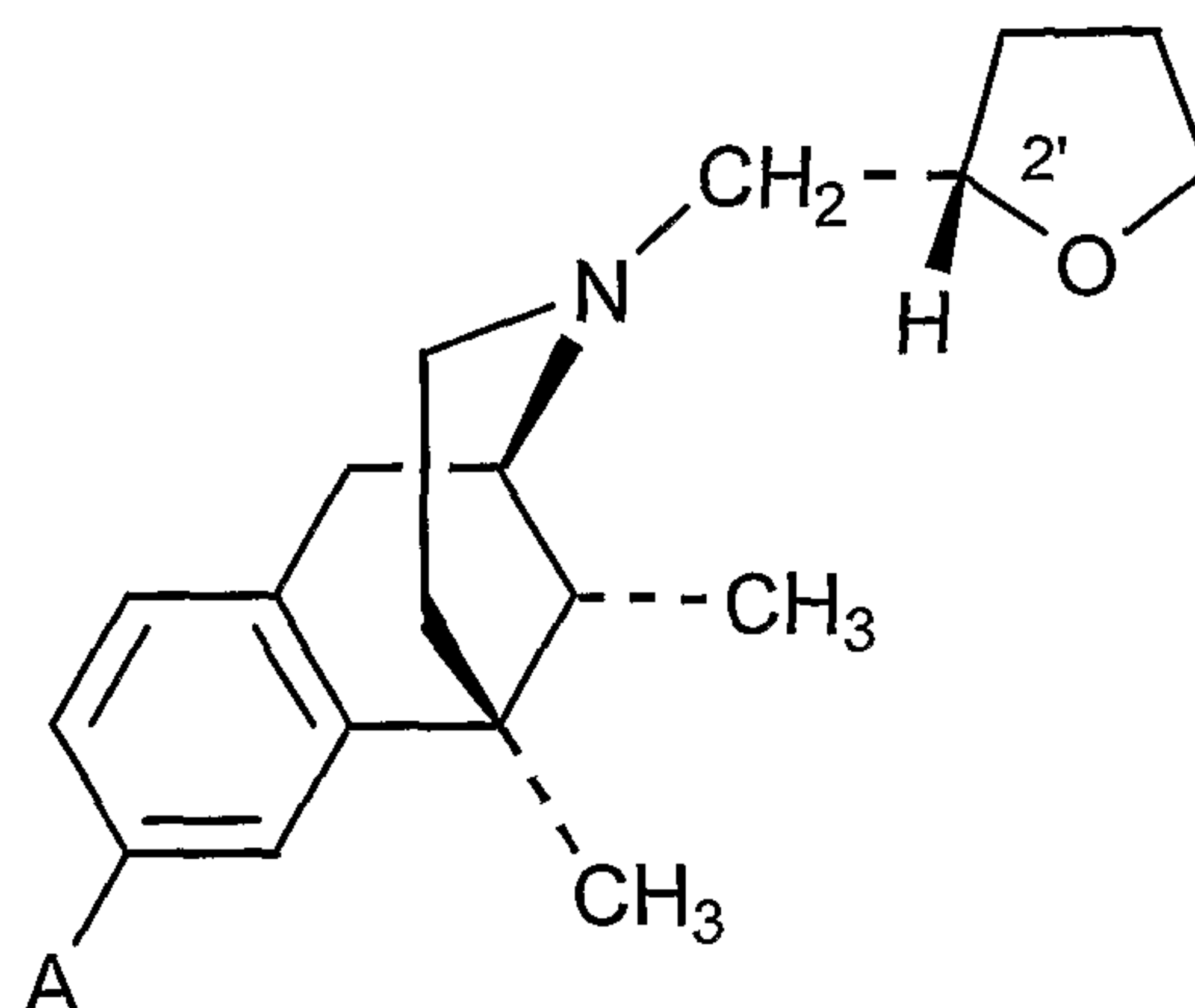
R<sup>6</sup> = CH<sub>3</sub> (ketocyclazocine)

R<sup>6</sup> = CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> (EKC)

1-Keto subseries:

example	A =	[ <sup>3</sup> H]DAMGO (μ)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]Naltrindole (δ)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]U69,593 (κ)
22	CN (KC)	680 ± 61	3400 ± 410	59 ± 0.77
23	CONH <sub>2</sub> (KC)	1.4 ± 0.07	20 ± 2.3	1.8 ± 0.10
24	CONH <sub>2</sub> (EKC)	1.2 ± 0.12	9.8 ± 0.50	0.70 ± 0.08

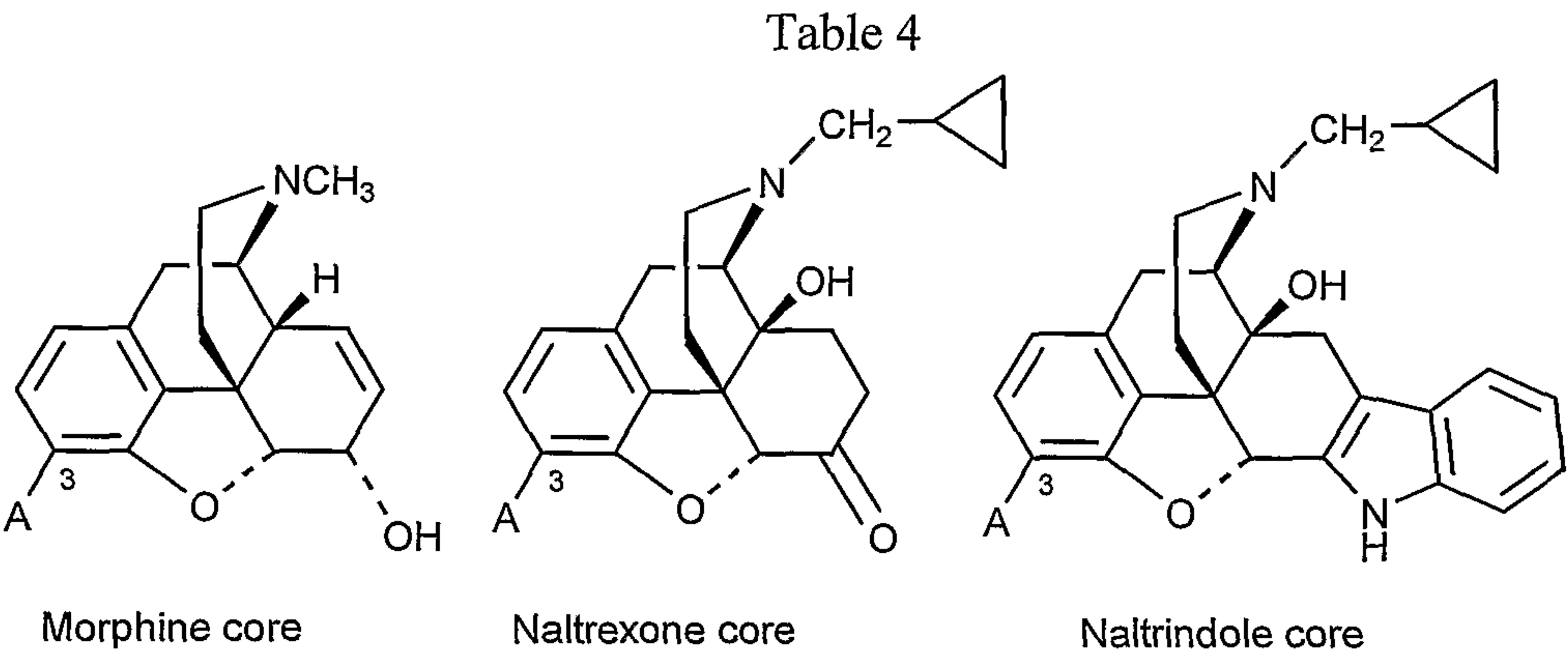
Table 3

**D**

Merz subseries

example	A =	[ <sup>3</sup> H]DAMGO (μ)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]Naltrindole (δ)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]U69,593 (κ)
25	(-)-(2''S)-8-OH	0.19 ± 0.01	3.6 ± 0.40	0.09 ± 0.01
26	(-)-(2''S)-8-CONH <sub>2</sub>	0.052 ± 0.013	2.0 ± 0.15	0.089 ± 0.004
27	(-)-(2''R)-8-OH	4.0 ± 0.54	67 ± 4.3	1.5 ± 0.07
28	(-)-(2''R)-8-CONH <sub>2</sub>	2.9 ± 0.17	34 ± 0.10	2.8 ± 0.24
29	(-)-(2''S)-8-CH <sub>2</sub> NH <sub>2</sub>	28 ± 2.3	300 ± 27	18 ± 1.9





4,5a-Epoxymorphinan subseries:

example	A =	[ <sup>3</sup> H]DAMGO (μ)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]Naltrindole (δ)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]U69,593 (κ)
30	3-CONH <sub>2</sub> (morphine)	34 ± 1.8	1900 ± 81	2000 ± 97
31	3-CONHCH <sub>3</sub> (morphine)	440 ± 9.2	>10,000	>10,000
32	3-CONH <sub>2</sub> (naltrexone)	1.9 ± 0.21	110 ± 8.1	22 ± 0.85
33	3-CO <sub>2</sub> Et (naltrexone)	24 ± 1.7	970 ± 155	16 ± 0.70
34	3-CONH <sub>2</sub> (naltrindole)	47 ± 2.7	0.33 ± 0.04	99 ± 7.9

Table 5

Standards:

	[ <sup>3</sup> H]DAMGO (μ)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]Naltrindole (δ)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]U69,593 (κ)
(±)-Cyclazocine	0.32 ± 0.02	1.1 ± 0.04	0.18 ± 0.020
(+)-Cyclazocine	360 ± 16	1100 ± 63	76 ± 8.2
(-)-Cyclazocine	0.10 ± 0.03	0.58 ± 0.06	0.052 ± 0.009
(±)-EKC	0.78 ± 0.10	3.4 ± 0.41	0.62 ± 0.11
(±)-ketocyclazocine	3.3 ± 0.66	20 ± 2.7	1.0 ± 0.24
naltrexone (3-OH)	0.17 ± 0.03	11 ± 1.1	0.31 ± 0.03
naltrindole (3-OH)	13 ± 1.1	0.13 ± 0.02	4.6 ± 0.23

Example 4 was tested several times independently to confirm the  $K_i$ 's. Inspection of the results in Table 1 indicates not only that affinity is preserved in the compounds of the invention, but also that receptor selectivity can be modulated.

[0017] The affinities of the compounds of the invention are determined by the method described in Wentland et al. Biorgan. Med. Chem. Lett. **9**, 183-187 (2000). Antinociceptive activity is evaluated by the method described in Jiang et al. [J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther. **264**, 1021-1027 (1993), page 1022]. Compound 4 was found to exhibit an  $ED_{50}$  of 0.21 nmol in the mouse acetic acid writhing test when administered i.c.v. Its "parent" cyclazocine exhibited an  $ED_{50}$  of 2.9 nmol i.c.v. The time courses in producing antinociception in the mouse writhing test were compared for compound 4 and cyclazocine. Mice were injected with 1.0 mg/kg of either compound 4 or cyclazocine, given by i.p. administration. An increase in the duration of action from ca. 2 hr to 15 hr was observed for compound 4 compared to cyclazocine.

#### Definitions

[0018] Throughout this specification the terms and substituents retain their definitions.

[0019] Alkyl is intended to include linear, branched, or cyclic hydrocarbon structures and combinations thereof. Lower alkyl refers to alkyl groups of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms. Examples of lower alkyl groups include methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, cyclopropyl, butyl, s- and t-butyl, cyclobutyl and the like. Preferred alkyl groups are those of  $C_{20}$  or below. Cycloalkyl is a subset of alkyl and includes cyclic hydrocarbon groups of from 3 to 8 carbon atoms. Examples of cycloalkyl groups include c-propyl, c-butyl, c-pentyl, norbornyl and the like.

**[0020]** Alkoxy or alkoxyl refers to groups of from 1 to 8 carbon atoms of a straight, branched, cyclic configuration and combinations thereof attached to the parent structure through an oxygen. Examples include methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, cyclopropyloxy, cyclohexyloxy and the like. Lower-alkoxy refers to groups containing one to four carbons.

**[0021]** Aryl and heteroaryl mean a 5- or 6-membered aromatic or heteroaromatic ring containing 0-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N, or S; a bicyclic 9- or 10-membered aromatic or heteroaromatic ring system containing 0-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N, or S; or a tricyclic 13- or 14-membered aromatic or heteroaromatic ring system containing 0-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N, or S. The aromatic 6- to 14-membered carbocyclic rings include, *e.g.*, benzene, naphthalene, indane, tetralin, and fluorene and the 5- to 10-membered aromatic heterocyclic rings include, *e.g.*, imidazole, pyridine, indole, thiophene, benzopyranone, thiazole, furan, benzimidazole, quinoline, isoquinoline, quinoxaline, pyrimidine, pyrazine, tetrazole and pyrazole.

**[0022]** Arylalkyl means an alkyl residue attached to an aryl ring. Examples are benzyl, phenethyl and the like. Heteroarylalkyl means an alkyl residue attached to a heteroaryl ring. Examples include, *e.g.*, pyridinylmethyl, pyrimidinylethyl and the like.

**[0023]** Heterocycle means a cycloalkyl or aryl residue in which one to two of the carbons is replaced by a heteroatom such as oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur. Heteroaryls form a subset of heterocycles. Examples of heterocycles that fall within the scope of the invention include pyrrolidine, pyrazole, pyrrole, indole, quinoline, isoquinoline, tetrahydroisoquinoline, benzofuran, benzodioxan, benzodioxole (commonly referred to as methylenedioxyphenyl, when occurring as a substituent), tetrazole, morpholine, thiazole, pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine,

thiophene, furan, oxazole, oxazoline, isoxazole, dioxane, tetrahydrofuran and the like.

**[0024]** Substituted alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, or heterocyclyl refer to alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, or heterocyclyl wherein up to three H atoms in each residue are replaced with halogen, hydroxy, loweralkoxy, carboxy, carboalkoxy, carboxamido, cyano, carbonyl, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -NR<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup>; alkylthio, sulfoxide, sulfone, acylamino, amidino, phenyl, benzyl, heteroaryl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, heteroaryloxy, or substituted phenyl, benzyl, heteroaryl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, or heteroaryloxy.

**[0025]** Virtually all of the compounds described herein contain one or more asymmetric centers and may thus give rise to enantiomers, diastereomers, and other stereoisomeric forms that may be defined, in terms of absolute stereochemistry, as (R)- or (S)-. The present invention is meant to include all such possible isomers, as well as their racemic and optically pure forms. In general it has been found that the levo isomer of morphinans and benzomorphans is the more potent antinociceptive agent, while the dextro isomer may be useful as an antitussive or antispasmodic agent. Optically active (R)- and (S)- isomers may be prepared using chiral synthons or chiral reagents, or resolved using conventional techniques. When the compounds described herein contain olefinic double bonds or other centers of geometric asymmetry, and unless specified otherwise, it is intended that the compounds include both E and Z geometric isomers. Likewise, all tautomeric forms are also intended to be included.

**[0026]** Abbreviations

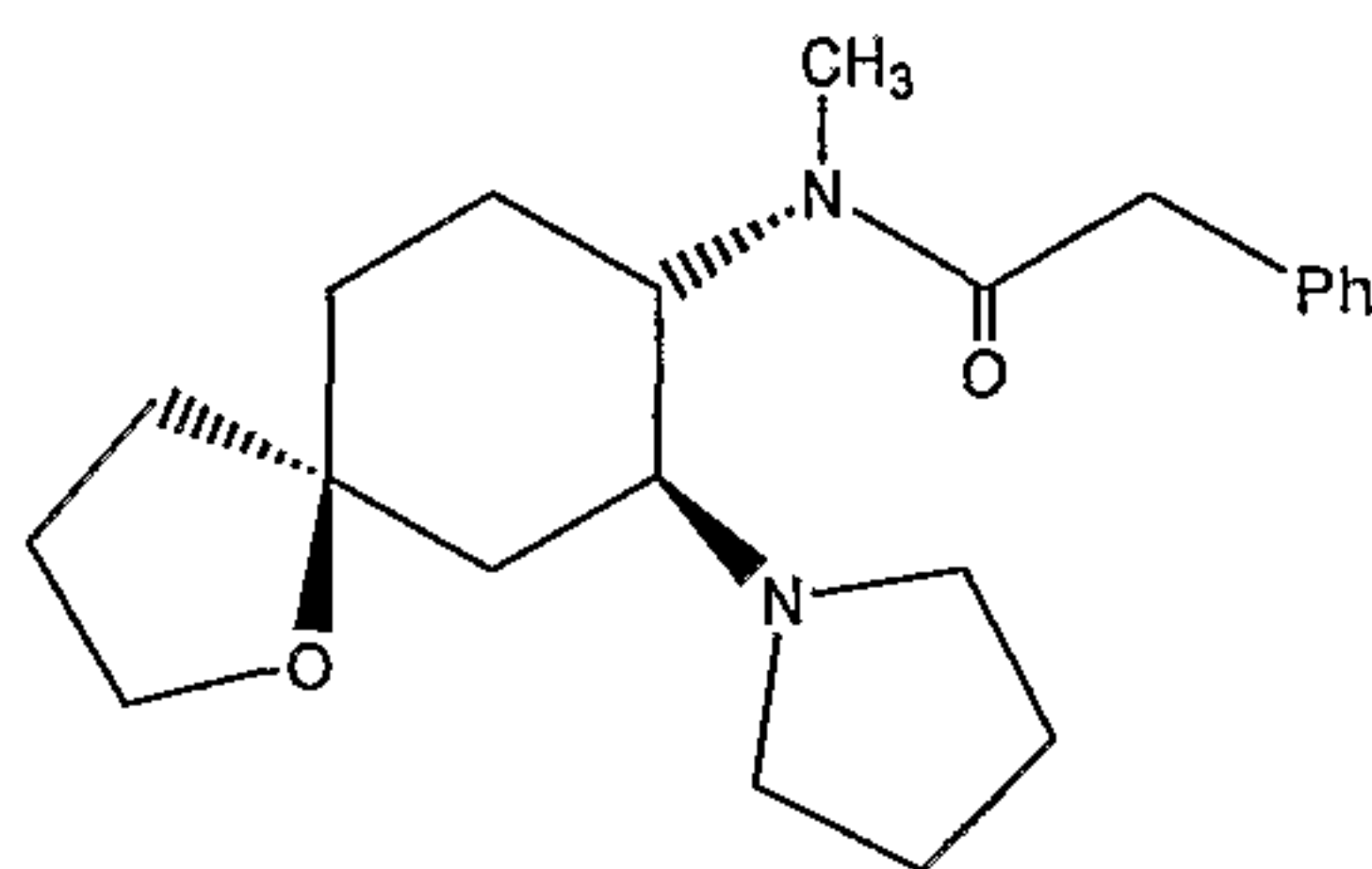
The following abbreviations and terms have the indicated meanings throughout:

Ac	=	acetyl
BNB	=	4-bromomethyl-3-nitrobenzoic acid
Boc	=	t-butyloxy carbonyl



Bu	=	butyl
c-	=	cyclo
DAMGO	=	Tyr-ala-Gly-NMePhe-NHCH <sub>2</sub> OH
DBU	=	diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene
DCM	=	dichloromethane = methylene chloride = CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>
DEAD	=	diethyl azodicarboxylate
DIC	=	diisopropylcarbodiimide
DIEA	=	N,N-diisopropylethyl amine
DMAP	=	4-N,N-dimethylaminopyridine
DMF	=	N,N-dimethylformamide
DMSO	=	dimethyl sulfoxide
DPPF	=	1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene
DVB	=	1,4-divinylbenzene
EEDQ	=	2-ethoxy-1-ethoxycarbonyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline
Fmoc	=	9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl
GC	=	gas chromatography
HATU	=	O-(7-Azabenzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate
HOAc	=	acetic acid
HOBt	=	hydroxybenzotriazole
Me	=	methyl
mesyl	=	methanesulfonyl
MTBE	=	methyl t-butyl ether
NMO	=	N-methylmorpholine oxide
PEG	=	polyethylene glycol
Ph	=	phenyl
PhOH	=	phenol
PfP	=	pentafluorophenol
PPTS	=	pyridinium p-toluenesulfonate

PyBroP	=	bromo-tris-pyrrolidino-phosphonium hexafluorophosphate
rt	=	room temperature
sat'd	=	saturated
s-	=	secondary
t-	=	tertiary
TBDMS	=	t-butyldimethylsilyl
TFA	=	trifluoroacetic acid
THF	=	tetrahydrofuran
TMOF	=	trimethyl orthoformate
TMS	=	trimethylsilyl
tosyl	=	p-toluenesulfonyl
Trt	=	triphenylmethyl
U69,593	=	



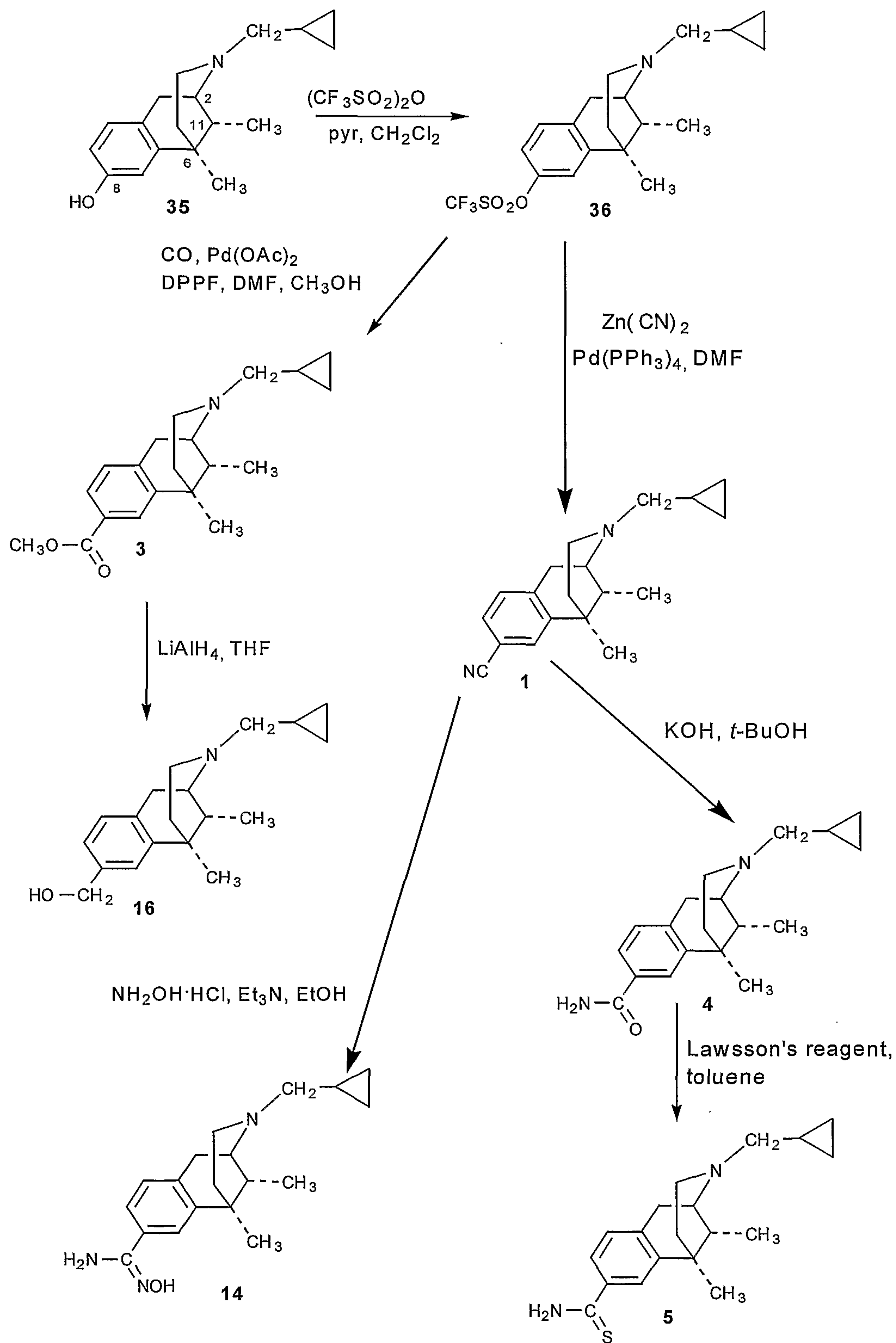
[0027] In the general processes described below, the preferred reagent to convert a phenol to a group displaceable by  $\text{CN}^\ominus$  is trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride, which is usually employed in the presence of base. Other reagents are known to persons of skill in the art to convert phenols to groups that may be displaced by cyanide anion. The advantage of the trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride procedure is that it allows displacement under conditions that are mild enough to avoid destruction of the rest of the molecule for most species of interest. Other reagents are operable, but require more robust substrates than may be of interest in a particular case. The consideration of which to use is within the skill of the artisan. A preferred  $\text{Pd}(0)$  catalyst for use in the displacement with zinc cyanide is tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium. In the direct displacements with

carbon monoxide and ammonia or an ammonia equivalent, the preferred Pd(0) catalyst is generated *in situ* from Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> or PdCl<sub>2</sub> and 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene. Other Pd(0) ligands include DPPF, DPPP, triphenylphosphine, 1,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)propane, BINAP and xantphos. The preferred pentavalent phosphorus-sulfur reagents for converting carboxamides to thiocarboxamides are Lawesson's reagent and phosphorus pentasulfide.

[0028] It may happen that residues in the substrate of interest require protection and deprotection during the conversion of the phenol to the desired bioisostere. Terminology related to "protecting", "deprotecting" and "protected" functionalities occurs throughout this application. Such terminology is well understood by persons of skill in the art and is used in the context of processes which involve sequential treatment with a series of reagents. In that context, a protecting group refers to a group which is used to mask a functionality during a process step in which it would otherwise react, but in which reaction is undesirable. The protecting group prevents reaction at that step, but may be subsequently removed to expose the original functionality. The removal or "deprotection" occurs after the completion of the reaction or reactions in which the functionality would interfere. Thus, when a sequence of reagents is specified, as it is in the processes of the invention, the person of ordinary skill can readily envision those groups that would be suitable as "protecting groups". Suitable groups for that purpose are discussed in standard textbooks in the field of chemistry, such as Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis by T.W.Greene [John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1991].

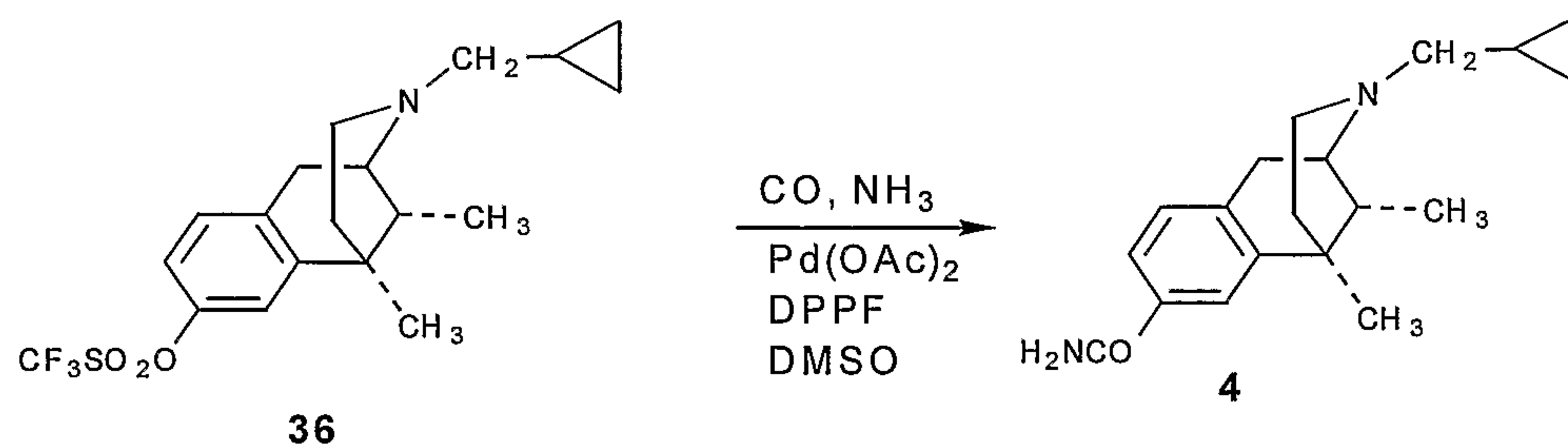
[0029] The compounds of the invention are synthesized by one of the routes described below:

Scheme 1

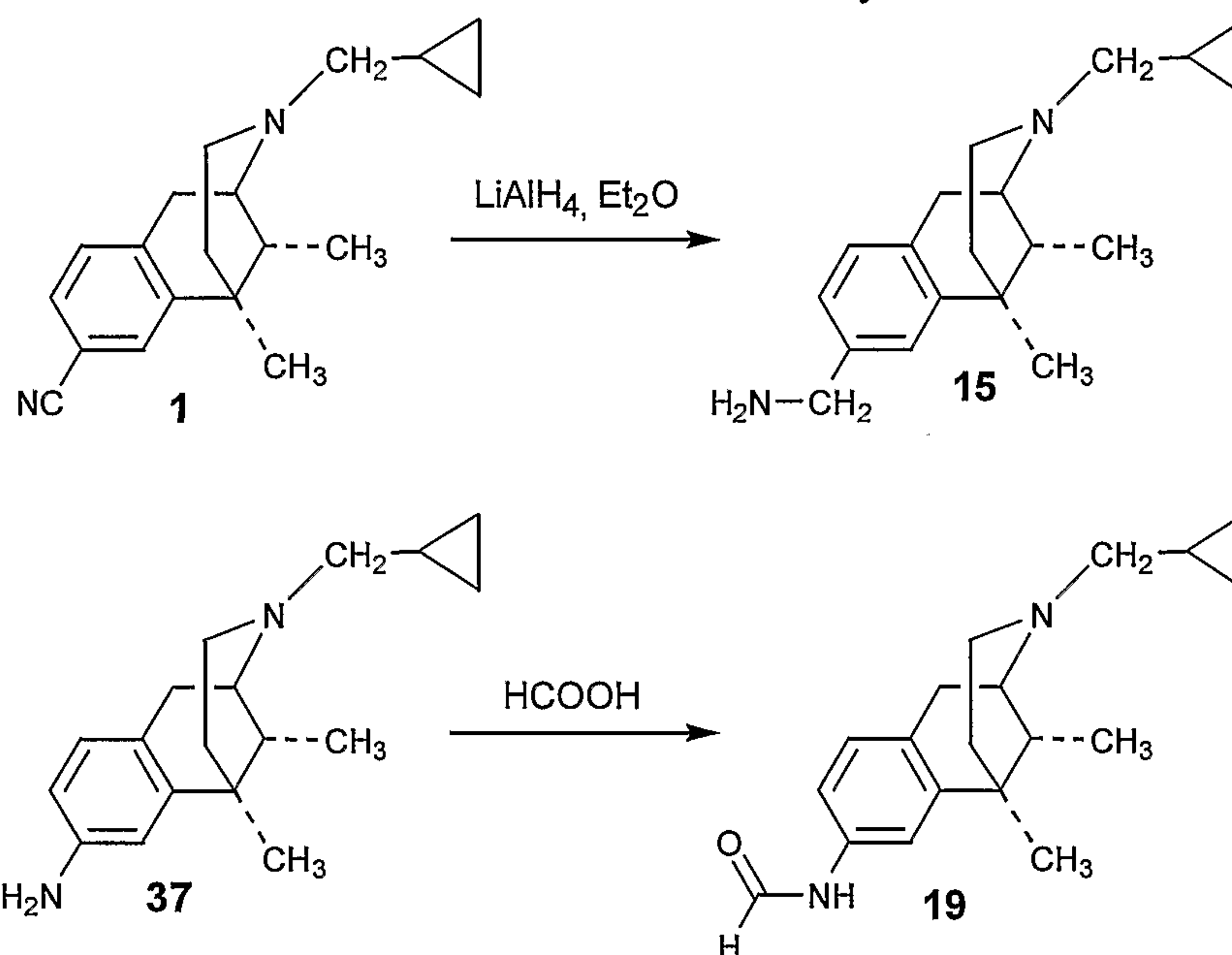




## Scheme 2 - Alternate Carboxamide Synthesis



## Scheme 3 - Miscellaneous Syntheses



## Chemical Syntheses

**[0030]** Proton NMR [Varian Unity-500 (500 MHz) NMR] data, direct insertion probe (DIP) chemical ionization mass spectra (Shimadzu GC-17A GC-MS mass spectrometer), and infrared spectra (Perkin-Elmer Paragon 1000 FT-IR spectrophotometer) were consistent with the assigned structures of all test compounds and intermediates.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR multiplicity data are denoted by s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), and br (broad).

Coupling constants are in hertz. Carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen elemental analyses for all novel targets were performed by Quantitative Technologies Inc., Whitehouse, NJ, and were within  $\pm 0.4\%$  of theoretical values except as noted; the presence of water was conformed by proton NMR. Melting points were determined on a Meltemp capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Optical rotation data were obtained from a Perkin-Elmer 241 polarimeter. Reactions were generally performed under a  $N_2$  atmosphere. Amines used in the Pd-catalyzed amination reactions and racemic-2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1'-binaphthyl (BINAP) were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Company and used as received unless otherwise indicated. Tris(dibenzylideneacetone) dipalladium (0)  $[Pd_2(dba)_3]$ ,  $Pd(OAc)_2$ , 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (DPPF), were purchased from Strem Chemicals, Incorporated. Toluene and  $Et_2O$  were distilled from sodium metal. THF was distilled from sodium/benzophenone ketyl. Pyridine was distilled from KOH. Methylene chloride was distilled from  $CaH_2$ . DMF and DMSO were distilled from  $CaH_2$  under reduced pressure. Methanol was dried over 3Å molecular sieves prior to use. Silica gel (Bodman Industries, ICN SiliTech 2-63 D 60A, 230-400 Mesh) was used for flash column chromatography.

( $\pm$ )-3-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-*cis*-6,11-dimethyl-2,6-methano-3-benzazocin-8-carbonitrile [1]. The triflate [36] of cyclazocine [35] (470 mg, 1.166 mmol), obtained by the method of Wentland et al. [*Bioorgan. Med. Chem. Lett.* 9,183-187 (2000)], was dissolved in 20 mL DMF and  $Zn(CN)_2$  (272.6 mg, 2.322 mmol) and  $Pd(PPh_3)_4$  (53.9 mg, 0.0466 mmol) were added. After heating in  $120^\circ C$  for 2 h, the reaction was allowed to stir at  $25^\circ C$  overnight. A mixture of EtOAc and  $NaHCO_3$  solution was then added. The organic phase was washed with brine and then dried over anhydrous  $Na_2SO_4$ , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to dryness. Flash column chromatography gave **1** as a colorless oil (260 mg, 80%).  $^1H$ -NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.52 (b, 1H), 7.37 (dd,  $J=7.8, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d,  $J=8.1$ , 1H), 3.15 (m, 1H), 2.96 (d,  $J=19.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.66-2.74 (m, 2H), 2.45 (m,

1H), 2.30 (m, 1H), 1.84-1.98 (m, 3H), 1.38 (s, 3H), 1.29 (m, 1H), 0.85 (m, 1H), 0.82 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H), 0.51 (m, 2H), 0.10 (m, 2H). IR (film) 2961, 2918, 2225  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . CI-MS,  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 281 ( $M+1$ , 100%). Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2 \cdot 0.125\text{H}_2\text{O}$ : C 80.78, H 8.59, N 9.92. Found: C 80.75, H 8.63, N 9.89.

( $\pm$ )-3-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-*cis*-6,11-dimethyl-2,6-methano-3-benzazocin-8-carboxamide [4]. Compound 1 (80 mg, 0.286 mmol) was dissolved in about 1 mL *t*-butyl alcohol. KOH (58.8 mg, 1.05 mmol) was then added. The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux for about 20 min and the solvent was evaporated and  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and MeOH and NaCl solution were added. The organic phase was washed with brine and then dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to dryness to give 4 as white foam (80 mg, 95%).  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.81 (m, 1H), 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.17 (m, 1H), 3.22 (m, 1H), 3.04 (m, 1H), 2.66-2.82 (m, 2H), 2.50 (m, 1H), 2.35 (m, 1H), 1.86-1.98 (m, 3H), 1.34 (s, 3H), 1.36 (m, 1H), 0.88 (m, 1H), 0.84 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), 0.54 (m, 2H), 0.16 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  172.71, 143.32, 142.34, 133.01, 128.61, 126.61, 126.18, 60.67, 58.09, 46.92, 42.74, 42.38, 37.69, 25.92, 25.07, 14.62, 9.67, 4.64, 4.52. IR (film) 1654.2  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . CI-MS,  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 299 ( $M+1$ , 100%). Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O} \cdot 0.25\text{H}_2\text{O}$ : C 75.37, H 8.76, N 9.26. Found: C 75.27, H 9.02, N 9.03.

( $\pm$ )-3-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-*cis*-6,11-dimethyl-2,6-methano-3-benzazocin-8-carboxamide [1] (alternate procedure). A flask containing triflate 36 (100 mg),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (10.2 mg), and 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)-ferrocene(DPPF, 25 mg) was purged with argon. The argon was replaced with gaseous CO and the reaction vessel was closed to the atmosphere. Dry DMSO (1.25 mL) was added via syringe and gaseous ammonia was added to the resulting mixture via a canula. A balloon was used to keep the additional volume contained. The mixture was stirred for 17 h at 70  $^\circ\text{C}$  followed by cooling to 25  $^\circ\text{C}$ . The



reaction mixture was diluted with water and the product was extracted into ethyl acetate. The organic extracts was washed with aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>). Concentration of the solvent in vacuo gave 90 mg of a crude product. This material was purified via flash chromatography (25:1:0.1 - CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH: conc NH<sub>4</sub>OH) to provide 47 mg (65.3%) of compound 4.

(±)-3-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6,-hexahydro-*cis*-6,11-dimethyl-2,6-methano-3-benzazocin-8-carboxylic acid methyl ester [3]. A modification of a known procedure (Cacchi, S.; Ciattini, P. G.; Morera, E.; Ortar, G. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1986**, 27, 3931-3934) was used in this preparation. Under an argon atmosphere, triethylamine (0.30 mL, 2.15 mmol) was added to a mixture of the 8-triflate ester of cyclazocine [36] (0.403 g, 1.0 mmol), palladium acetate (0.0068 g, 0.03 mmol), 1, 1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (0.00166 g, 0.03 mmol) and methanol (1 mL, 22.2 mmol) in DMF (1 mL). The solution was purged with carbon monoxide for 15 min and stirred under a CO balloon at 70 °C for 5 h. The reaction mixture was taken up in 20 mL of ethyl acetate and washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution and water. The organic phase was dried with sodium sulfate and evaporated to give crude product as a brown oil. Chromatography on silica gel using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH:NH<sub>4</sub>OH (conc)/40:1:0.1 provided the desired compound 3 (0.235 g, 86.6 %) as a colorless oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 1.7 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.15 (m, 1H), 2.96 (d, *J* = 19.0 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (m, 1H), 2.46 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 7.3 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 6.6 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 1.96 (m, 1H), 1.91 (m, 2H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.33 (m, 1H), 0.86 (m, 1H), 0.83 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.51 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 0.11 (m, 2H); IR (film) ν<sub>max</sub> 2916, 1720, 1270 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (CI) *m/z* 314 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>; Anal. calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: C, 76.64; H, 8.68; N, 4.47. Found: C, 76.37; H, 8.93; N, 4.38.

(±)-[3-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6,-hexahydro-*cis*-6,11-dimethyl-2,6-



methano-3-benzazocin-8-yl]-methanol [16]. Under a blanket of N<sub>2</sub> at 0 °C, (±)-3-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-*cis*-6,11-dimethyl-2,6-methano-3-benzazocin-8-carboxylic acid methyl ester [3] (0.1062 g, 0.34mmol), LiAlH<sub>4</sub> powder (0.0258 g, 0.68mmol) and dry THF (0.77 mL) were placed in a one-neck round bottom flask equipped with condenser and stir bar. The ice/water bath was removed and the reaction was stirred at reflux for 24 h. The mixture was cooled to 25 °C and quenched by adding water dropwise until effervescence ceased. The mixture was then treated with 10% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and stirred at 25 °C for 3 hours. The mixture then was extracted with diethyl ether (2X) and the organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and the solvent was removed in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH/10:1 as eluent to provide the desired product [16] (0.0557 g, 57%) as a light yellow oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.24 (d, *J*=17 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (m, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J*=21.2 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (s, 2H), 3.14 (m, 1H), 2.91 (d, *J*=18.5 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (m, 2H), 2.47 (m, 1H), 2.31 (m, 1H), 1.92 (m, 6H), 1.34 (m, 3H), 0.84 (d, *J*=7.1 Hz), 0.50 (m, 2H), 0.11 (m, 2H); Anal. calc. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO: C, 79.95; H, 9.53; N, 4.91. Found: C, 79.70; H, 9.50; N, 4.68.

(±)-3-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-*N*-hydroxy-*cis*-6,11-dimethyl-2,6-methano-3-benzazocin-8-carboxamidine [14]. A modification of a known procedure (Jendralla, H.; Seuring, B.; Herchen, J.; Kulitzscher, B.; Wunner, J. *Tetrahedron* **1995**, *51*, 12047-12068) was used in this preparation. A mixture of (±)-3-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-*cis*-6,11-dimethyl-2,6-methano-3-benzazocin-8-carbonitrile [1] (0.230 g, 0.82 mmol), hydroxyamine hydrochloride (0.100 g, 1.44 mmol) and triethylamine (0.30 mL, 2.15 mmol) in 1 mL of absolute ethanol was stirred at reflux under an argon atmosphere for 5 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was taken up in 15 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and washed with water. The organic phase was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated to give crude product. Flash column chromatography using

CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH:NH<sub>4</sub>OH (conc)/25:1:0.1 provided the desired compound **14** (0.216 g, 84 %) as a white foam: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.48 (br s, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 1.5 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 3.19 (m, 1H), 2.94 (d, *J* = 18.8 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (m, 2H), 2.48 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 6.3 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 6.6 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 2.01 (m, 3H), 1.42 (s, 3H), 1.34 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 0.92 (m, 1H), 0.84 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.51 (m, 2H), 0.12 (m, 2H); IR (film) ν<sub>max</sub> 3365, 2921, 1634, 1577 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (CI) *m/z* 314 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>; Anal. calc. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O: C, 72.81; H, 8.68; N, 13.47. Found: C, 72.96; H, 8.67; N, 13.18.

(±)-3-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-*cis*-6,11-dimethyl-2,6-methano-3-benzazocin-8-thiocarboxamide [**5**]. A modification of a known procedure (Varma R. S.; Kumar, D. *Organic Lett.* **1999**, *1*, 697-700) was used in this preparation. A mixture of (±)-3-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-*cis*-6,11-dimethyl-2,6-methano-3-benzazocin-8-carboxamide [**4**] (0.0298 g, 0.1 mmol) and Lawsson's reagent (0.0320 g, 0.08 mmol) in 1 mL of toluene was sealed in a glass tube under an argon atmosphere. The glass tube was put in a microwave oven and irradiated for 7 min. Additional Lawsson's reagent (0.0160 g, 0.04 mmol) was added and the reactants was allowed to be irradiated for additional 7 min. The reaction mixture was taken up in 10 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and washed with water. The organic phase was dried with sodium sulfate and evaporated to give crude product. Chromatography on silica gel using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH:NH<sub>4</sub>OH (conc)/40:1:0.1 the provided desired compound **5** (0.022 g, 70.1 %) as a yellow crystalline solid: mp 171-173 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (brs, 1H), 7.60 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 1.9 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (brs, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (m, 1H), 2.95 (d, *J* = 19.0 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (m, 2H), 2.46 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 6.1 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 6.3 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (m, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.34 (m, 1H), 0.85 (m, 1H), 0.83 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.51 (m, 2H), 0.10 (m, 2H); IR (film) ν<sub>max</sub> 3172, 2920, 1617, 1424 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (CI) *m/z* 315 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>; Anal.



calc. for  $C_{19}H_{26}N_2S \cdot 0.75 H_2O$ : C, 69.58; H, 8.45; N, 8.54. Found: C, 69.54; H, 8.15; N, 8.26.

( $\pm$ )-[3-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6,-hexahydro-*cis*-6,11-dimethyl-2,6-methano-3-benzazocin-8-yl]-methylaniline [15]. ( $\pm$ )-3-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-*cis*-6,11-dimethyl-2,6-methano-3-benzazocin-8-carbonitrile [1] (0.154 g, 0.55 mmol) was dissolved in  $Et_2O$  (1.1 mL) to obtain a 0.5 M solution. This solution was added dropwise via syringe to a vigorously stirred solution of 1.0 M  $LiAlH_4$  in  $Et_2O$  (1.1 mL, 1.1 mmol) at 0 °C. After stirring at room temperature for 10 min, water was added dropwise to quench the reaction. The resulting solution was then extracted with EtOAc several times and the combined EtOAc layers were dried ( $Na_2SO_4$ ), and filtered. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue purified by flash column chromatography ( $CH_2Cl_2$ :MeOH: $Et_3N$ /10:1:0.2) to yield the desired product **15** (0.105 g, 67%) as a brown oil:  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.16 (s, 1H), 7.04 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 3.16 (s, 1H), 2.91 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 2.70 (m, 2H), 2.49 (m, 1H), 2.34 (m, 1H), 1.92 (m, 5H), 1.39 (m, 4H), 0.85 (m, 4H), 0.51 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 0.11 (m, 2H); IR (film)  $\nu_{max}$  3075, 2962, 2917, 2814, 1574, 1499, 1462, 1428, 1380, 1333, 1218, 1101, 1075, 1018, 963  $cm^{-1}$ ; Anal. calc. for  $C_{19}H_{28}N_2 \cdot 0.5H_2O$ : C, 77.77; H, 9.96; N, 9.54. Found: C, 78.18; H, 10.17; N, 9.39.

( $\pm$ )-*N*-[3-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6,-hexahydro-*cis*-6,11-dimethyl-2,6-methano-3-benzazocin-8-yl]-formamide [19]. A modification of a known procedure (Chakrabarty, M.; Khasnobis, S.; Harigaya, Y.; Kinda, Y. *Synthetic Comm.* **2000**, 30, 187-200.) was used in this preparation. ( $\pm$ )-3-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-*cis*-6,11-dimethyl-2,6-methano-3-benzazocin-8-amine [37] (0.091 g, 0.337 mmol) was treated with 96% formic acid (20 mL) and was heated at 100 °C for 14 h. The solution was then poured onto crushed ice and basified with solid  $NaHCO_3$ . The organic material was extracted

into EtOAc (3X) and the extracts were washed with water and dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ). After concentration in vacuo, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ :MeOH: $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ /10:1:0.05) to yield the desired product **19** as a brown oil (0.065 g, 65%):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.62 (d,  $J = 11.5$  Hz, 0.5H, CHO of one rotomer), 8.34 (d,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 0.5H, CHO of other rotomer), 8.17 (d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, 0.5H, NH of one rotomer), 7.57 (br s, 0.5H, NH of other rotomer), 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.04 (m, 1H), 6.89 (m, 1H), 3.15 (m, 1H), 2.90 (m, 1H), 2.72 (m, 2H), 2.47 (m, 1H), 2.32 (m, 1H), 1.95 (m, 3H), 1.32 (m, 4H), 0.85 (m, 4H), 0.51 (m, 2H), 0.11 (m, 2H); IR (film)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3265, 2963, 2922, 1694, 1682, 1614, 1538, 1503, 1462, 1402, 1380, 1311, 1218, 1100, 1074, 1020, 964, 888, 808  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; MS (CI)  $m/z$  299 ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ ; Anal. calc. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O} \cdot 0.125\text{H}_2\text{O}$ : C, 75.90; H, 8.88; N, 9.32. Found: C, 76.00; H, 8.95; N, 9.13.

**[0031]** The remaining compounds of Table 1 were prepared in similar fashion, except Example 8, which was made by the CO/palladium route, but with a slight variation using 2.0 M  $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2$  in THF, rather than gaseous  $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2$ , and DMF rather than DMSO; mp = 155-156  $^\circ\text{C}$ ; 25.6 % yield. **24** - [the ( $\pm$ )-8- $\text{CONH}_2$  analogue of ethylketocyclazocine ( $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^{2a} = \text{O}$ ;  $\text{R}^6 = \text{Et}$ )] was made by the nitrile hydrolysis route, mp = 194-196  $^\circ\text{C}$ ; Step 1 - 89.1 %, Step 2 - 81.4 %.

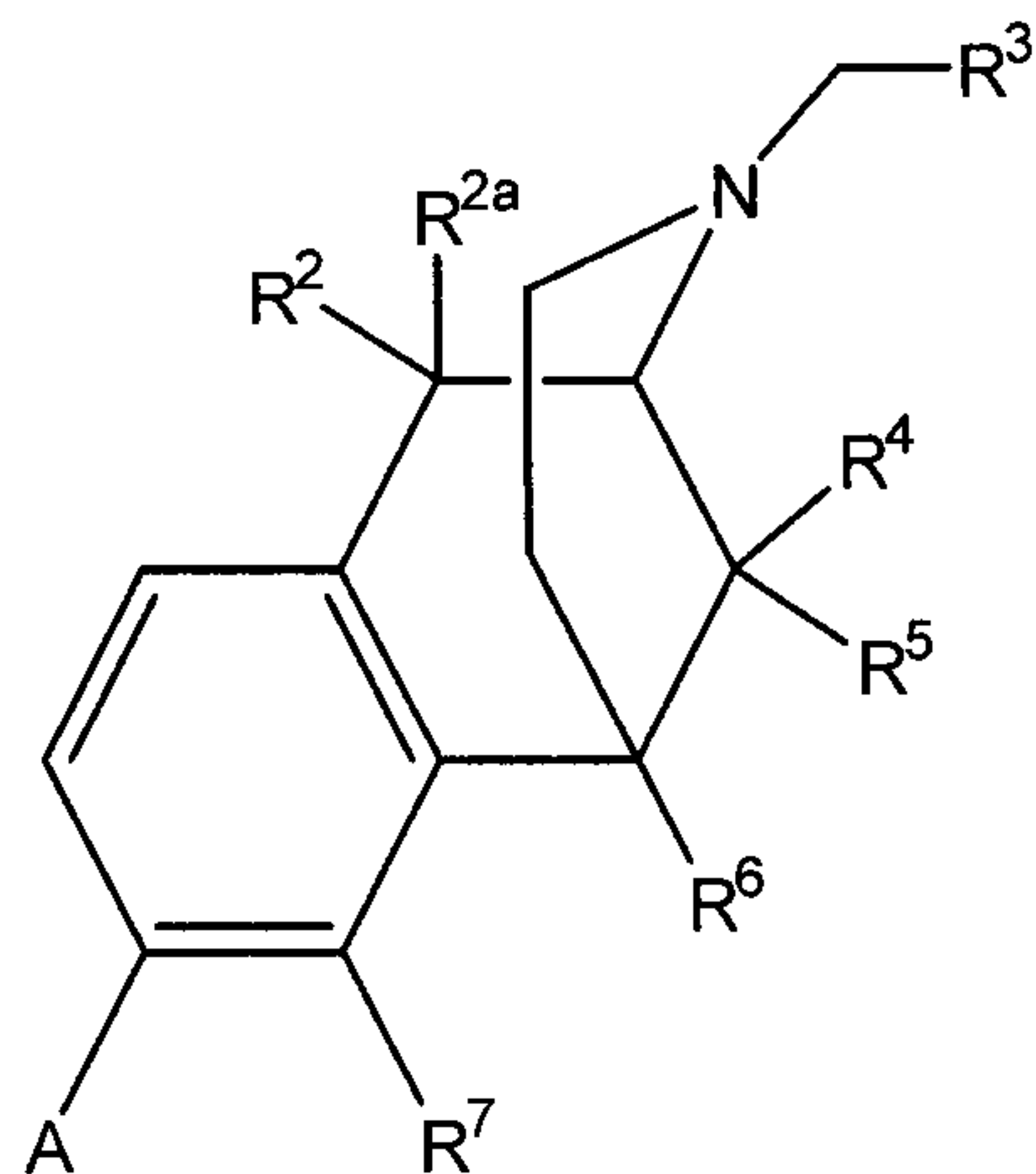
**23** - [the ( $\pm$ )-8- $\text{CONH}_2$  analogue of ketocyclazocine ( $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^{2a} = \text{O}$ ;  $\text{R}^6 = \text{Me}$ )] was made by the nitrile hydrolysis route, mp = 206-207  $^\circ\text{C}$ ; Step 1 - 99.7 %, Step 2 - 94.2 %. It was also made by the CO/Pd route in 34.7 % yield.

**[0032]** In general, the chemistry described above works in the presence of the variety of functional groups found on known core structures. The exceptions would be morphine and congeners having a free 6-OH, which can be protected by a TBDPS (t-butyldiphenylsilyl) group [see Wentland et al *J. Med. Chem.* **43**, 3558-3565 (2000)].



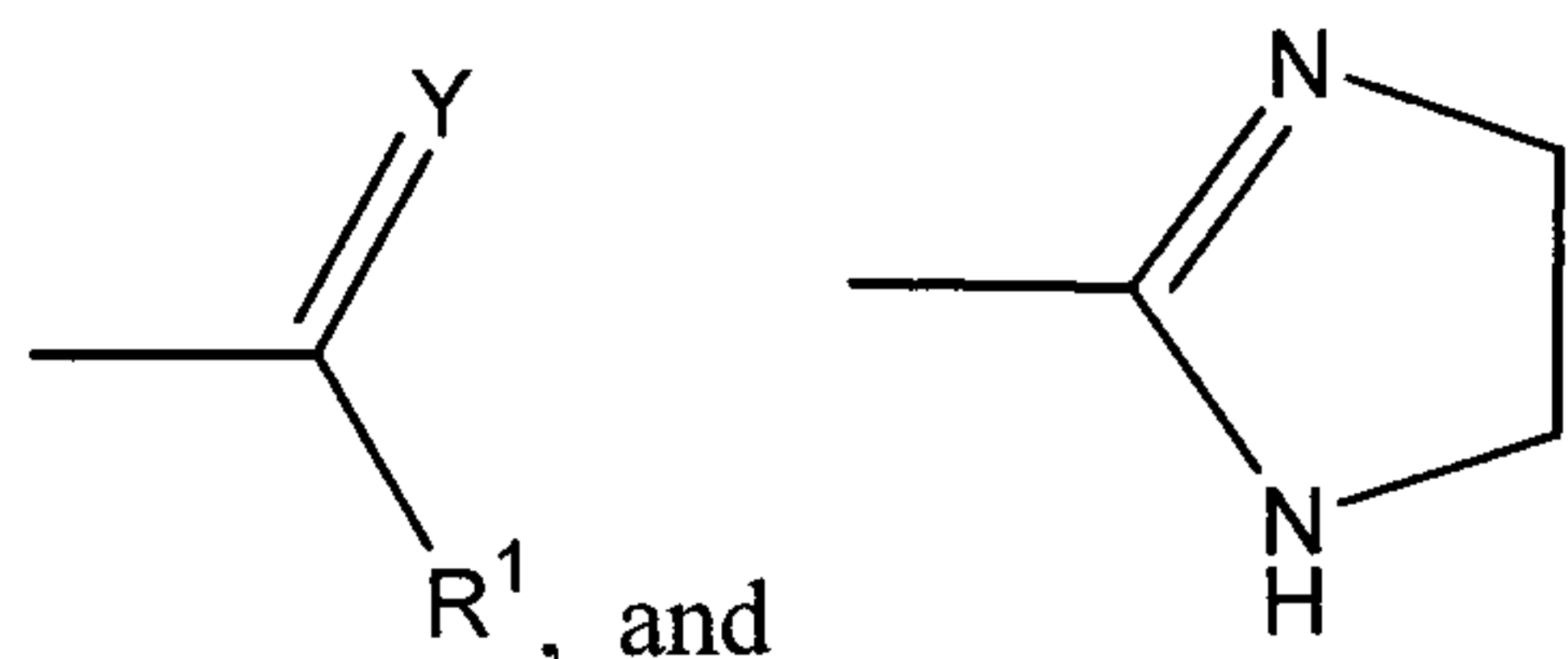
What is Claimed is:

1. A compound of formula:



wherein

A is chosen from  $-\text{CH}_2\text{-Z}$ ,



Y is chosen from O, S,  $\text{NR}^{17}$  and  $\text{NOH}$ ;

Z is chosen from OH, SH and  $\text{NH}_2$ ;

$\text{R}^1$  is chosen from hydrogen, lower alkoxy and  $-\text{NHR}^8$ ;

$\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^{2a}$  are both hydrogen or taken together  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^{2a}$  are  $=\text{O}$ ;

$\text{R}^3$  is chosen from hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, benzyl and hydroxyalkyl;

$\text{R}^4$  is chosen from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, lower alkoxy,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$  alkyl and  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$  alkyl substituted with hydroxy or carbonyl;

$\text{R}^5$  is lower alkyl;

$\text{R}^6$  is lower alkyl;

$\text{R}^7$  is hydrogen; or

together  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  may form from one to three rings, said rings having optional additional substitution;

$R^8$  is chosen from hydrogen, -OH, -NH<sub>2</sub> and -CH<sub>2</sub>R<sup>15</sup>;

$R^{15}$  is chosen from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl and alkyl substituted with alkoxy, amino, alkylamino or dialkylamino;

$R^{17}$  is chosen from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl and benzyl;

with the proviso that, (1) when  $R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are hydrogen,  $R^3$  is hydrogen or cyclopropyl,  $R^4$  is hydroxy, and together  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  form two rings substituted with a spirodioxolane, A cannot be -COOCH<sub>3</sub>.

2. The compound according to claim 1 wherein A is chosen from the group consisting of: -COOCH<sub>3</sub>, -COOEt, -CONH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=S)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(O)NHOH, -C(O)NHNH<sub>2</sub>, -CONHCH<sub>3</sub>, -CONHBn, -CONHCH<sub>2</sub>(4-MeOC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 2-(4,5-dihydroimidazolyl), -C(=NOH)NH<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, -COC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, -C(=NOH)C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, -NHCHO, -NHCHS and -NHSO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>.

3. The compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein:

$R^4$  is chosen from hydrogen, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl substituted with hydroxy or carbonyl;

$R^5$  is lower alkyl;

$R^6$  is lower alkyl; and

$R^7$  is hydrogen.

4. The compound according to claim 3 wherein:

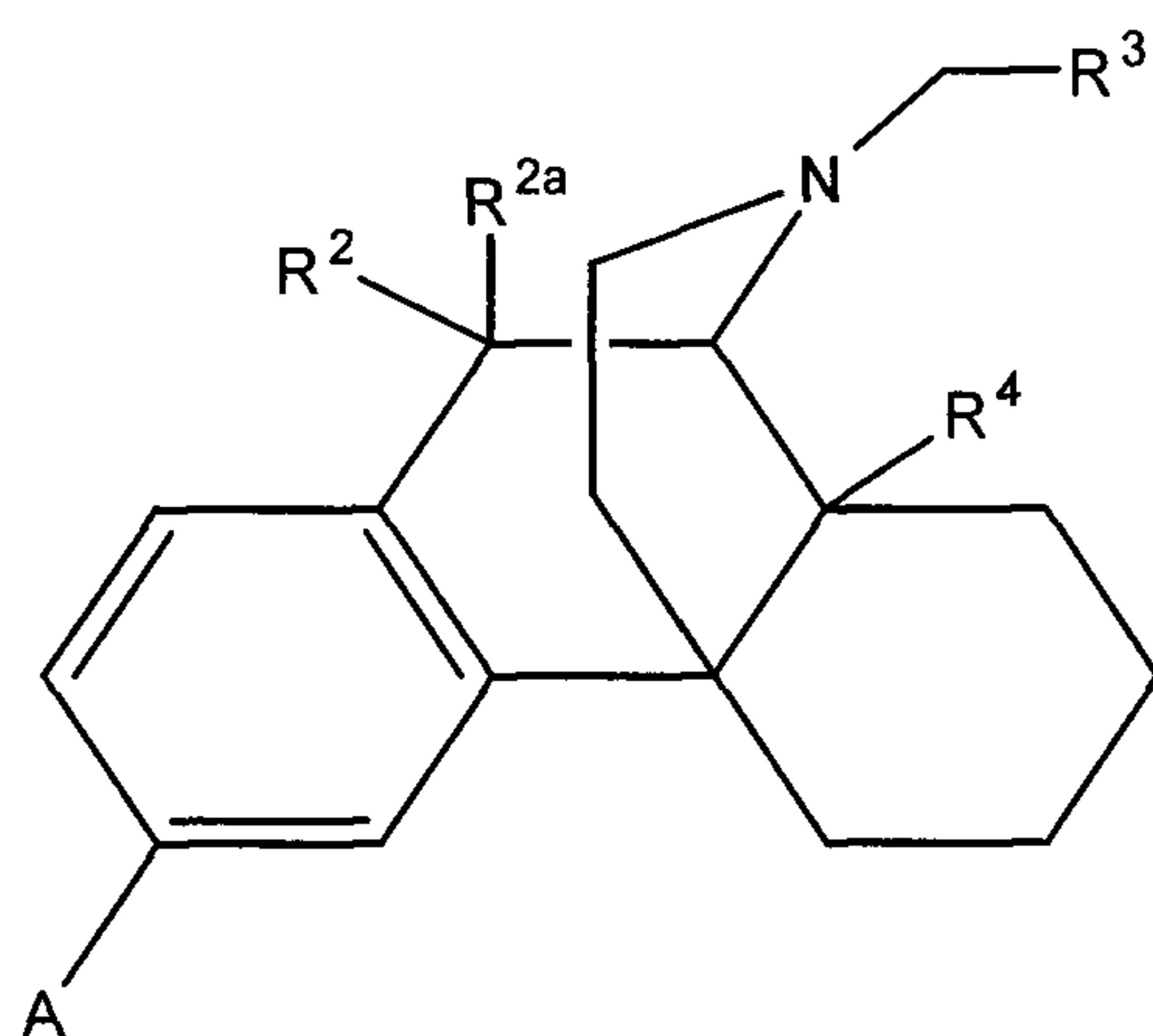
$R^3$  is chosen from hydrogen, cyclopropyl, phenyl, vinyl, dimethylvinyl, hydroxycyclopropyl, furanyl, and tetrahydrofuranyl;

$R^4$  is chosen from hydrogen and 3-oxo-5-cyclopentyl-1-pentanyl;

$R^5$  is methyl; and

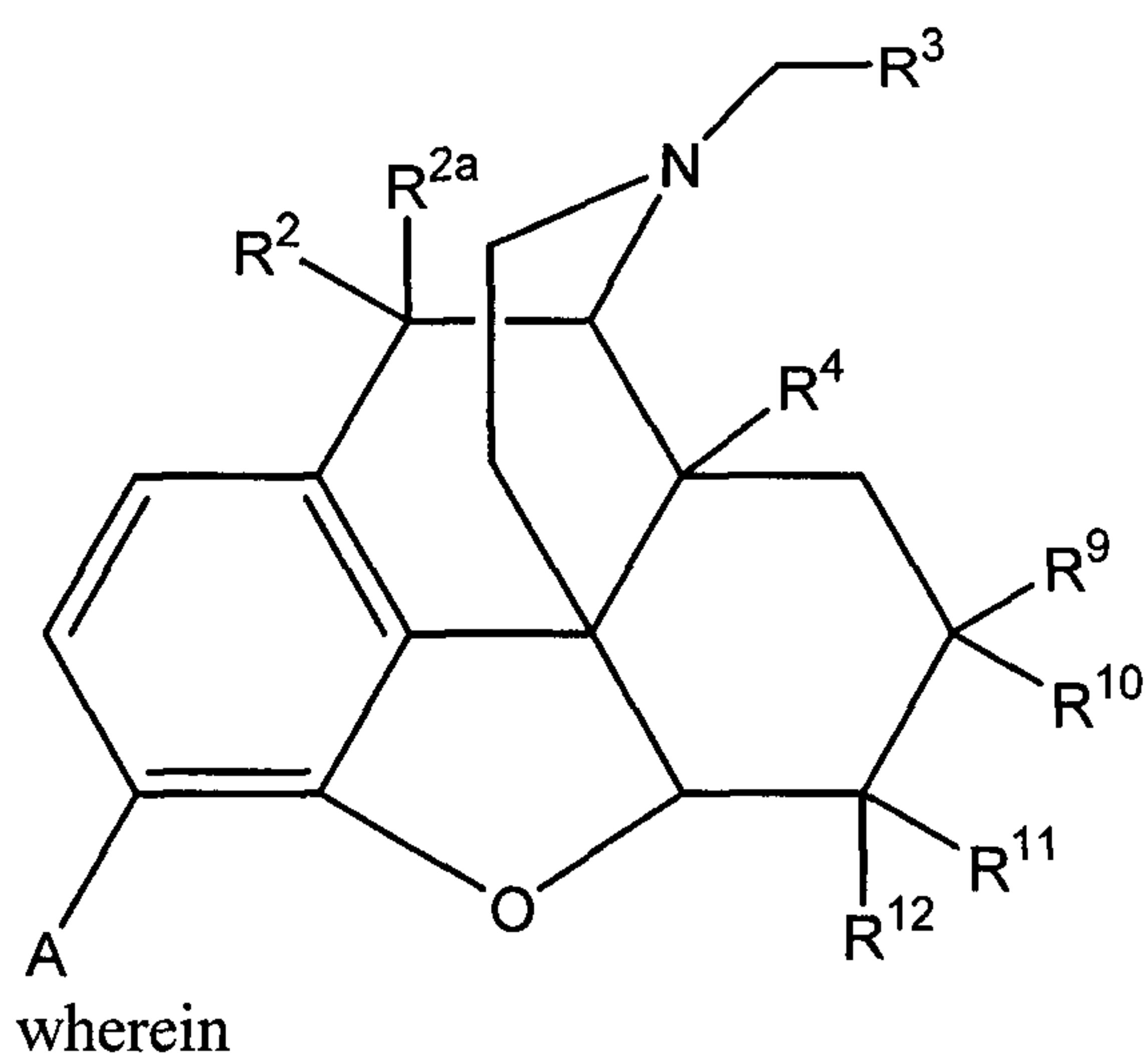
$R^6$  is methyl or ethyl.

5. The compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein together  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  form one ring and  $R^7$  is hydrogen, said morphinan having the structure:



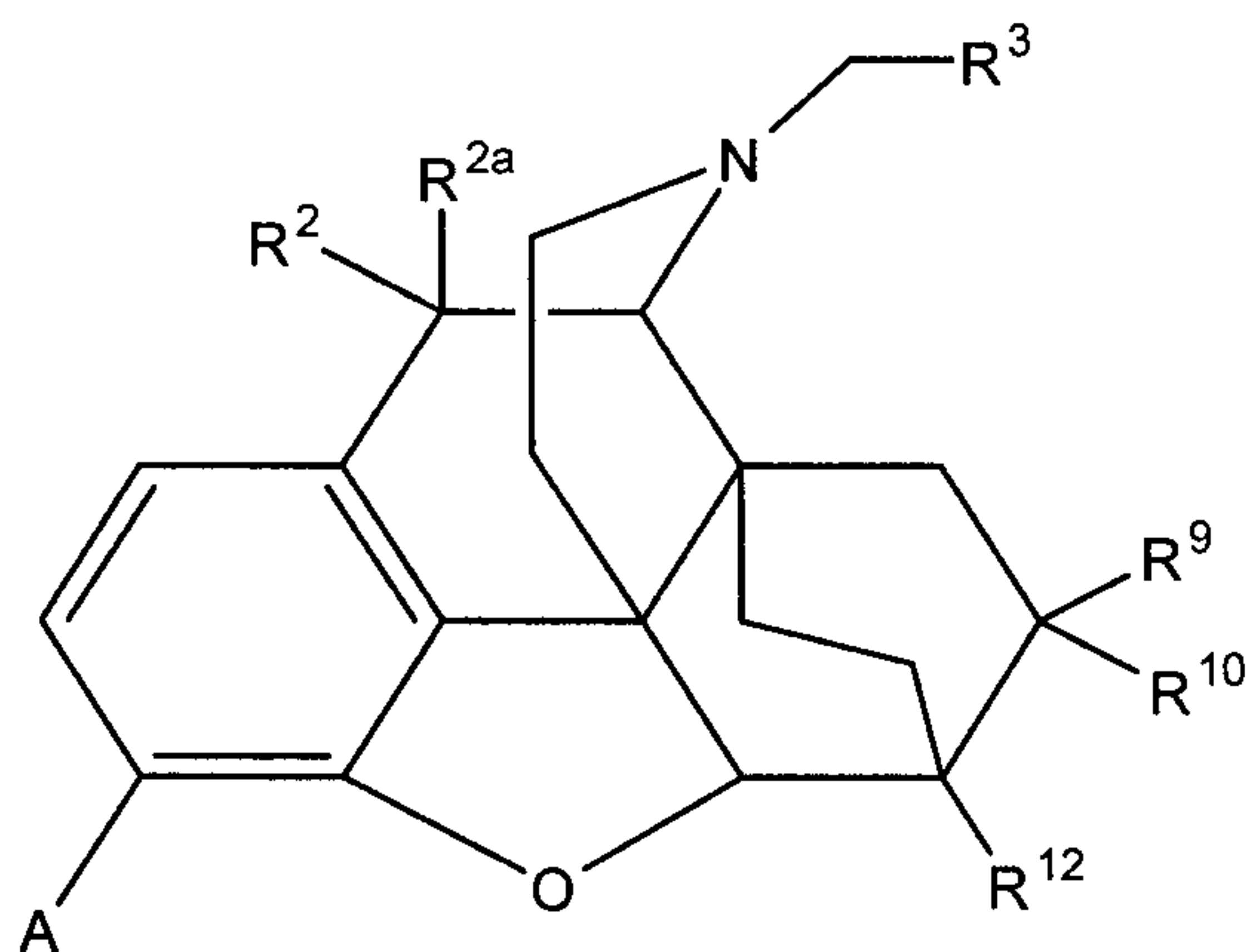
6. The compound according to claim 5 wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are hydrogen;  
 $R^3$  is chosen from hydrogen, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, vinyl and tetrahydrofuranyl; and  
 $R^4$  is hydrogen, hydroxy or amino.

7. The compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein together  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  form two rings, said morphinan having the structure:



- $R^4$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, amino or lower alkoxy;  
 $R^9$  is hydrogen or lower alkyl;  
 $R^{10}$  is chosen from hydrogen, lower alkyl and hydroxy(lower alkyl); or  
 together,  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  form a spiro-fused carbocycle of 5 to 10 carbons;  
 $R^{11}$  is hydrogen;  
 $R^{12}$  is chosen from hydroxy, lower alkoxy and an unsubstituted or substituted amine;  
 or  
 together,  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  form a carbonyl or a vinyl substituent; or  
 together,  $R^4$  and  $R^{11}$  form a sixth ring.

8. The compound according to claim 7, wherein  $R^4$  and  $R^{11}$  form a sixth ring, of formula

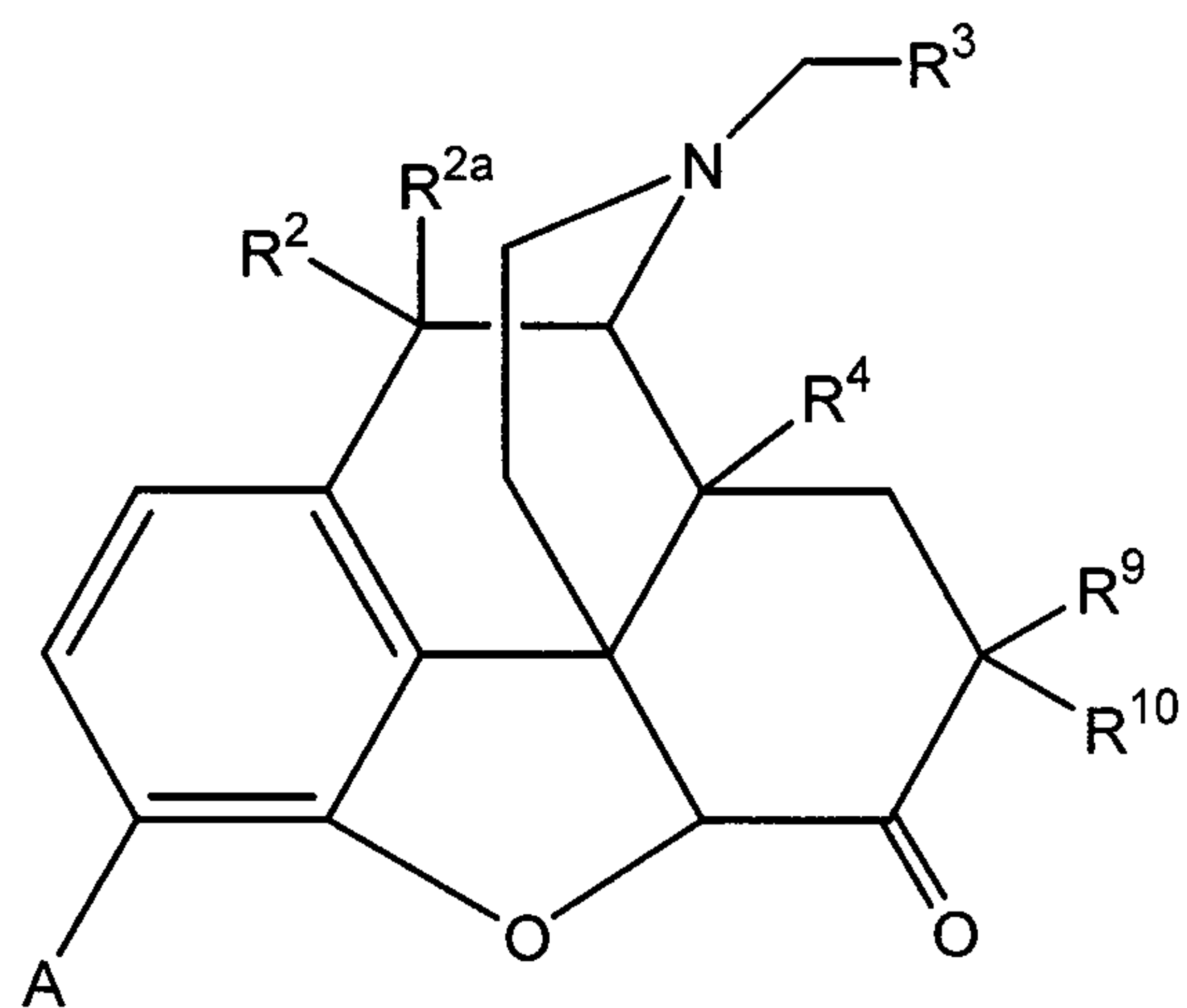


9. The compound according to claim 8 wherein

- $R^9$  is hydrogen;  
 $R^{10}$  is hydroxy(lower alkyl); and  
 $R^{12}$  is lower alkoxy.

10. The compound according to claim 7, wherein  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  form a carbonyl substituent, of formula:





11. The compound according to claim 10 wherein

$R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are both hydrogen;

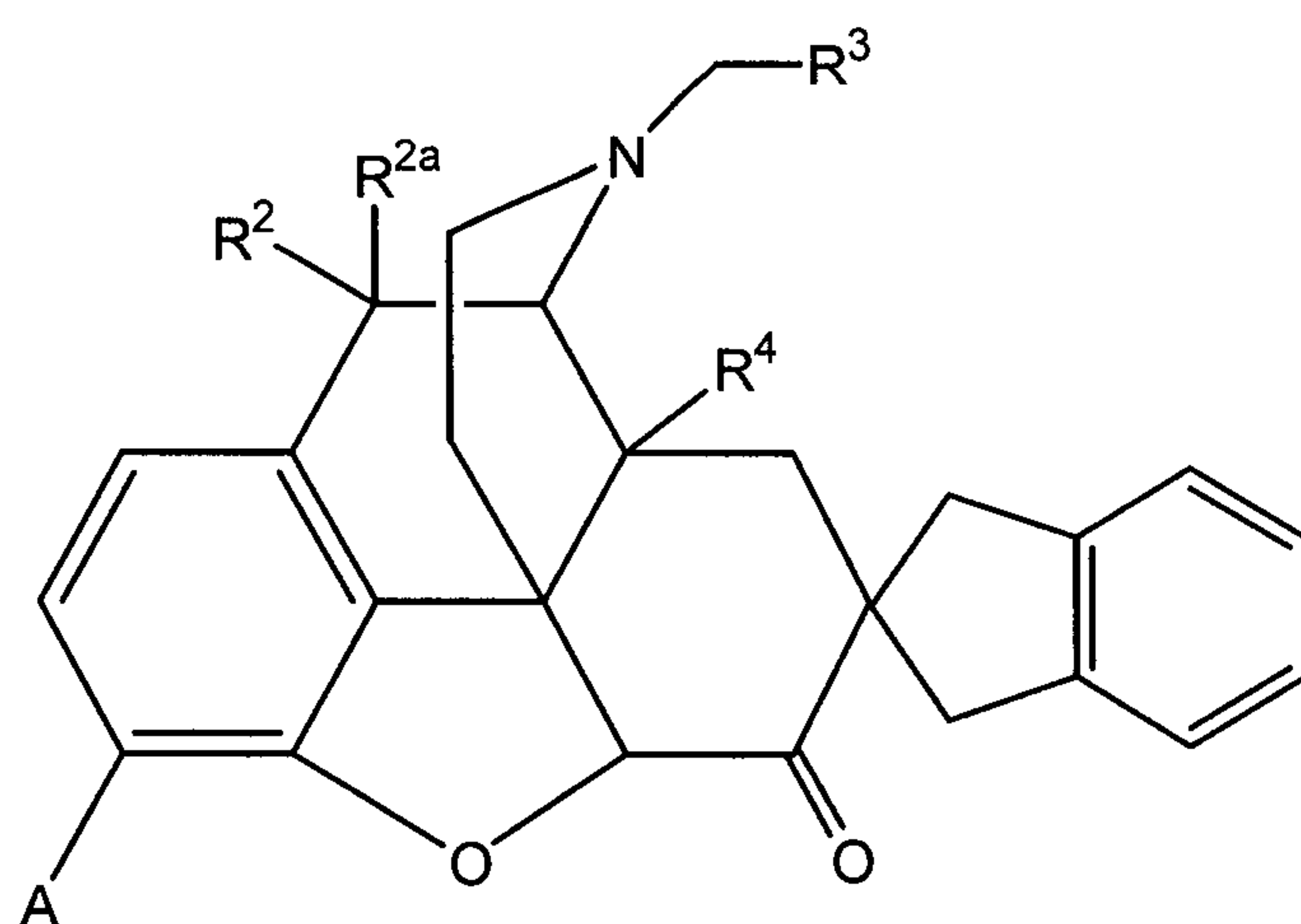
$R^4$  is chosen from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino and lower alkoxy; and

$R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  are both hydrogen or

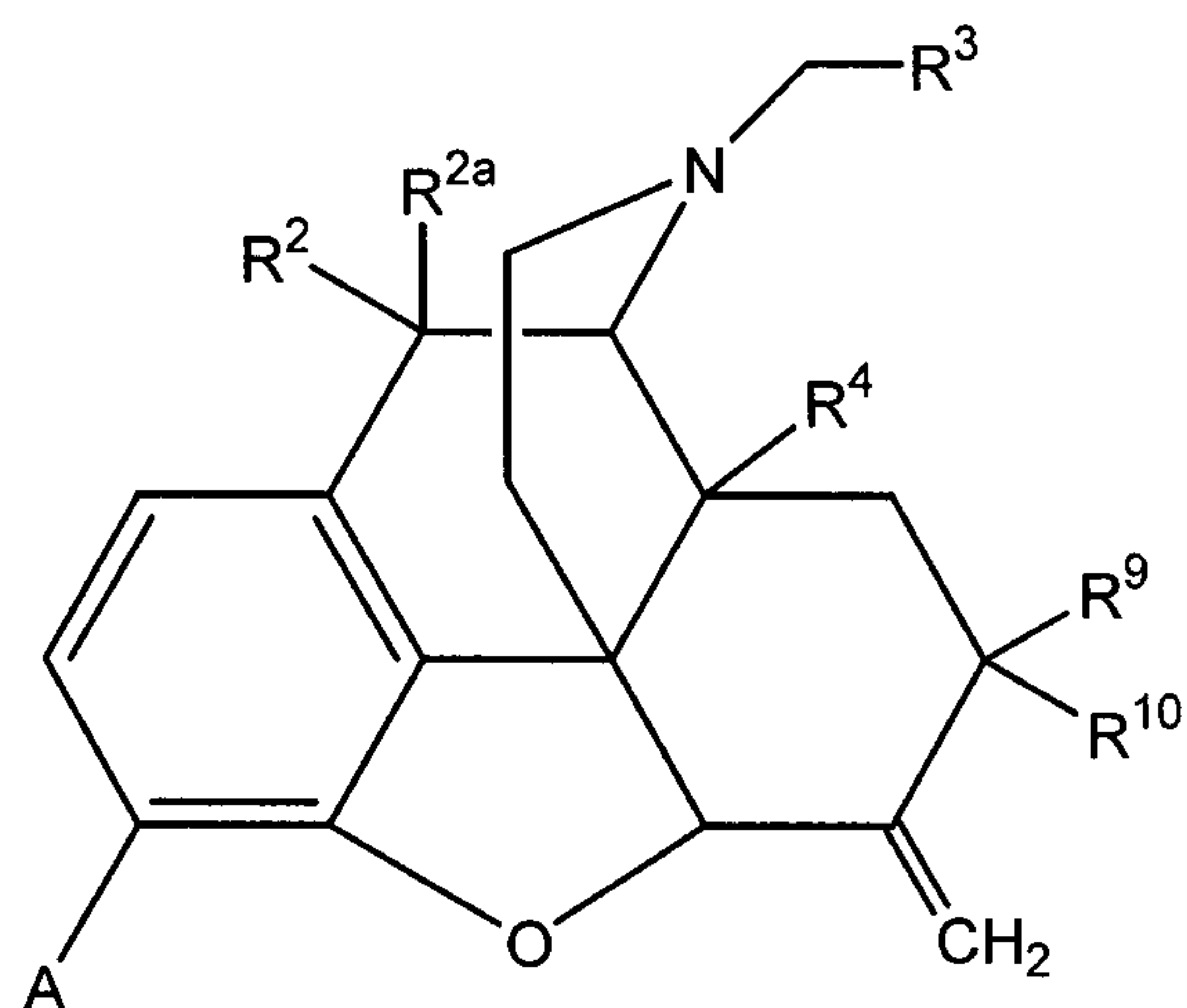
together,  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  form a spiro-fused carbocycle of 5 to 10 carbons.

12. The compound according to claim 11 wherein  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  are both hydrogen.

13. The compound according to claim 11, wherein  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  form a spiro-fused carbocycle, of formula:

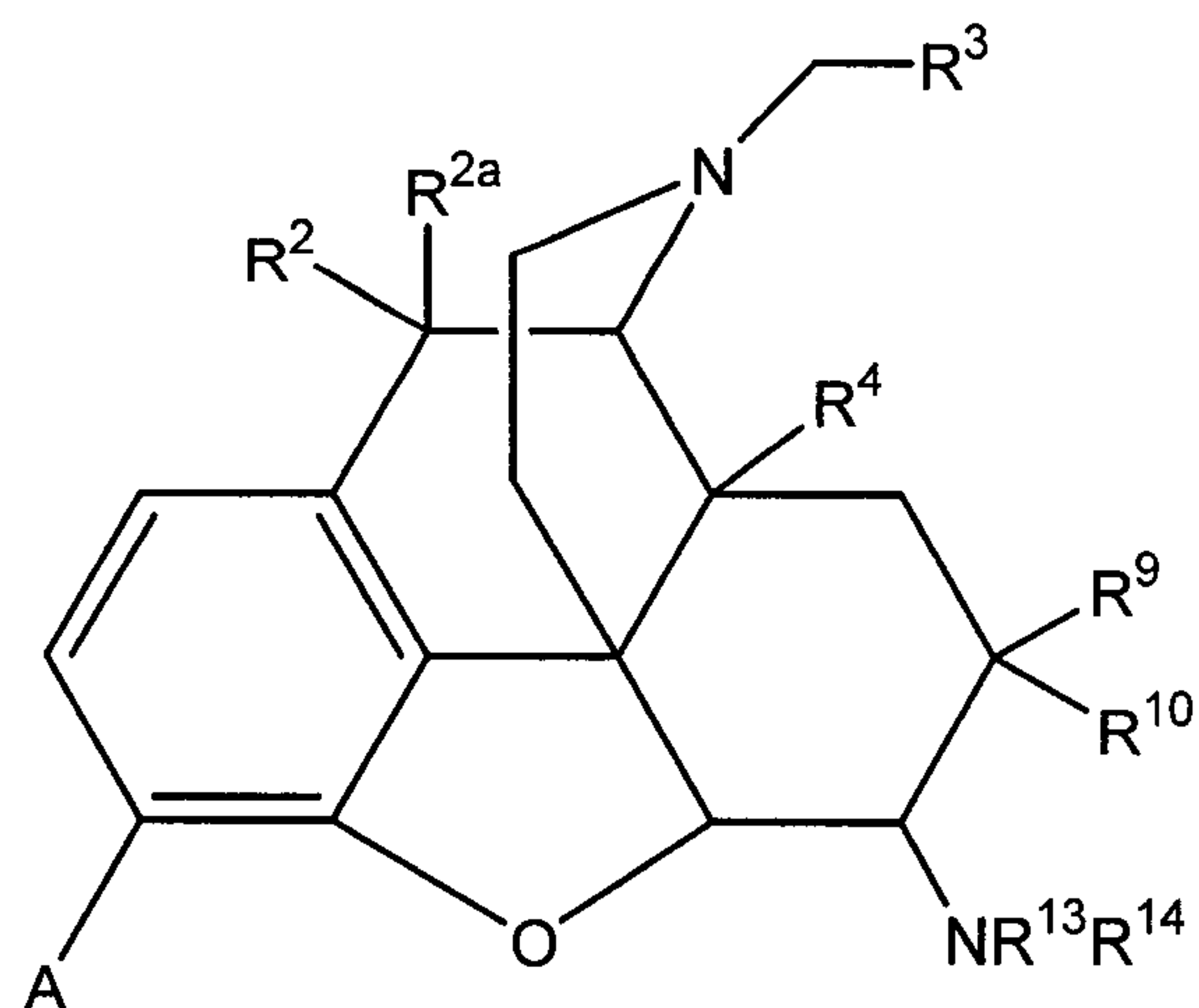


14. The compound according to claim 7, wherein  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  form a vinyl substituent, of formula:



15. The compound according to claim 14 wherein  
 $R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are both hydrogen;  
 $R^4$  is hydroxy; and  
 $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  are both hydrogen.

16. The compound according to claim 7, wherein  $R^{11}$  is hydrogen and  $R^{12}$  is an unsubstituted or substituted amine, of formula:



17. The compound according to claim 7 wherein

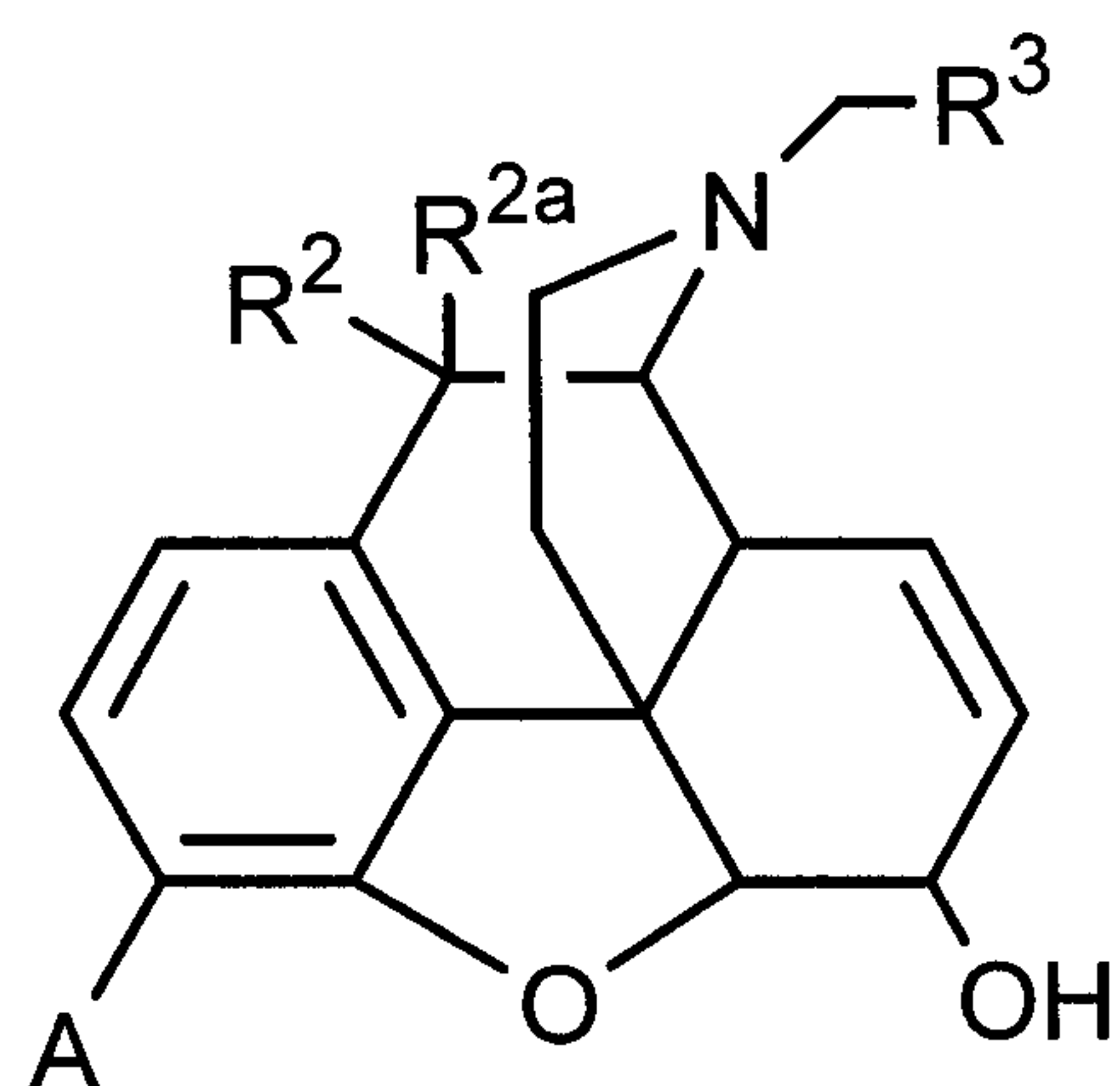
$R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are both hydrogen;

$R^4$  is hydroxy;

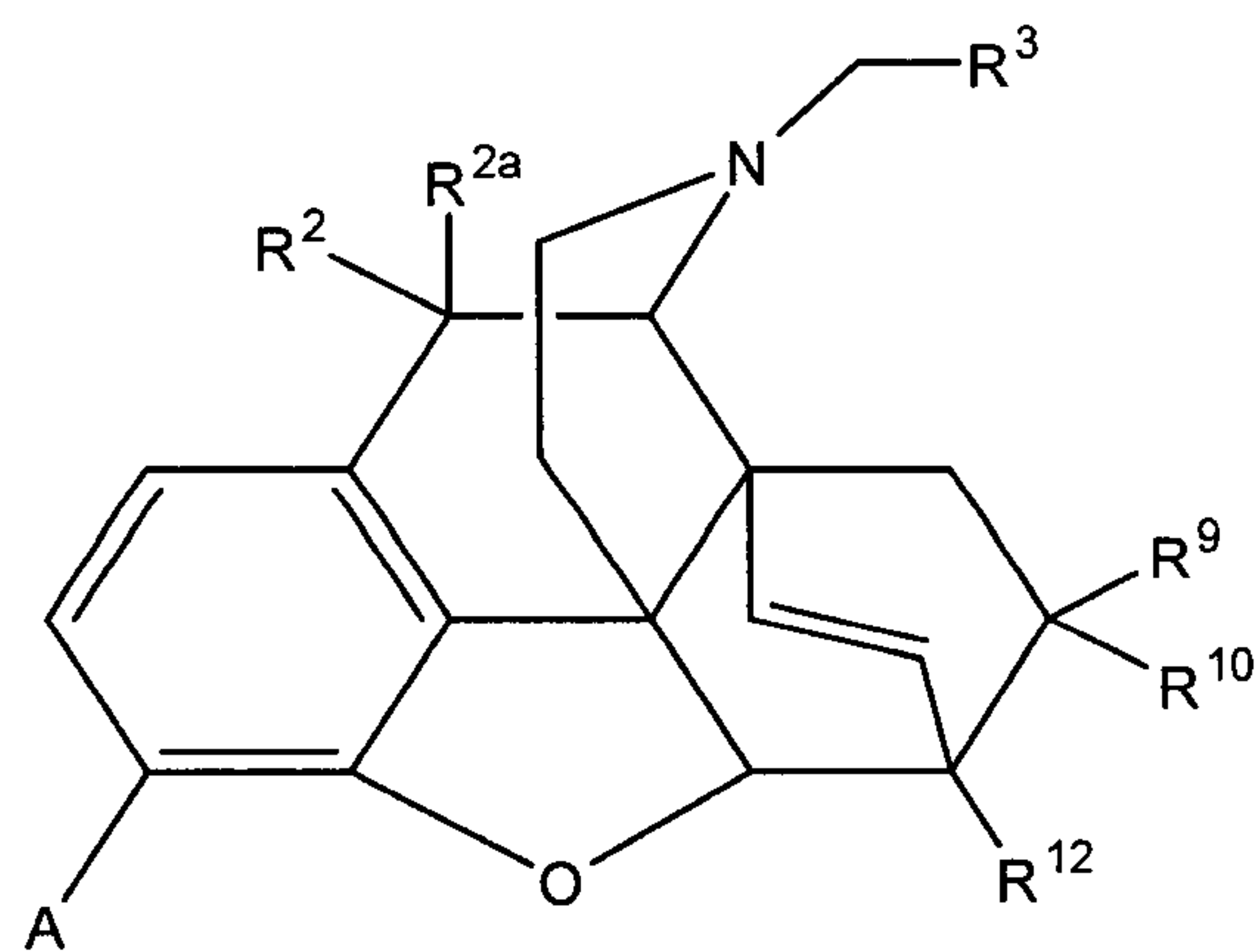
$R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  are both hydrogen; and

$R^{12}$  is chosen from:  $-NH_2$ ,  $-N(CH_2CH_2Cl)_2$ , and  $-NHC(O)CH=CHCOOCH_3$ .

18. The compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein together  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  form two rings, said morphinan having the structure:



19. The compound according to claim 7, wherein  $R^4$  and  $R^{11}$  form a sixth ring, of formula



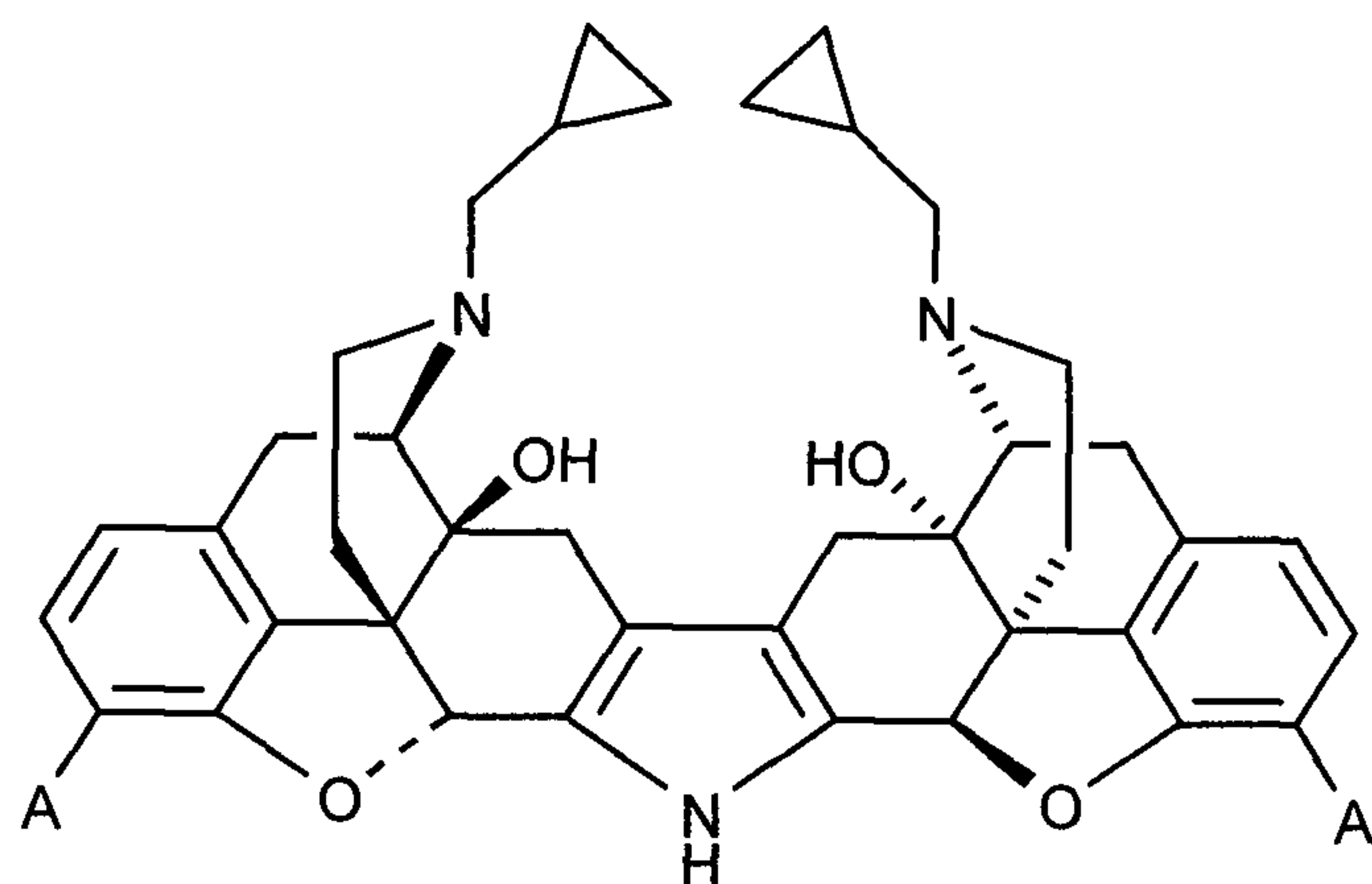
wherein

$R^9$  is hydrogen;

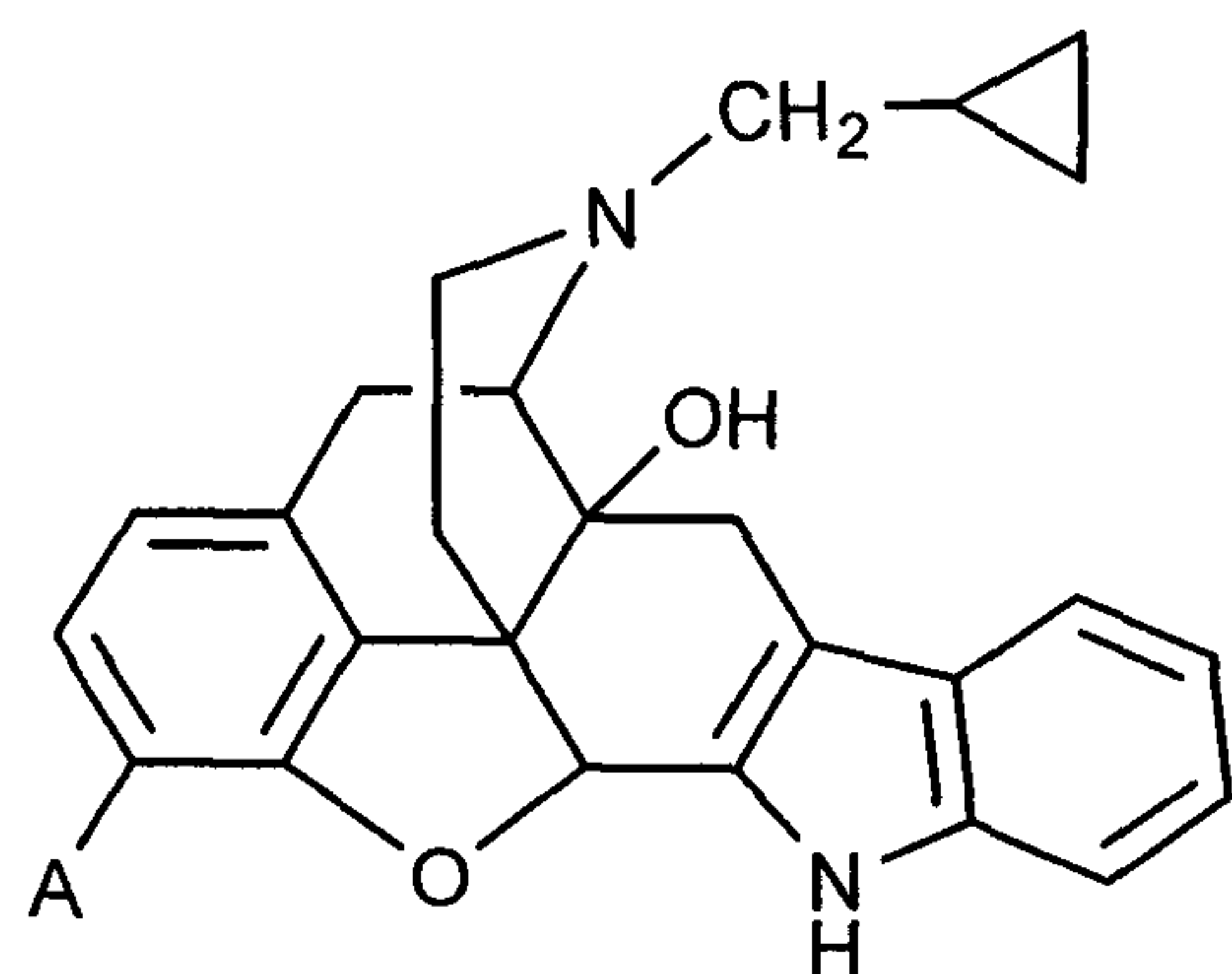
$R^{10}$  is hydroxy(lower alkyl); and

$R^{12}$  is lower alkoxy.

20. A compound of formula:

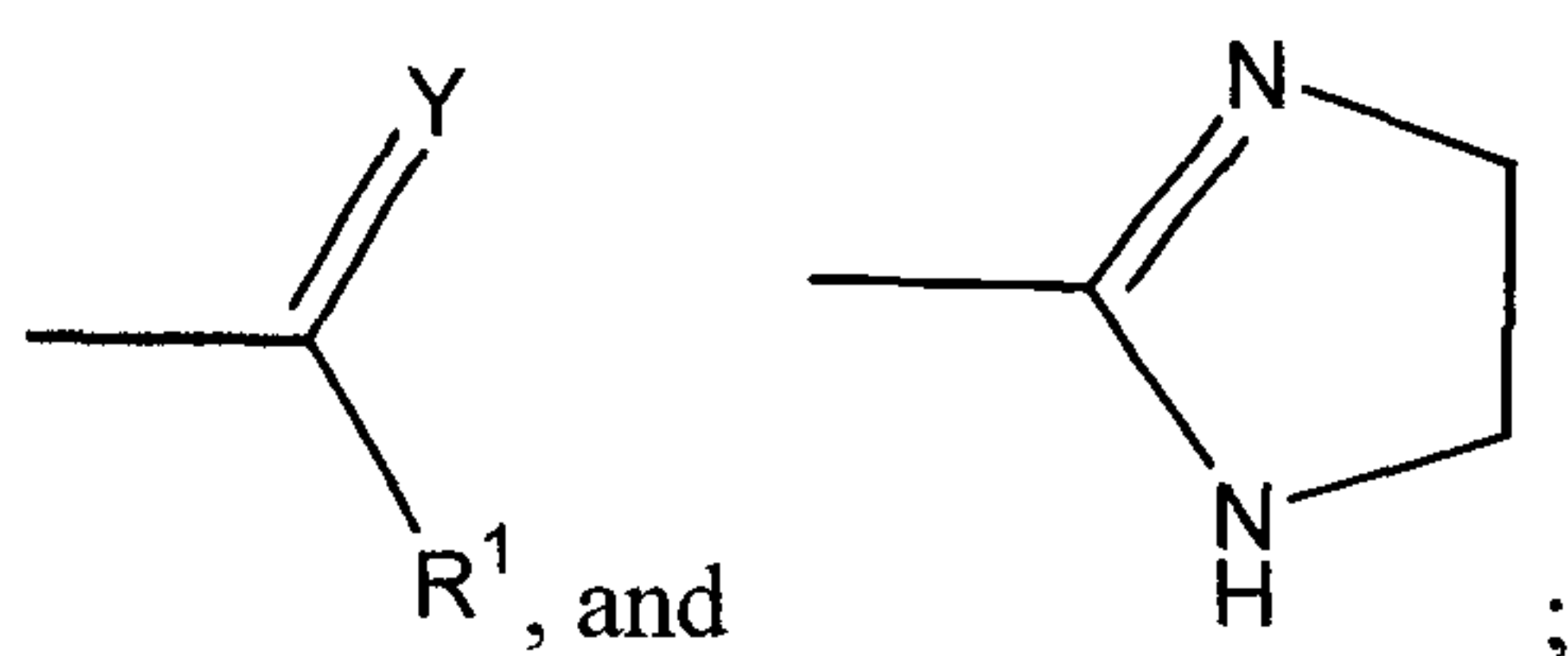


or



wherein

A is chosen from  $-\text{CH}_2\text{-Z}$ ,



Q is chosen from O, S and  $\text{NR}^{17}$ ;

Y is chosen from O, S,  $\text{NR}^{17}$  and  $\text{NOH}$ ;

Z is chosen from OH, SH and  $\text{NH}_2$ ;

$\text{R}^1$  is chosen from hydrogen, lower alkoxy, phenyl and  $-\text{NHR}^8$ ;

$\text{R}^8$  is chosen from hydrogen,  $-\text{OH}$ ,  $-\text{NH}_2$  and  $-\text{CH}_2\text{R}^{15}$ ;



R<sup>15</sup> is chosen from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl and alkyl substituted with alkoxy, amino, alkylamino or dialkylamino; and

R<sup>17</sup> is chosen from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl and benzyl, with the proviso that when R<sup>1</sup> is phenyl, Y cannot be O.

21. A use of the compound defined in any one of claims 1-20 for inhibiting a response mediated by an opioid receptor.

22. The use according to claim 21, wherein the compound is a carboxamide, a thioamide or a formamide.

23. A use of the compound defined in any one of claims 1-20 for eliciting or enhancing a response mediated by an opioid receptor.

24. A use of the compound defined in any one of claims 1-20 for treating a disease or condition by altering a response mediated by an opioid receptor.

25. The use according to claim 24, wherein said disease or condition is chosen from the group consisting of pain, pruritis, diarrhea, irritable bowel syndrome, gastrointestinal motility disorder, obesity, respiratory depression, convulsions, coughing, hyperalgesia and drug addiction.

26. The use of the compound defined in any one of claims 1-20 for preparing a medicament for inhibiting a response mediated by an opioid receptor.

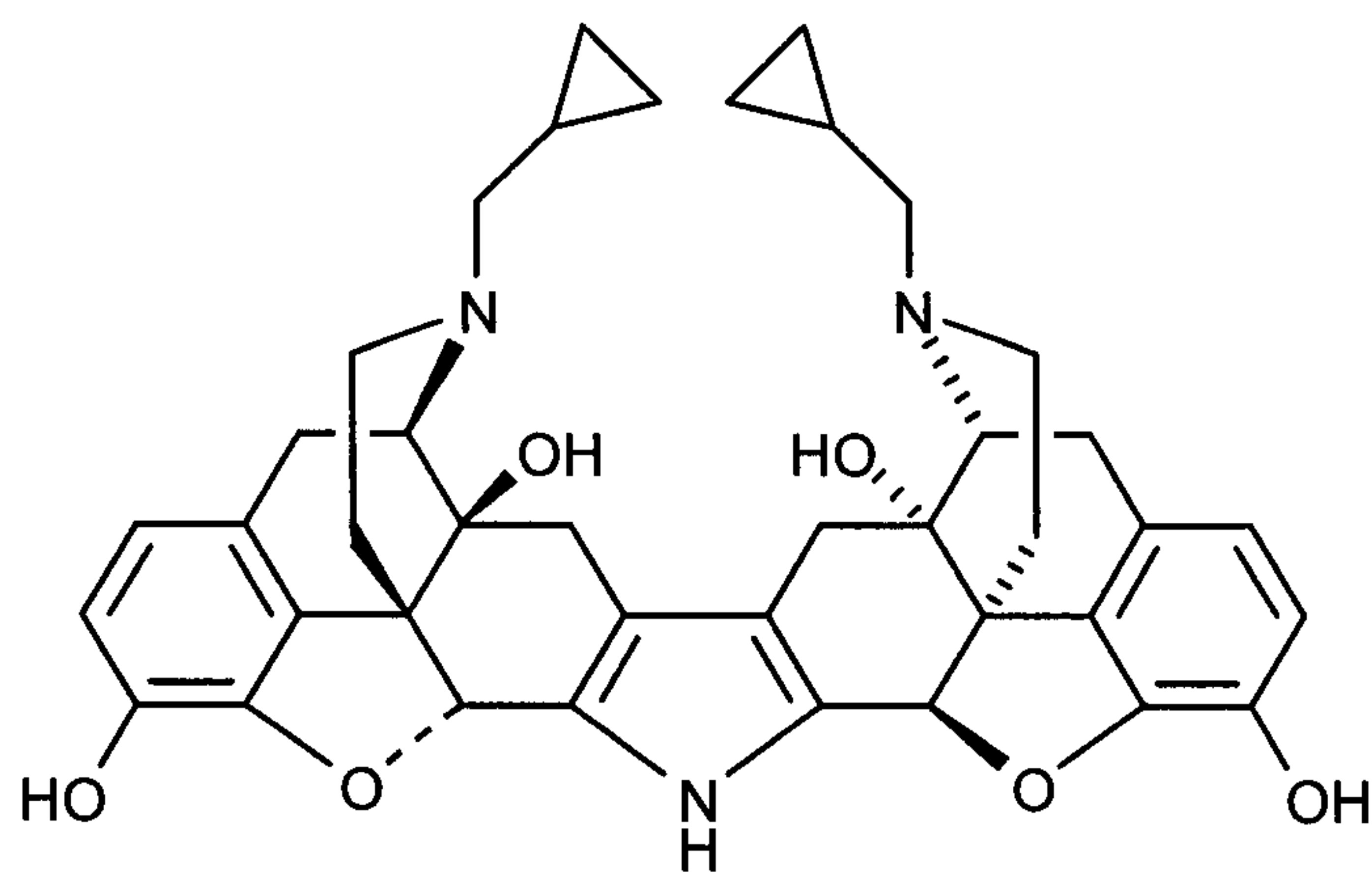
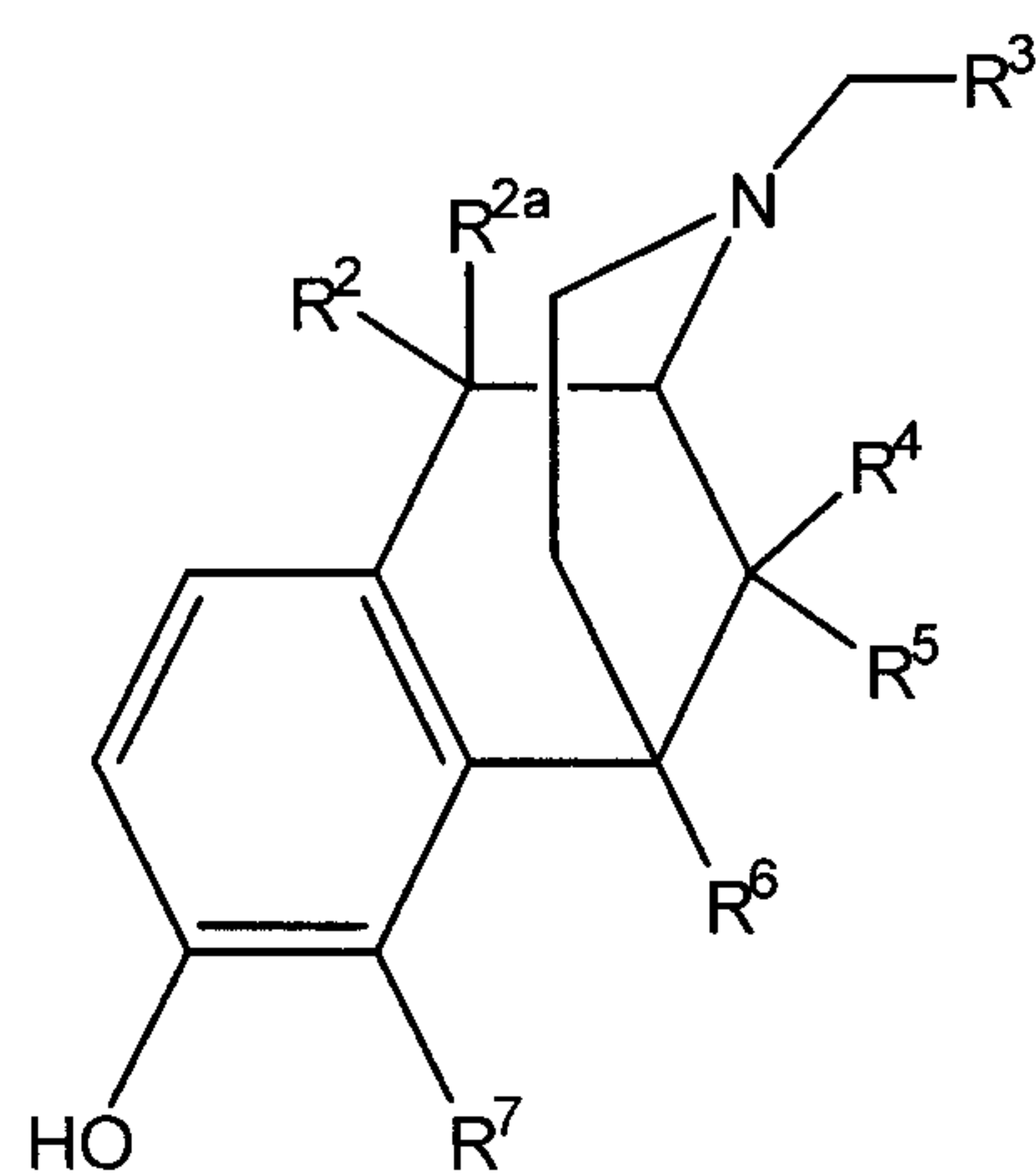
27. The use according to claim 26, wherein the compound is a carboxamide, a thioamide or a formamide.

28. A use of the compound defined in any one of claims 1-20 for preparing a medicament for eliciting or enhancing a response mediated by an opioid receptor.

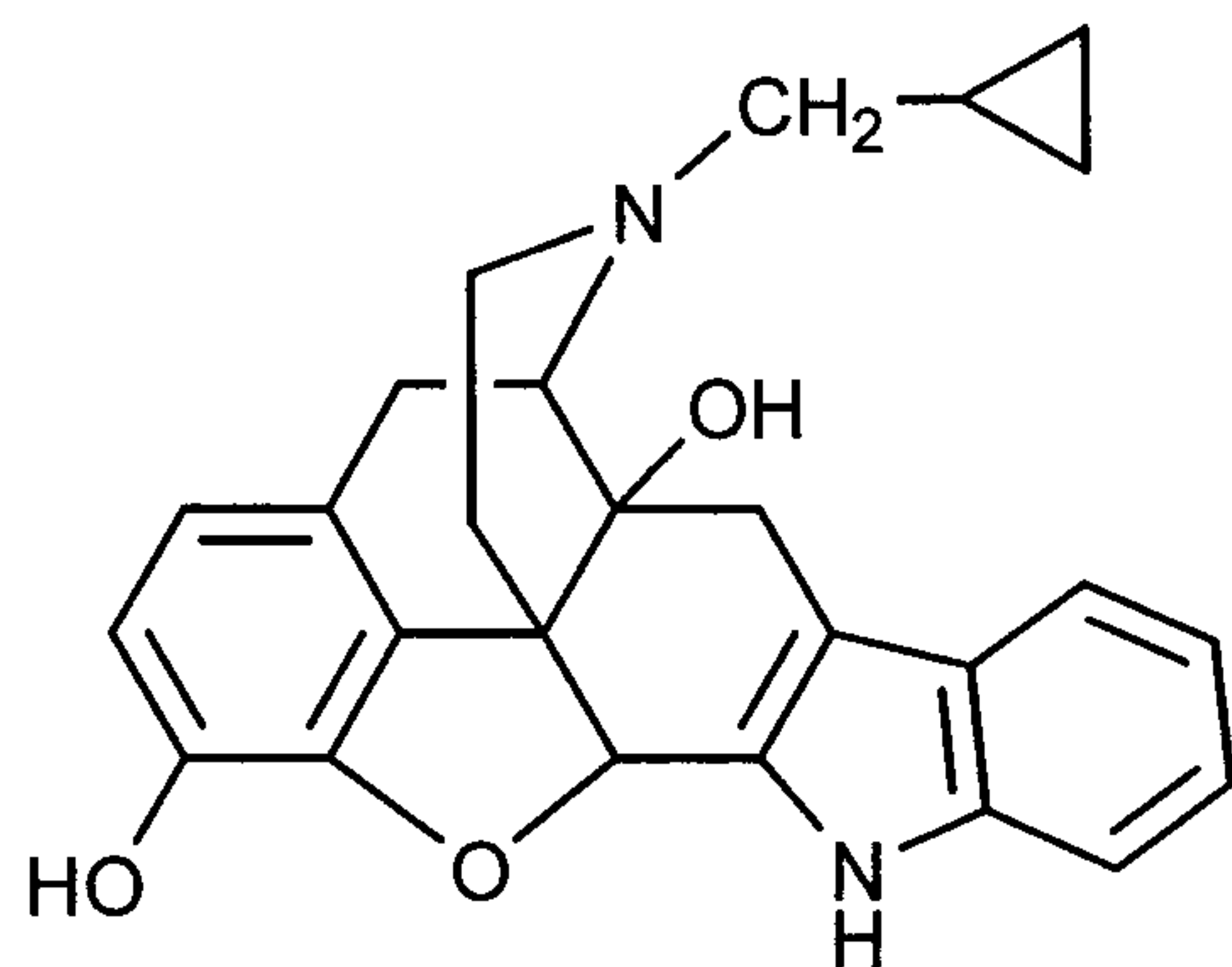
29. A use of the compound defined in any one of claims 1-20 for preparing a medicament for treating a disease or condition by altering a response mediated by an opioid receptor.

30. The use according to claim 29, wherein said disease or condition is chosen from the group consisting of pain, pruritis, diarrhea, irritable bowel syndrome, gastrointestinal motility disorder, obesity, respiratory depression, convulsions, coughing, hyperalgesia and drug addiction.

31. A process for converting a phenol on a compound selected from the group consisting of



and



wherein

$R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are both hydrogen or taken together  $R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are  $=O$ ;

$R^3$  is chosen from hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, benzyl and hydroxyalkyl;

$R^4$  is chosen from hydrogen, hydroxy, amine, lower alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl and  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl substituted with hydroxy or carbonyl;

$R^5$  is lower alkyl;

$R^6$  is lower alkyl; and

$R^7$  is hydrogen; or

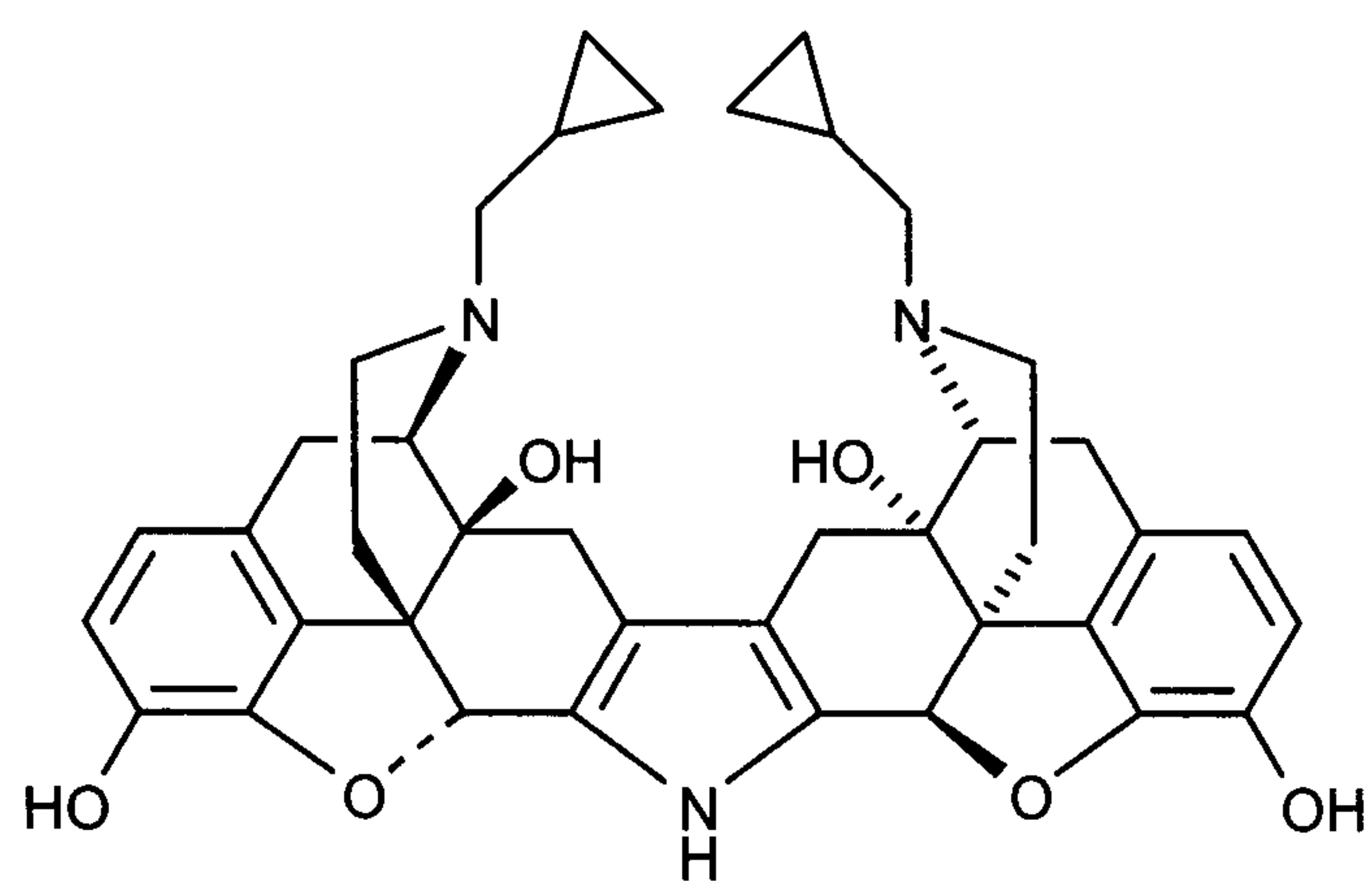
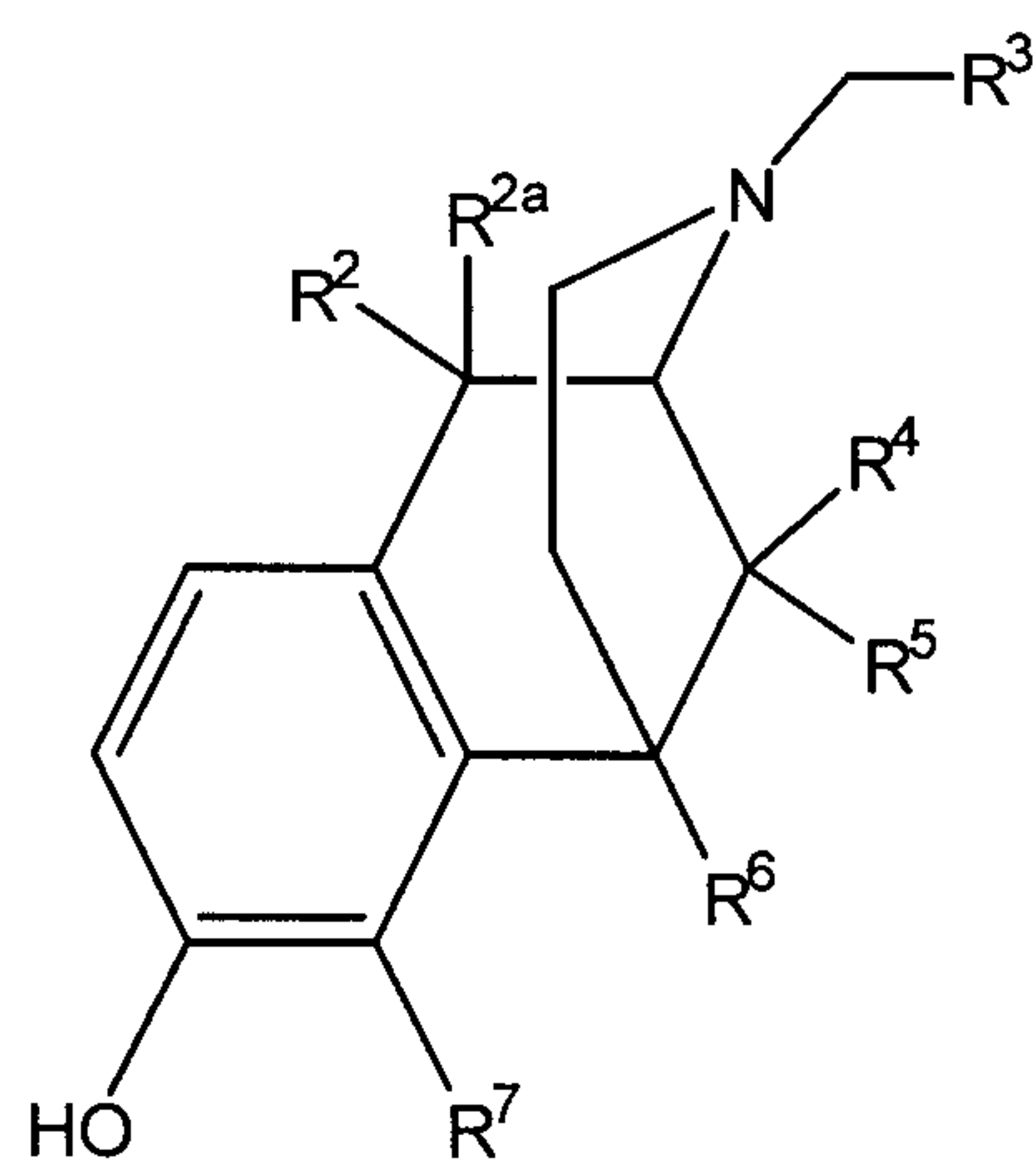
together  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  may form from one to three rings, said rings having optional additional substitution, to a carboxamide defined in any one of claims 1 to 20, comprising:

(a) reacting said phenol with a reagent to convert said phenol to a group displaceable by  $CN^-$ ;

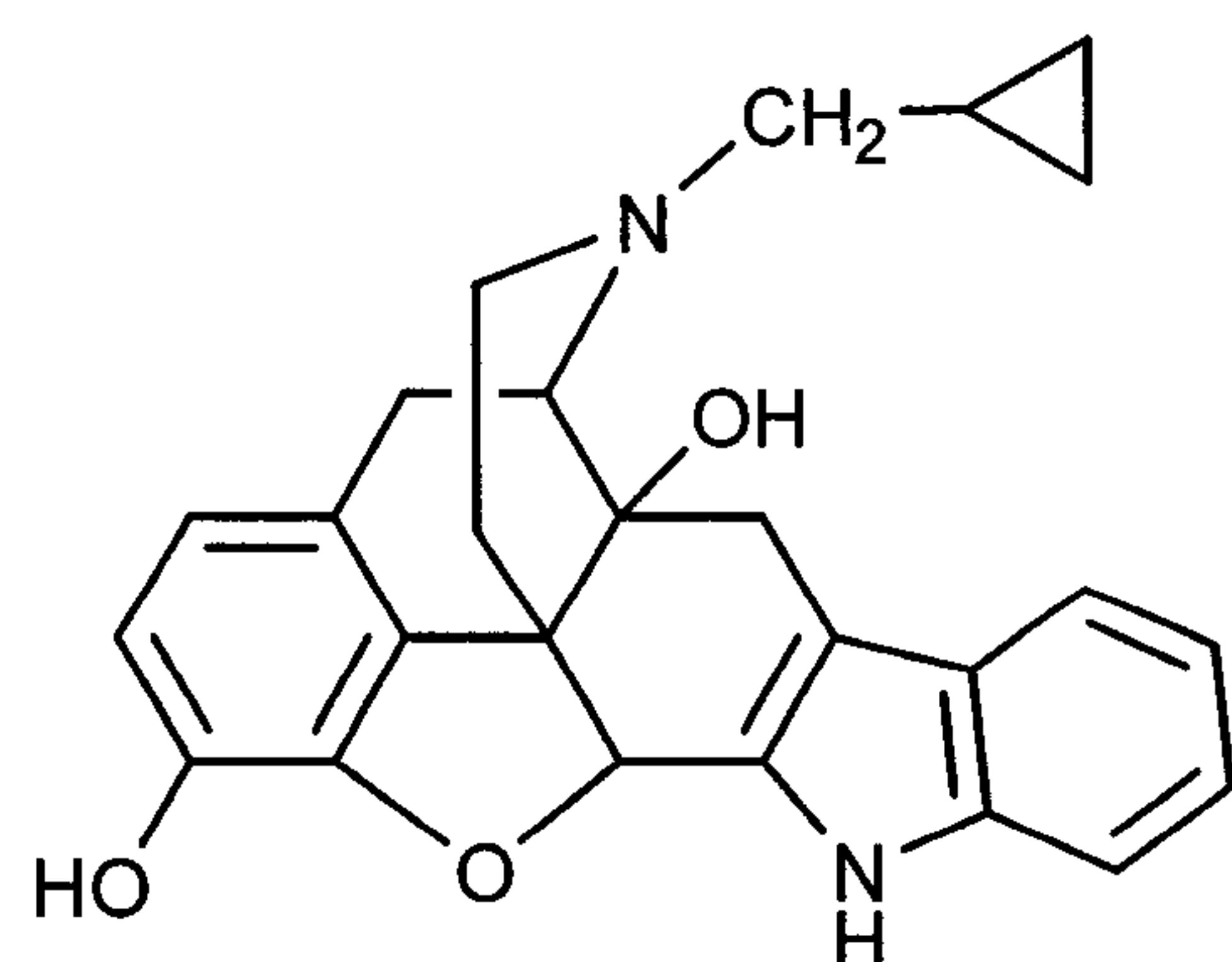
(b) reacting said group displaceable by  $CN^-$  with  $Zn(CN)_2$  in the presence of a  $Pd(0)$  catalyst to provide a nitrile; and

(c) hydrolyzing said nitrile to the carboxamide.

32. A process for converting a phenol on a compound selected from the group consisting of



and



wherein

$R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are both hydrogen or taken together  $R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are =O;

$R^3$  is chosen from hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, benzyl and hydroxyalkyl;

$R^4$  is chosen from hydrogen, hydroxy, amine, lower alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl and  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl substituted with hydroxy or carbonyl;



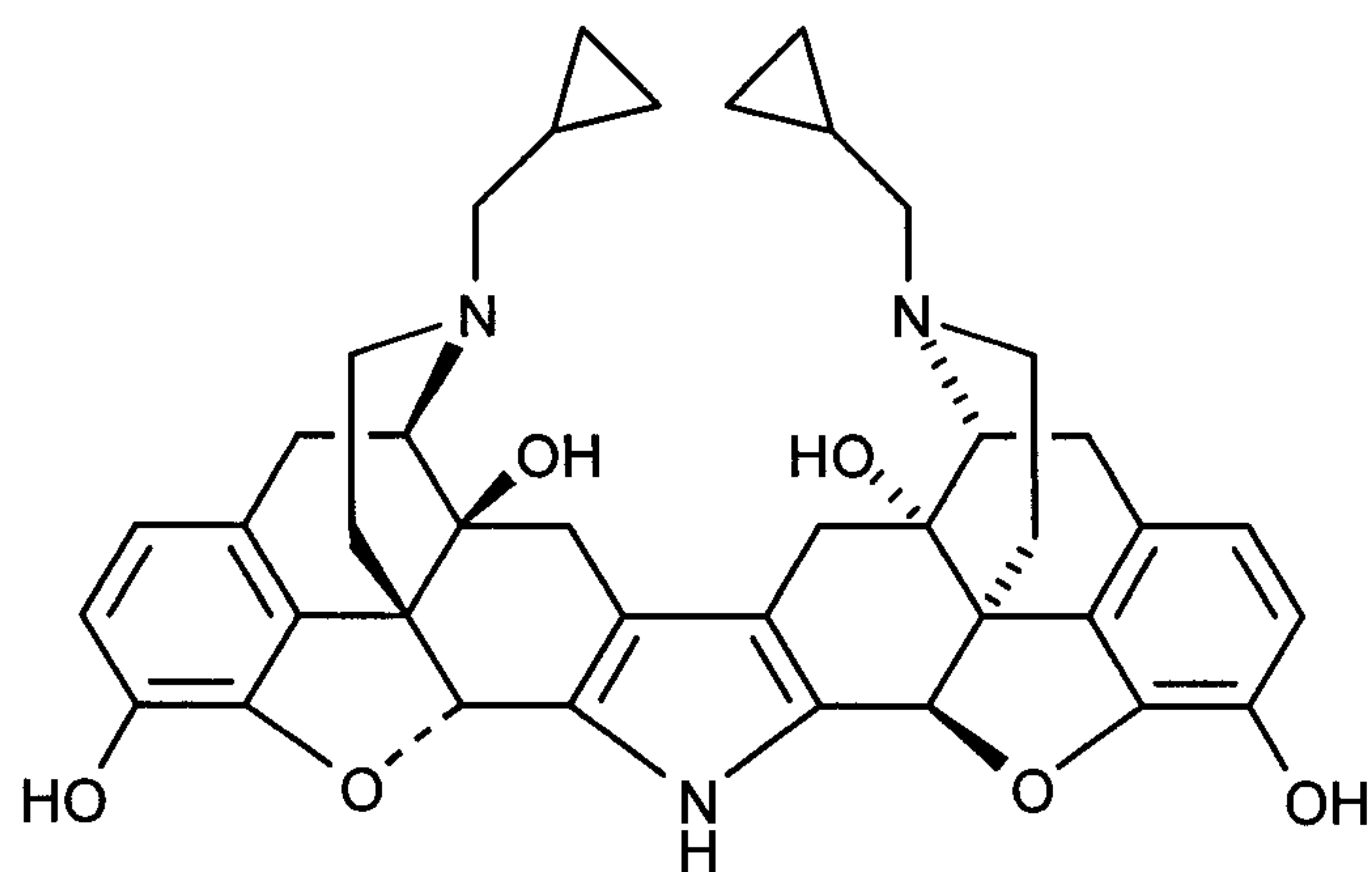
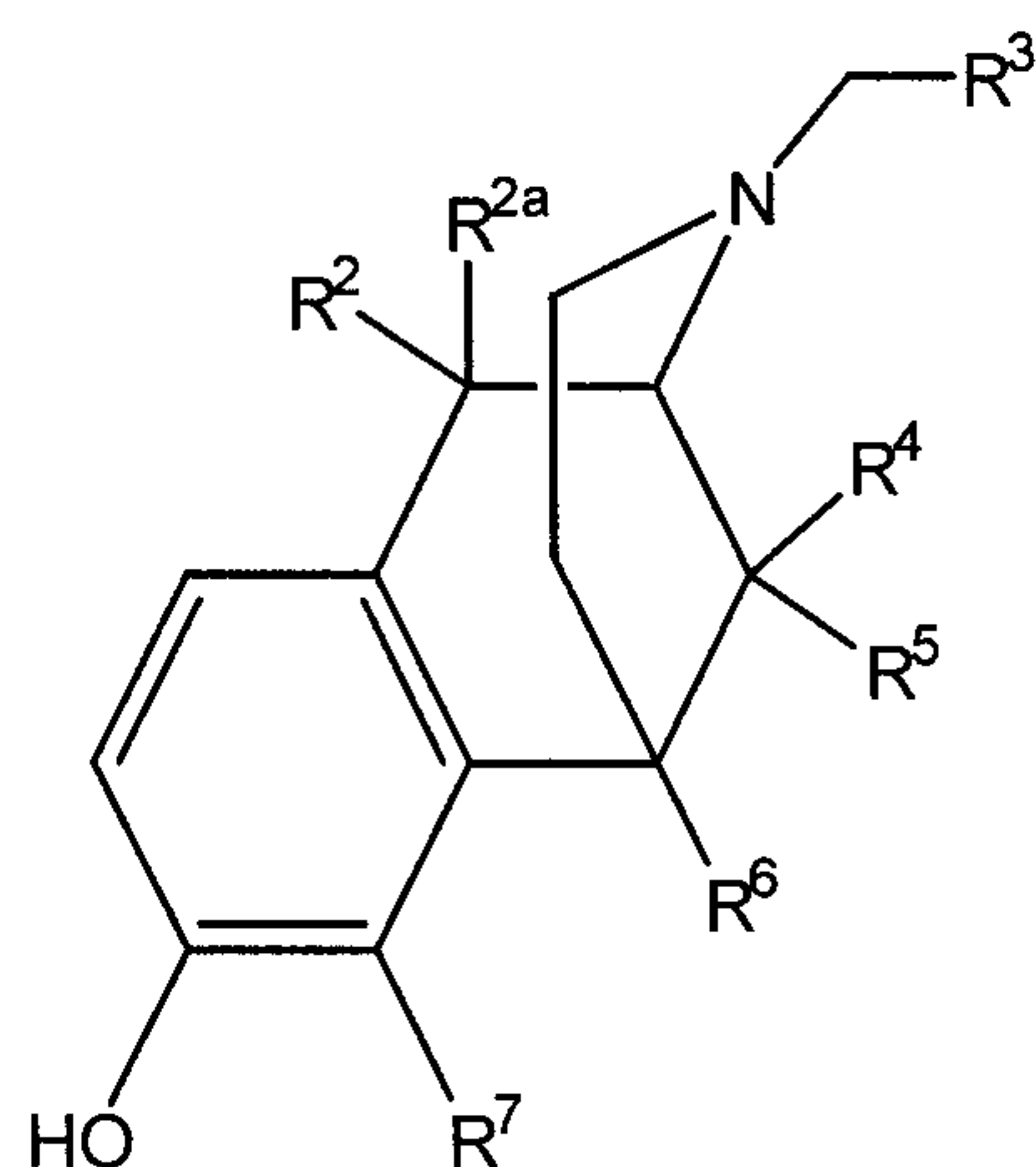
$R^5$  is lower alkyl;

$R^6$  is lower alkyl; and

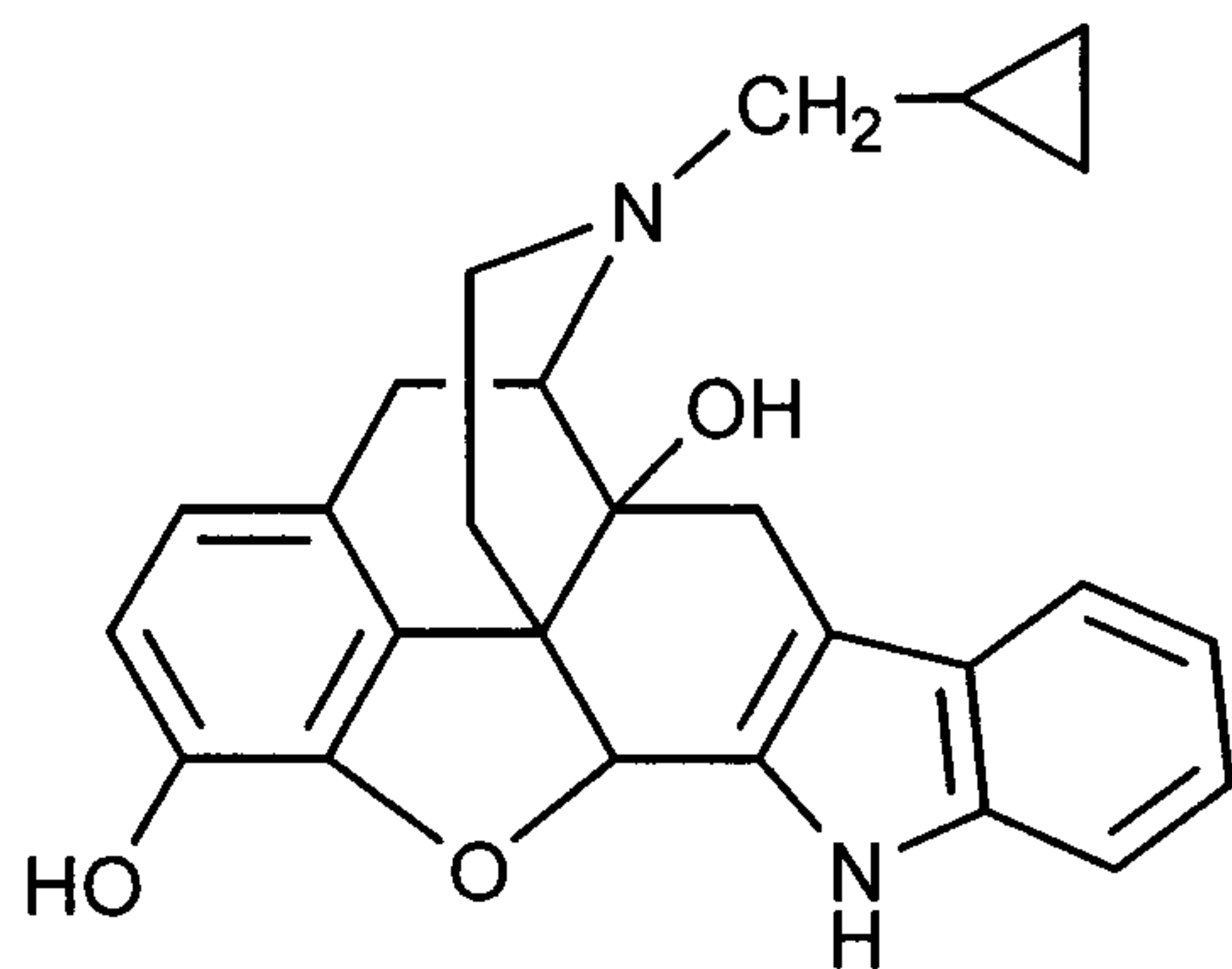
$R^7$  is hydrogen; or

together  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  may form from one to three rings, said rings having optional additional substitution, to a carboxamide defined in any one of claims 1 to 20, comprising reacting said phenol with carbon monoxide and ammonia in the presence of a Pd(0) catalyst to provide a benzomorphan or morphinane carboxamide.

33. A process for converting a phenol on a compound selected from the group consisting of



and



wherein

$R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are both hydrogen or taken together  $R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are  $=O$ ;

$R^3$  is chosen from hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, benzyl and hydroxyalkyl;

$R^4$  is chosen from hydrogen, hydroxy, amine, lower alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl and  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl substituted with hydroxy or carbonyl;

$R^5$  is lower alkyl;

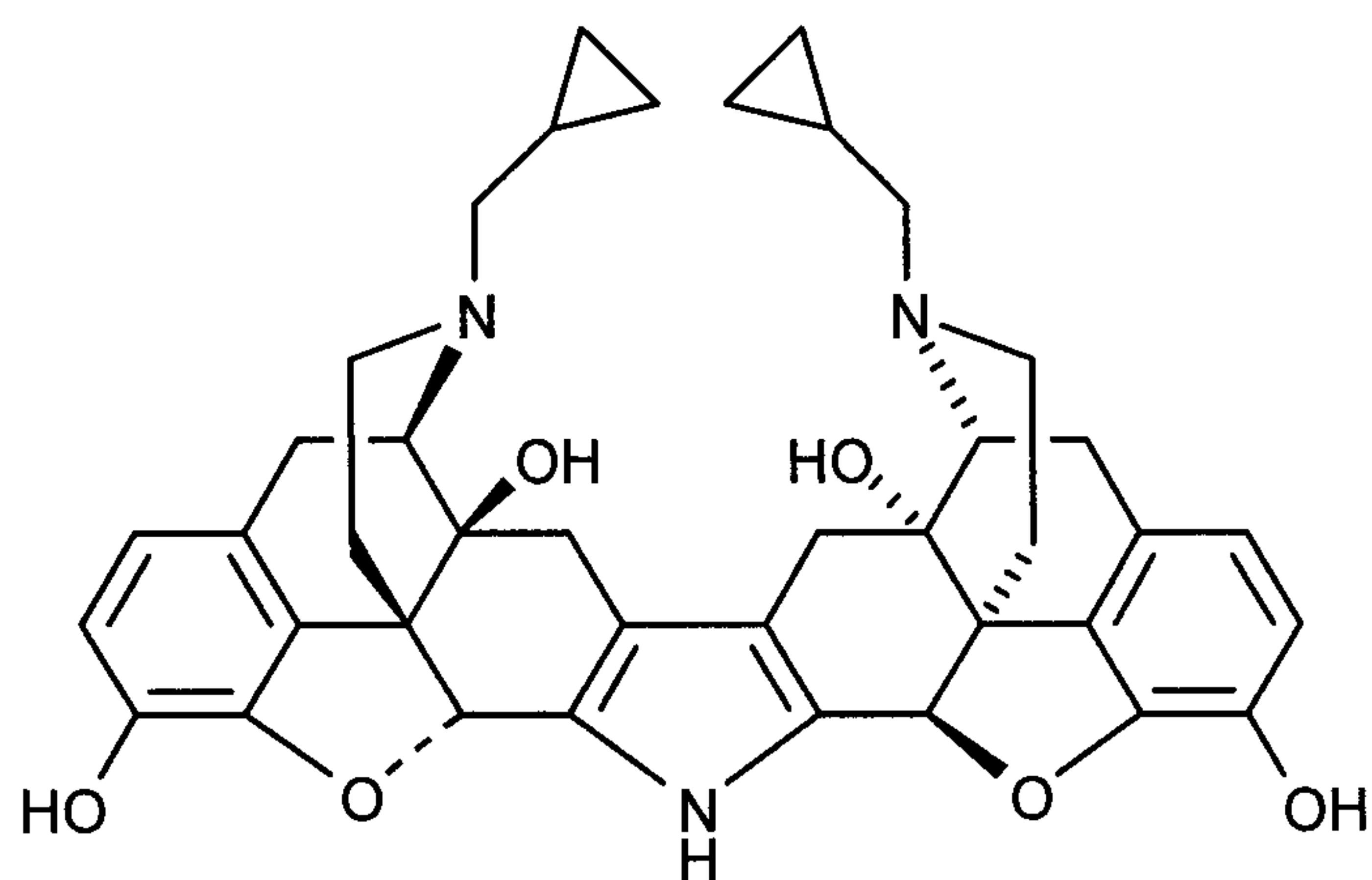
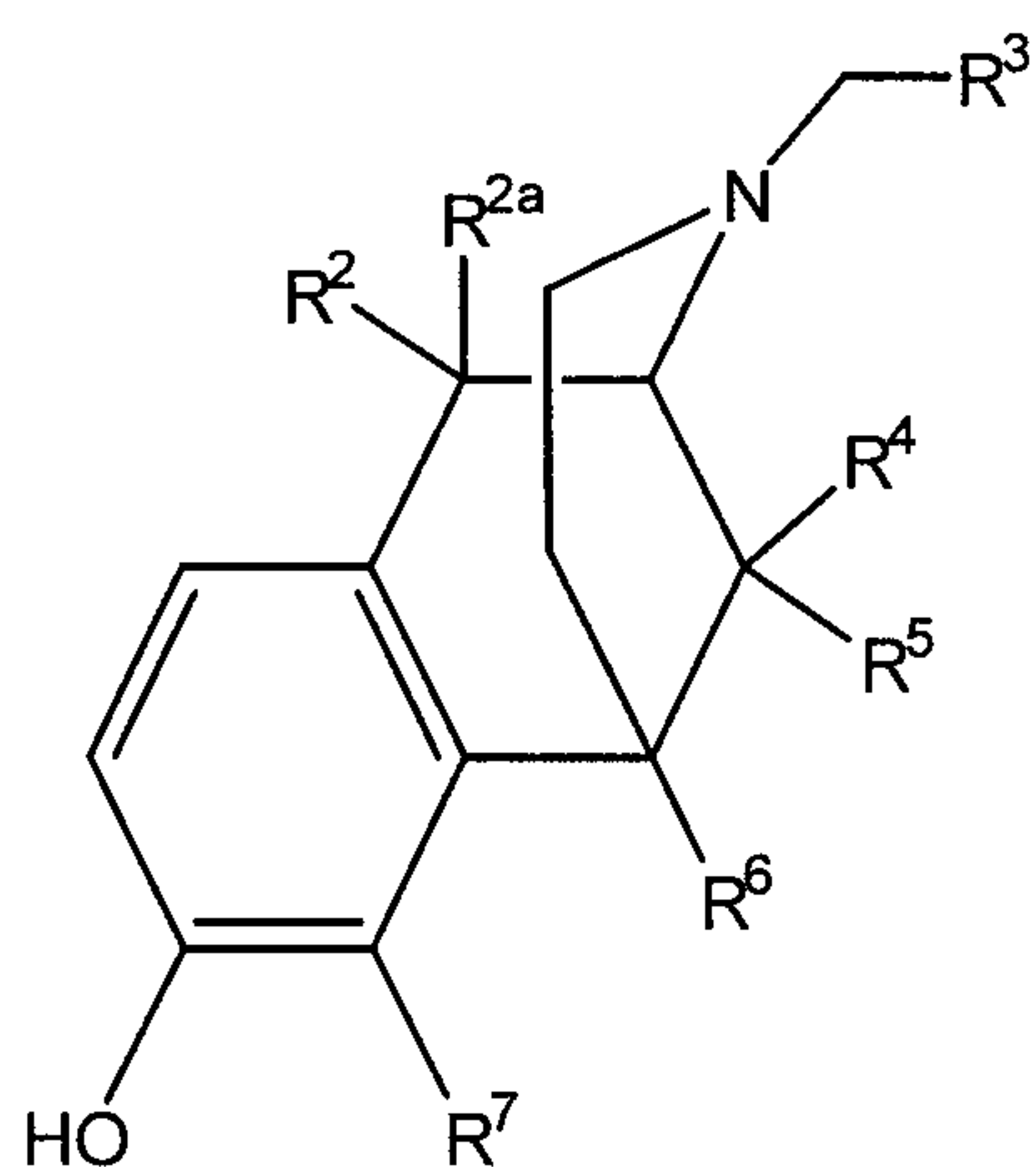
$R^6$  is lower alkyl; and

$R^7$  is hydrogen; or

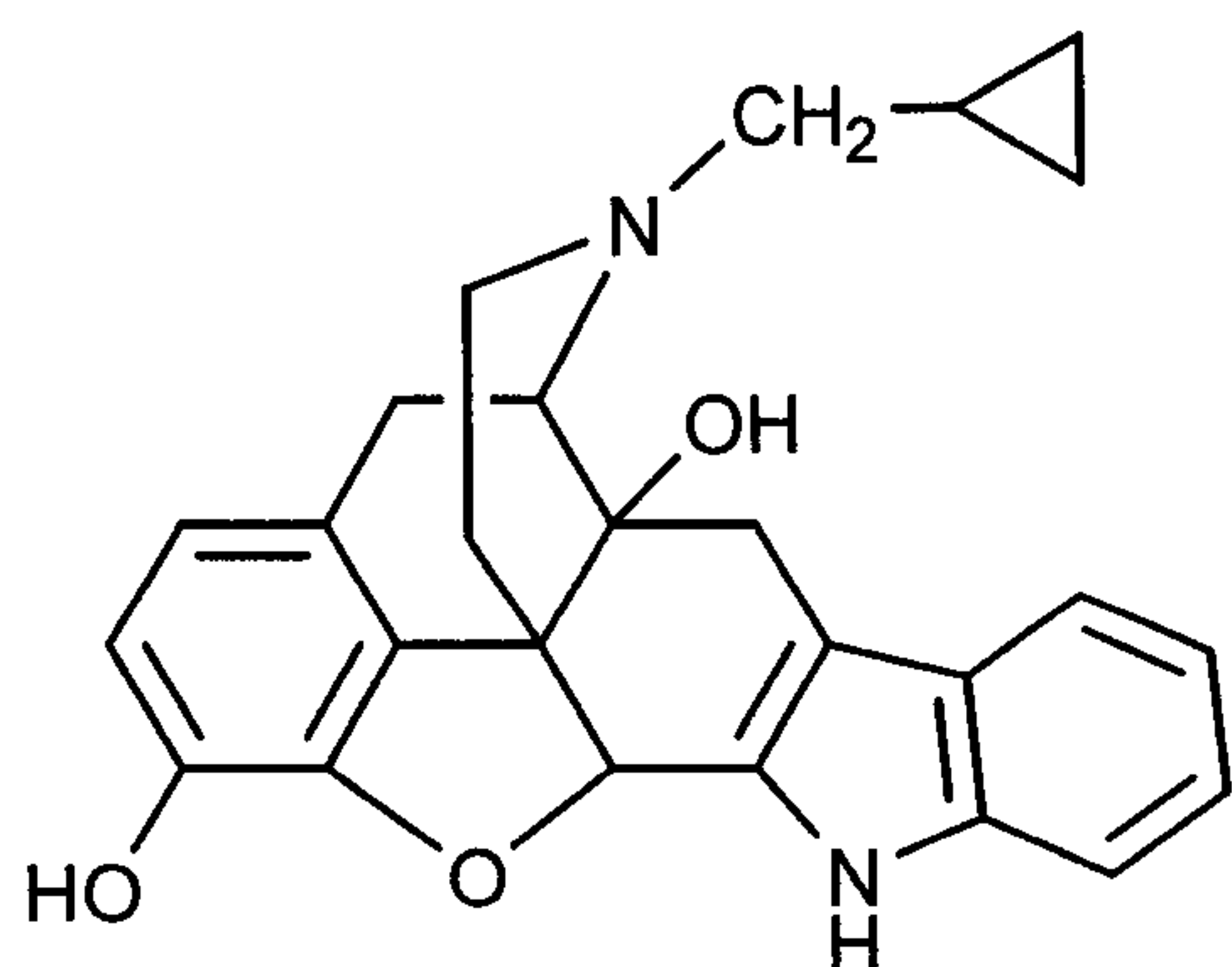
together  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  may form from one to three rings, said rings having optional additional substitution, to a hydroxyamidine defined in any one of claims 1 to 20, comprising:

- (a) reacting said phenol with a reagent to convert said phenol to a group displaceable by  $CN^-$ ;
- (b) reacting said group displaceable by  $CN^-$  with  $Zn(CN)_2$  in the presence of a  $Pd(0)$  catalyst to provide a nitrile; and
- (c) reacting said nitrile with hydroxylamine to produce the hydroxyamidine.

34. A process for converting a phenol on a compound selected from the group consisting of



and



wherein

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>2a</sup> are both hydrogen or taken together R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>2a</sup> are =O;

R<sup>3</sup> is chosen from hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, benzyl and hydroxyalkyl;

R<sup>4</sup> is chosen from hydrogen, hydroxy, amine, lower alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl substituted with hydroxy or carbonyl;

$R^5$  is lower alkyl;

$R^6$  is lower alkyl; and

$R^7$  is hydrogen; or

together  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  may form from one to three rings, said rings having optional additional substitution, to a thiocarboxamide defined in any one of claims 1 to 20, comprising:

(a) reacting said phenol with a reagent to convert said phenol to a group displaceable by  $CN^-$ ;

(b) reacting said group displaceable by  $CN^-$  with  $Zn(CN)_2$  in the presence of a Pd(0) catalyst to provide a nitrile; and

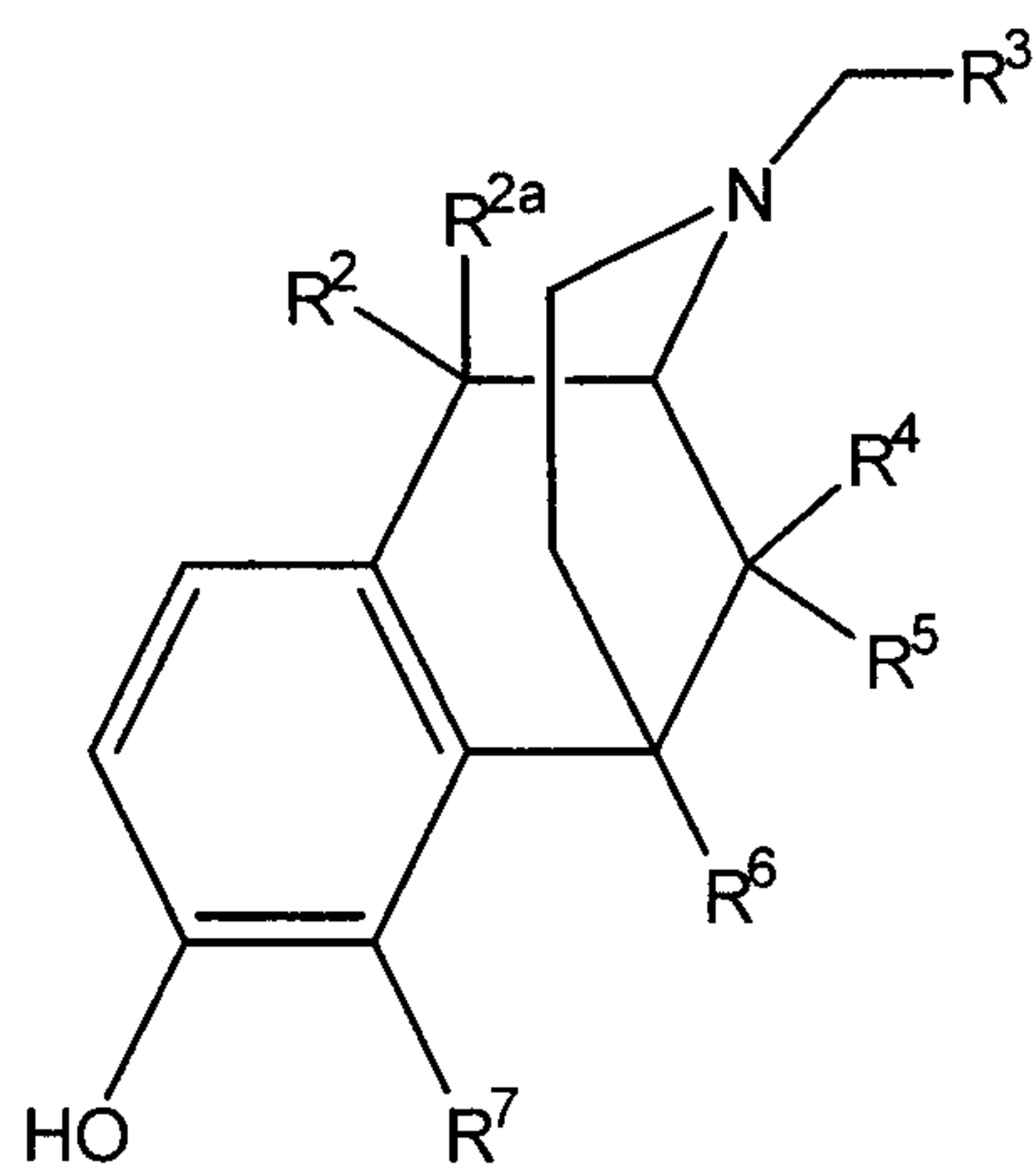
(c) hydrolyzing said nitrile to a carboxamide; and

(d) reacting said thiocarboxamide with a pentavalent phosphorus-sulfur reagent.

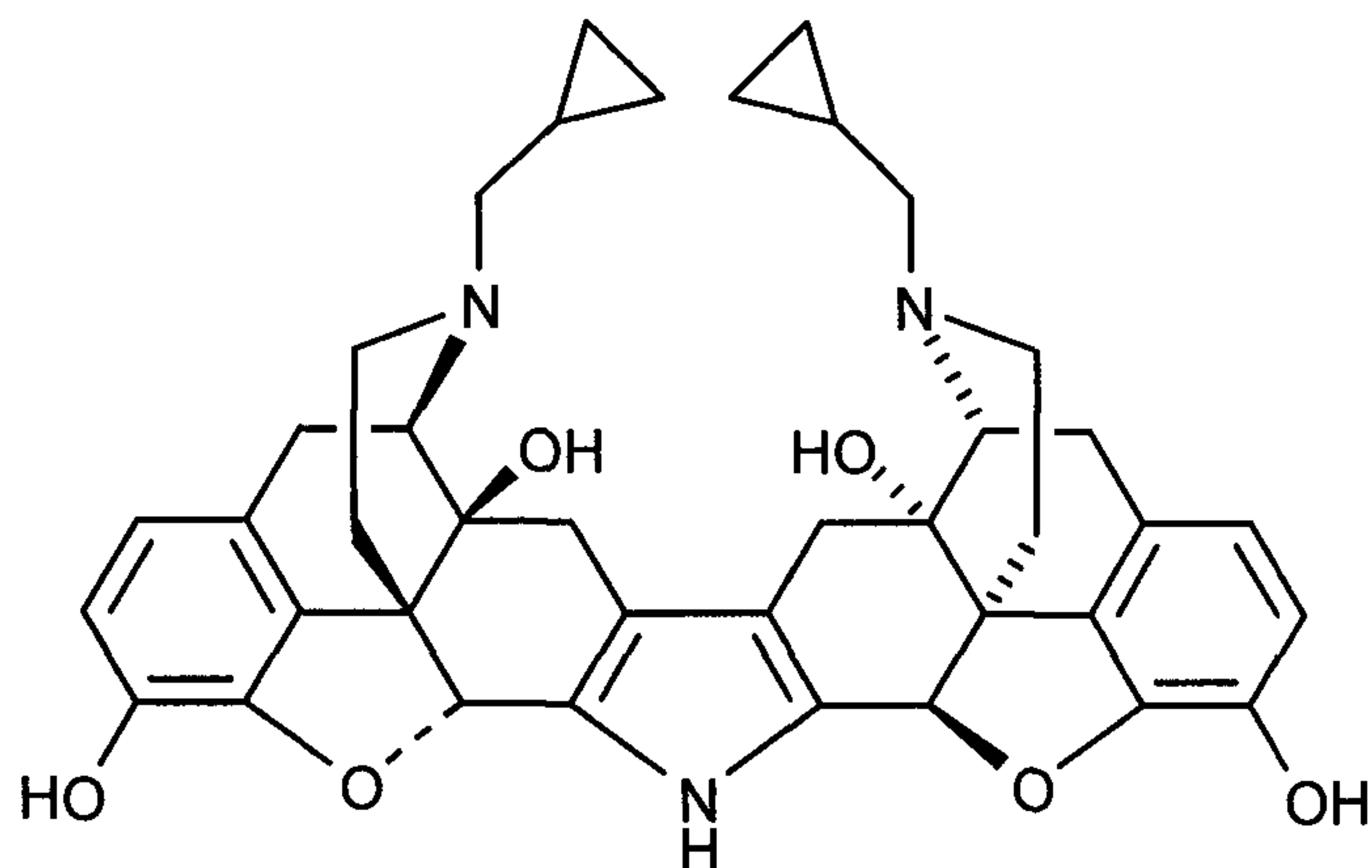
35. The process according to any one of claims 31, 33 and 34, wherein said reagent to convert said phenol to a group displaceable by  $CN^-$  is trifluoromethansulfonic anhydride in the presence of base.

36. The process according to any one of claims 31, 33 and 34 wherein said Pd(0) catalyst is tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium.

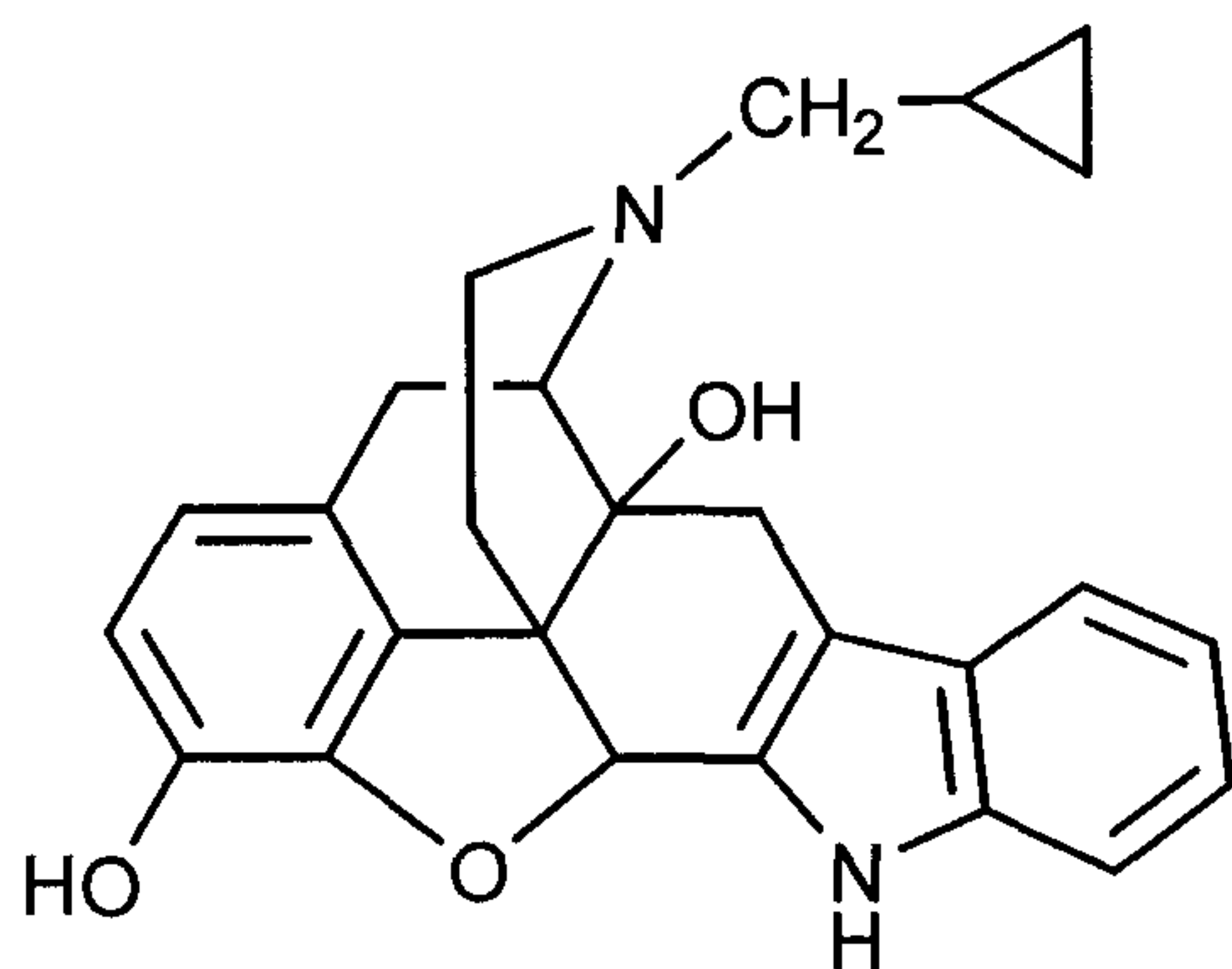
37. A process for converting a phenol on a compound selected from the group consisting of







and



wherein

$R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are both hydrogen or taken together  $R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are  $=O$ ;

$R^3$  is chosen from hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, benzyl and hydroxyalkyl;

$R^4$  is chosen from hydrogen, hydroxy, amine, lower alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl and  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl substituted with hydroxy or carbonyl;

$R^5$  is lower alkyl;

$R^6$  is lower alkyl; and

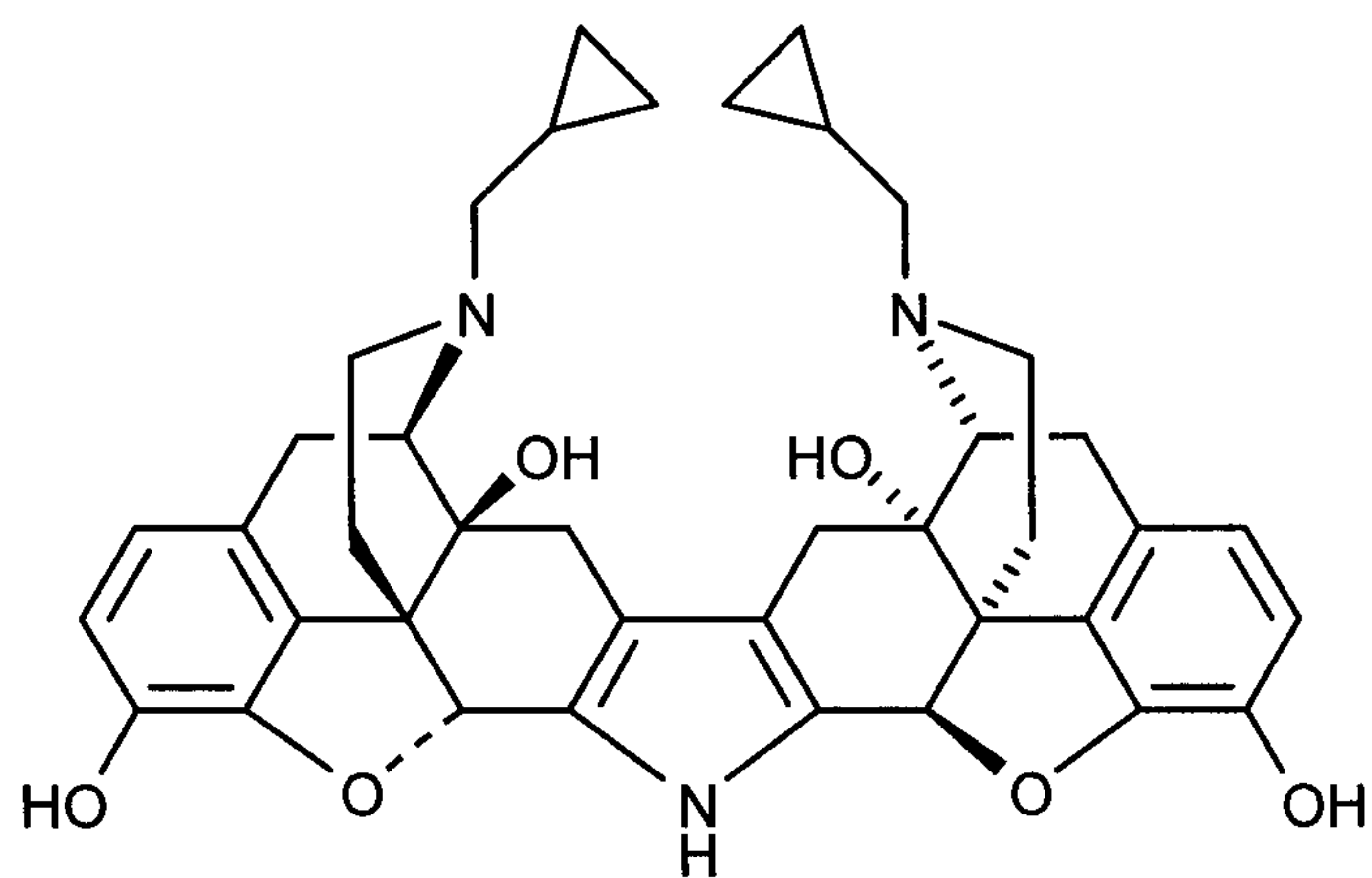
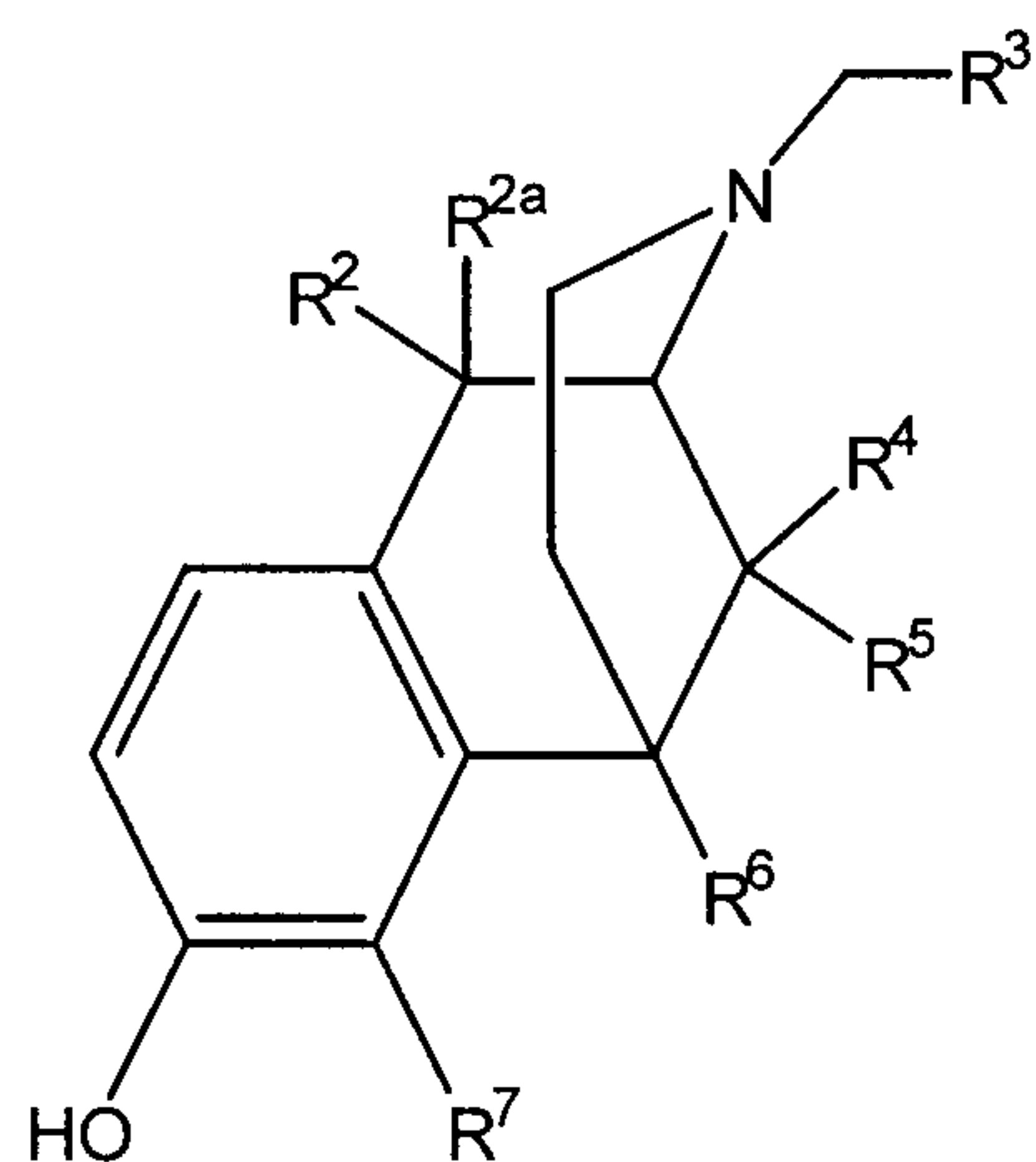
$R^7$  is hydrogen; or

together  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  may form from one to three rings, said rings having optional additional substitution, to a carboxamide defined in any one of claims 1 to 20, comprising:

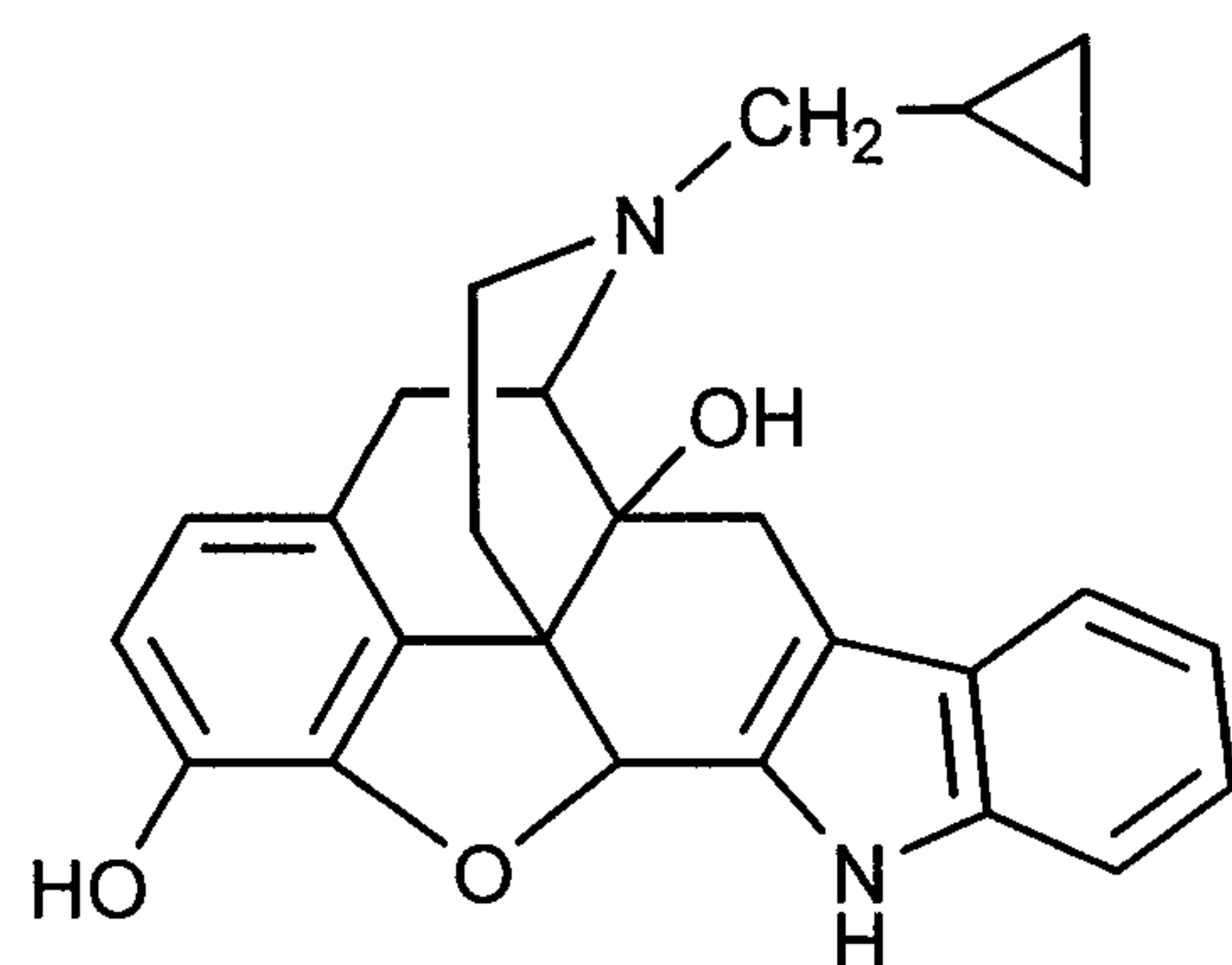
(a) reacting said phenol with a reagent to convert said phenol to a triflate; and

(b) reacting said triflate with carbon monoxide and ammonia in the presence of a  $Pd(II)$  salt and a  $Pd(0)$  catalyst to provide a carboxamide.

38. A process for converting a phenol on a compound selected from the group consisting of



and



wherein

$R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are both hydrogen or taken together  $R^2$  and  $R^{2a}$  are  $=O$ ;

$R^3$  is chosen from hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, benzyl and hydroxyalkyl;

$R^4$  is chosen from hydrogen, hydroxy, amine, lower alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl and  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl substituted with hydroxy or carbonyl;

$R^5$  is lower alkyl;

$R^6$  is lower alkyl; and

$R^7$  is hydrogen; or

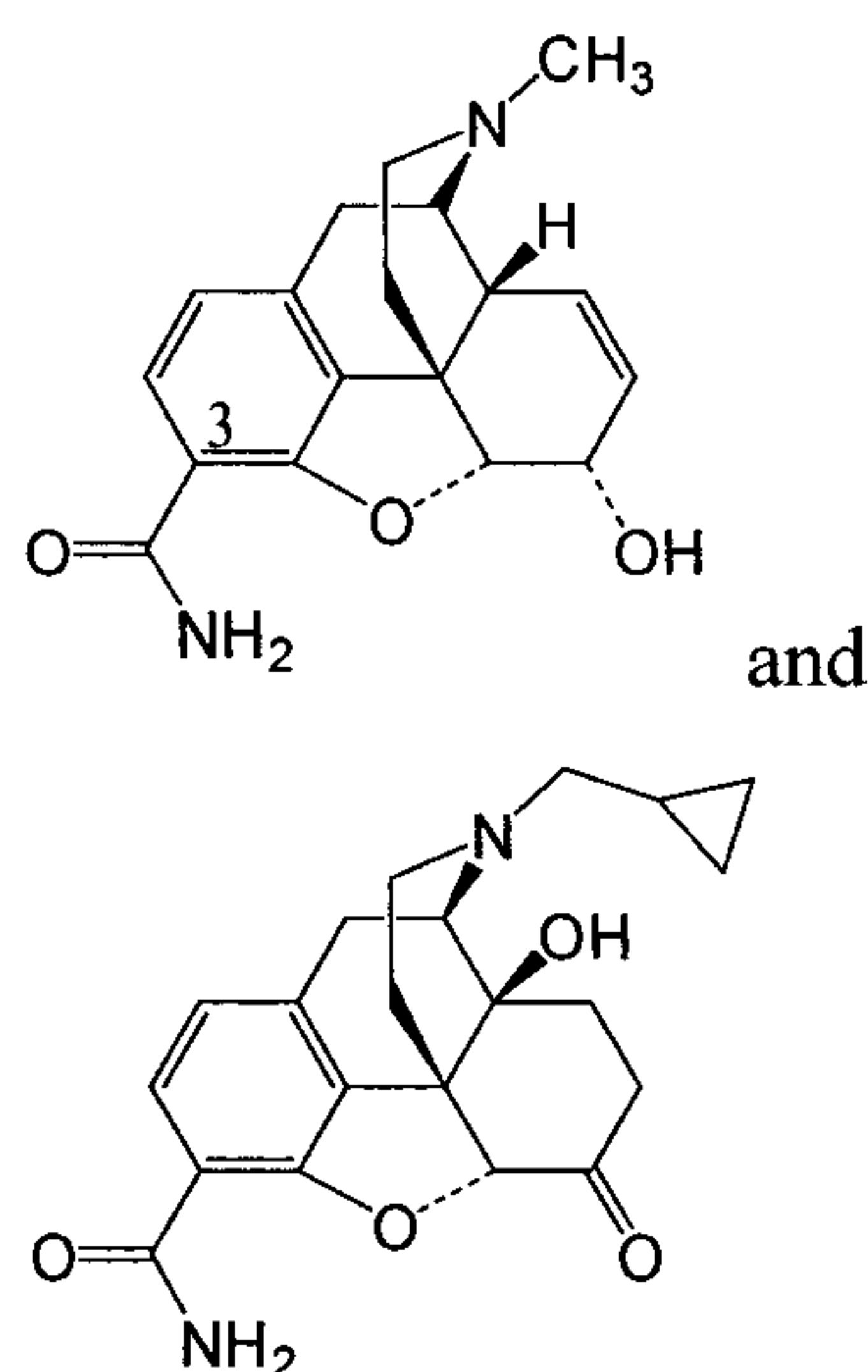
together  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  may form from one to three rings, said rings having optional additional substitution, to a carboxamide defined in any one of claims 1 to 20, comprising:

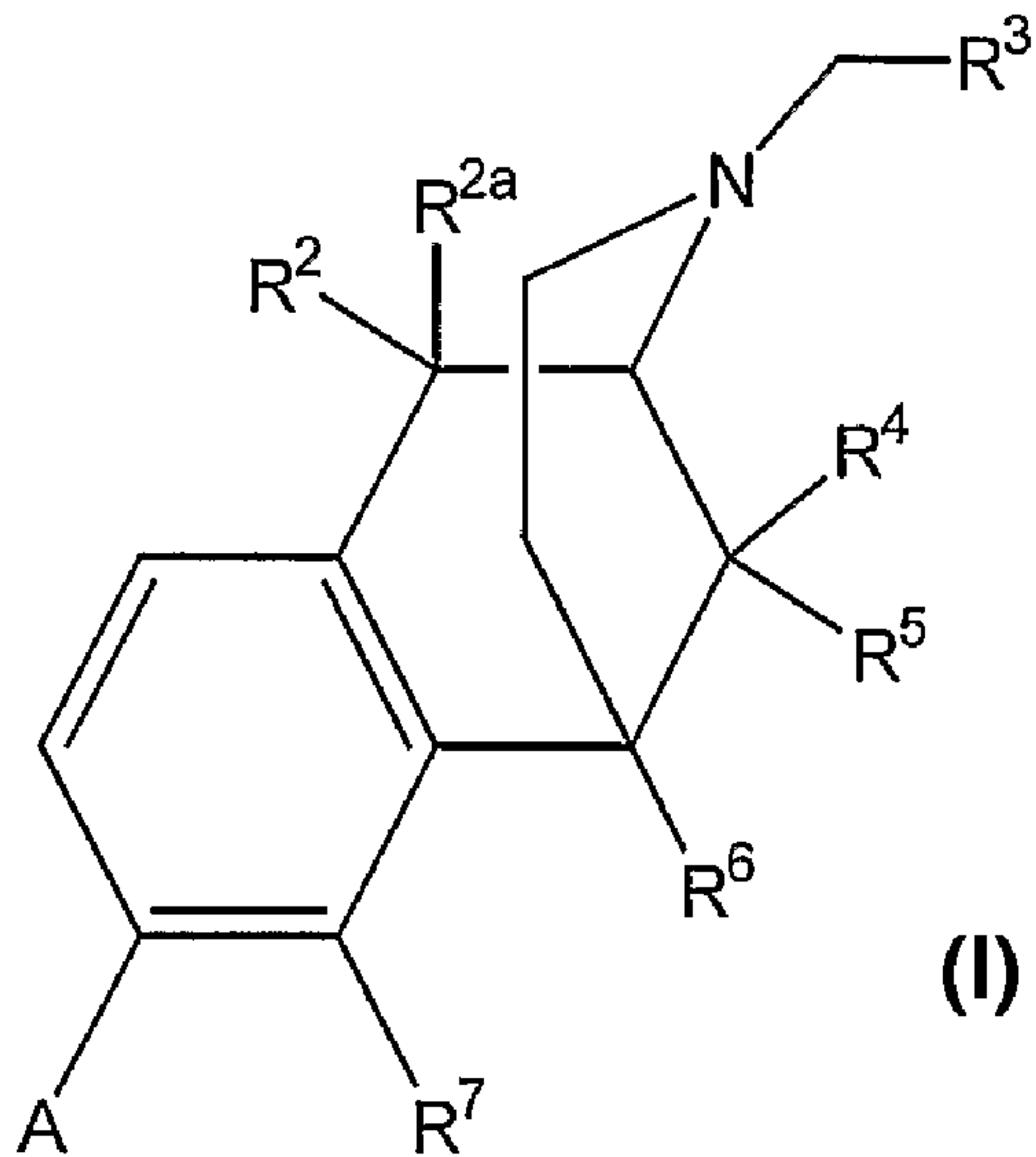
- (a) reacting said phenol with a reagent to convert said phenol to a triflate;
- (b) reacting said triflate with carbon monoxide and hexamethyldisilazane in the presence of a Pd(II) salt and a Pd(0) catalyst to provide a silylated carboxamide precursor; and
- (c) hydrolyzing said silylated carboxamide precursor to provide a carboxamide.

39. A process according to claim 37 or 38 wherein said Pd(0) catalyst is generated *in situ* from  $Pd(OAc)_2$  or  $PdCl_2$  and 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene.

40. A 3-carboxamide substituted morphinan compound.

41. The compound according to claim 40 selected from:





(I)

