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(54) **Title**: S1P3 ANTAGONISTS

(57) **Abstract**: The present invention relates to antagonists of the S1P3 receptor formula (A) as herein described and pharmaceutical compositions thereof. The compounds of formula (A) are useful in the preparation of a medicament, in particular for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

S1P3 ANTAGONISTS

The present invention relates to novel antagonists of the S1P3 receptor of formula (A) as herein described and to their pharmaceutical uses.

Such antagonists can be used for the treatment of inflammation-related diseases such as arthritis, fibrosis, inflammatory syndromes, atherosclerosis, vascular diseases, asthma, bradycardia, acute lung injury, lung inflammation, cancer, ocular hypertension, glaucoma, neuroinflammatory diseases, Sandhoff's disease, kidney ischemia–reperfusion injury, pain, diabetic heart disease and neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Huntington's disease or Multiple Sclerosis.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The S1P3 receptor gene encodes for a member of the endothelial differentiation gene (EDG) family of receptors widely present in central and peripheral human tissues (Rosen *et al.*, 2009; Ishii *et al.*, 2001). $S1P_3$ receptor (also called: EDG3; LPB3; S1PR3; EDG-3) belong to a class of five ($S1P_{1-5}$) seven-spanning membrane proteins belonging to the class of G-Protein-Coupled Receptors (GPCRs), whose natural ligand is the bioactive lipid sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) (Chun *et al.*, 2002). S1P is involved in a large array of cellular responses modulating several physiological processes such as innate immunity, wound healing, vascular endothelial cell functions, inflammatory response and others (Ishii *et al.*, 2004; Brinkmann, 2007; Rosen *et al.*, 2009; Maceyka *et al.*, 2012). S1P is intracellularly produced, with the direct role of secondary messenger (Spiegel and Milstien, 2003), and extracellularly exported acting to S1P cell membrane receptors as endogenous ligand.

The S1P receptors expressed in many apparatuses are able to trigger signalling through a variety of heterotrimeric G proteins, including Gi/o, G12/13, and Gq. In the $S1P_{1-5}$ receptors family, $S1P_3$ has been shown to be functionally relevant in several physiological processes such as regulations of heart rate, angiogenesis and vascular

contraction (Forrest *et al.*, 2004; Sanna *et al.*, 2004; Marsolais and Rosen, 2009; Means and Brown, 2009; Murakami *et al.*, 2010), in embryonic angiogenesis development (Kono et al., 2004) or as autophagy modulator (Taniguchi *et al.*, 2012). The $S1P_3$ receptor is also deeply involved in immunological processes (Brinkmann V. (2009). Importantly, mice lacking $S1P_3$ receptor did not show evident abnormalities indicating a non-essential role of the receptor for a normal animal development (Ishii *et al.*, 2001). As mentioned, S1P plays an important role as essential modulator of innate immunity and inflammation inducer. S1P once produced and released as signalling molecule by a wide range of cell types or even non-nucleated cells (*e.g.* platelets) (Pyne and Pyne, 2000) can exert an important role in inflammation. As introduced, together with the whole S1P receptor family, $S1P_3$ receptor system has been largely studied focusing on its role in disease and has been shown to be involved in a large number of pathologies. From the literature $S1P_3$ emerges as an important target implicated in pathologies with inflammatory components, in this case a pharmacological inhibition of the receptor could potentially counteract the disease evolution. The $S1P_3$ receptor appears to be an appealing target also for other therapeutic areas, in which a potential healing role of $S1P_3$ antagonism has been demonstrated.

$S1P_3$ antagonism in peripheral diseases

$S1P_3$ activity has been shown to be implicated in inflammation-associated diseases such as arthritis (Lai *et al.*, 2010), and several type of fibrosis (Shea and Tager, 2012) like heart (Takuwa *et al.*, 2010), pulmonary (Kono *et al.*, 2007), muscular (Cencetti *et al.*, 2008) and liver fibrosis (Li *et al.*, 2009) or in other more general inflammatory syndromes (Niessen *et al.*, 2008) where $S1P_3$ receptor antagonism could potentially limit the pathologic processes.

$S1P_3$ receptor activation in the cardiovascular system could exert several pathologically-relevant effects. In the blood the S1P released by activated platelets stimulates $S1P_3$ (and $S1P_1$) receptors in vascular endothelium decreasing vascular para-cellular permeability (Mehta *et al.* 2005; Sun *et al.* 2009). Additionally, $S1P_3$

transactivation has been shown to disrupt vascular barrier regulation (Singleton *et al.*, 2006). Furthermore, also the chemotactic effect of S1P in macrophages (demonstrated *in vitro* and *in vivo*) is mediated by $S1P_3$, so playing a causal role in atherosclerosis by promoting the recruitment of inflammatory monocyte/macrophage and altering vessel smooth muscle cells behaviour (Keul *et al.*, 2011). Finally, the group of Takakura has demonstrated by a specific antagonist that the S1P-induced coronary flow decrease is dependent on $S1P_3$ receptor and so such antagonism might be adapt to counteract S1P related vascular diseases and vasospasm syndromes (Murakami *et al.*, 2010). In the heart, interestingly, the sustained bradycardia induced by S1P receptor non-selective agonists is abolished in $S1P_3$ knockout mice or after $S1P_3$ pharmacological inhibition in rats (Sanna *et al.*, 2004; Murakami *et al.*, 2010). More, in the cardiac vascular microcirculation cells in diabetes, it has been shown *in vivo* and *in vitro* that the agonist FTY720 exerts a functional antagonism by stimulating the translocation of S1P3 from membrane to the nucleus. Arguably, the pharmacological modulation of $S1P_3$ receptors could be beneficial to alleviate cardiac microangiopathy in diabetes (Yin *et al.*, 2012).

Bajwa *et al. (*2012) have demonstrated that S1P plays a pivotal role in kidney ischemia–reperfusion injury (IRI). $S1P_3$ receptor-deficient mice were protected from IRI. This protective effect was due, at least in part to differences between $S1P_3$-deficient dendritic cells. It was then supposed that pharmacological treatment are able to limit $S1P_3$ activity or treatments with dendritic cells lacking the S1P3 receptor could help against progression of IRI.

Also several physiological parameters of the respiratory system are affected by $S1P_3$ activity. It has been recently demonstrated that the S1P pathway activation induced a generalized airway hyperreactivity *in vivo* and *in vitro* and this is mediated by $S1P_3$ receptor. Then, the $S1P_3$ antagonism, besides or contextually to the abovementioned putative healing effects on lung fibrosis, could represent a new therapeutic strategy aimed at blocking the asthma-related airway hyperreactivity (Trifilieff and Fozard, 2012). $S1P_3$ has been also shown to be strictly involved in acute lung injury where it promotes

chemotaxis and increased endothelial and epithelial permeability (Uhlig and Yang, 2013). In the publication of Chen *et al.*, (2008) it is suggested that S1P acting through $S1P_3$, increasing calcium influx, and Rho kinase, activates cPLA(2)alpha and releases arachidonic acid in lung epithelial cells. Then, understanding this mechanism in epithelial cells may provide potential targets to control inflammatory processes in the lung.

$S1P_3$ receptors play an important role in other non-inflammatory diseases. In cancer, it has been shown that $S1P_3$ activation promotes breast cancer cells invasiveness (Kim *et al.*, 2011) and this effect can be diminished by a specific antibody able to block the receptor (Harris *et al.*, 2012). Similar results were obtained in thyroid cancer cells (Balthasar *et al.*, 2006) and glioma cells (Young *et al.*, 2007), where $S1P_3$ activation showed to enhance cell migration and invasion. Yamashita (2006) also demonstrated that $S1P_3$-mediated signals might be crucial in determining the metastatic response of gastric cancer cells to S1P.

In the eye, considering that S1P is constitutively present in the aqueous humor (Liliom *et al.*, 1998), and, in addition, that the endothelial cells of the trabecular meshwork, which express $S1P_1$ and $S1P_3$ receptors (Mettu *et al.*, 2004), respond to S1P stimulus increasing the outflow resistance, the $S1P_3$ receptors pharmacological inhibition represents a potential therapeutic strategy in healing pathologies involving high intraocular pressure such as ocular hypertension, glaucoma, glaucomatous retinopathy (Stamer *et al.*, 2009).

$S1P_3$ antagonism in PNS diseases

The tissue injury inflammation is associated with an increased sensitivity to noxious stimuli, suggesting that there could be an important interaction between the activities of immune cells and the sensory neurons activated by noxious stimulation. A direct exposure of isolated sensory neurons to S1P (together with other inflammatory signals released by platelets or mast cells) increases their action potential firing through activation of ion channels (Zhang *et al.*, 2006). In experimental conditions of isolated sensory neurons, the expression of S1P3 receptors is the highest in the panel of S1P receptors. In addition, the

Kress's laboratory has demonstrated that S1P3 receptor was detected in all human and mouse dorsal root ganglia neurons and that S1P evokes significant nociception via G-protein-dependent activation of an excitatory chloride conductance (Camprubí-Robles *et al.*, 2013). Considering that S1P-induced neuronal responses and spontaneous pain behavior *in vivo* were strongly reduced in S1P3-null mice, S1P3 receptors could represent important therapeutic targets for post-traumatic pain (Camprubí-Robles et al., 2013).

S1P3 antagonism in CNS diseases

In the CNS, neurons, astrocytes, oligodendrocytes and microglia cells have the capacity to produce and secrete S1P and express, with different extents depending on the cell type, $S1P_{1-3}$ and $S1P_5$ receptors (Anelli *et al.*, 2005; Foster *et al.*, 2007). In regard to $S1P_3$ receptor, an intrinsic high expression has been seen in both astrocytes and neurons (Foster *et al.*, 2007). $S1P_3$ is described to induce glial activation under pro-inflammatory conditions (Fisher *et al.*, 2011; Wu *et al.*, 2008) and enhance spontaneous glutamate release in the hippocampus mossy fibers (Kanno and Nishizaki, 2011). In particular, apoptotic neurons self-induce an overexpression of sphingosine-kinase with a further release of S1P. This process, elegantly demonstrated by Gude (Gude *et al.*, 2008) and defined as "come-and-get-me" signal, has the purpose of chemo-attract microglial cells and eliminate the dying neuron. Furthermore, S1P through a G12/13 protein, by remodelling of actin cytoskeleton, can inhibit astrocytes tight junction, conferring them mobility, and creating gaps through the brain tissue (Rouach *et al.*, 2006). Then, the action of S1P to astrocytes could help the activated microglial cells to better move in the brain and so express their phagocytic role. The $S1P_3$ receptors coupling to the G12/13 protein, associated to a high $S1P_3$ receptor expression in astrocytes and its role in motility (Fischer *et al.*, 2011) leaded to the consideration that the described process could be conducted by a $S1P_3$-activated signalling. Interestingly, microglial cells, once activated, enhance their $S1P_3$ expression (Foster *et al.*, 2007). With these evidences it was conceivably hypothesised that activation of $S1P_3$ receptor system is strictly involved in a neuroinflammatory state and $S1P_3$ inhibition could have limited its development.

Evidence supporting $S1P_3$ antagonism to be protective in neuroinflammation was given from a mouse model of Sandhoff disease in which the ablation of the gene encoding $S1P_3$ receptor strongly limited the astroglial proliferation, prolonging the survival and improving motor function of the mice (Wu *et al.*, 2008).

In neurodegenerative diseases neuroinflammation can play a clear detrimental role during the pathologic evolution Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Huntington and Multiple sclerosis (Bradl and Hohlfeld, 2003; Maragakis and Rothstein, 2006; Davies *et al.,* 2013). In Alzheimer disease (AD) the accumulation of beta-amyloid plaques has been associated to inflammation development with activation of the CNS immune system (Meraz-Rios *et al.*, 2013). A relevance of S1P receptors activity and modulation in AD is also shown in Takasugi *et al.*, 2011 and in Takasugi *et al.*, 2013

PRIOR ART

EP81756 discloses compounds that are useful for treating inflammation.

Wang *et al.* (Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters (2010), 20(2), 493-498) disclose compounds that are FFA2 inhibitors useful for the treatment of diabetes.

WO2000026202 discloses antiproliferative compounds that are useful for the treatment of cancer.

WO2003063797 discloses potassium channel inhibitors that are useful for the treatment of arrhythmia.

JP2002155065 discloses compounds that are useful as insecticides or miticides.

WO2001036415 discloses compounds that are useful for controlling pests on domestic animals and livestock.

In WO2005075435, WO2007087066, WO2008141119, WO2008147797, WO2009006315, WO2009123896 and WO2010054138, Vertex discloses compounds as CFTR modulators for the treatment of cystic fibrosis or as intermediates towards such compounds.

Ingyong Huaxue (1990), 7(6), 54-7 discloses pesticides and fungicides.

The following disclose activators of glucokinase useful for the treatment of

diabetes: Journal of Medicinal Chemistry (2012), 55(3), 1318-1333; WO2009140624; US-20100063063; Journal of Medicinal Chemistry (2012), 55(16), 7021-7036; Medicinal Chemistry Letters (2013), 4(4), 414-418; US-20010039344; WO2001083465; WO2003095438; WO2004052869; WO2006058923; WO2007026761; WO2007041365; WO2008005914; WO2008078674; WO2008119734; WO2009091014; US6610846; Journal of Medicinal Chemistry (2010), 53(9), 3618-3625; WO2002046173; US20070281942; US2010063063.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1: Neuroprotective effect of a compound of the invention on quisqualic acid lesioned rats. Example 33 shows strong neuroprotective effects at 30 and 60 mg/Kg/day. Rat NBM ChAT-positive neuron counts using APERIO® (left), example 33 at doses of 30 and 60 mg/kg was administered once a day p.o.; the dose of 10 mg/kg was administered p.o. twice a day. In the microphotographs (right panel) a ChAT-qualitative analysis is shown in Quisqualic acid (QUIS) or Sham (SHAM) -injected rat NBM treated with vehicle or example 33 at 30 mg/kg p.o. *$p<0.05$ vs SHAM (Dunnet Test).

Fig. 2: Anti-neuroinflammatory effect of a compound on quisqualic acid lesioned rats. Example 33 has a strong activity on GFAP reactivity at 30 and 60 mg/Kg/day. A) effect on microglia cells, OX42 analysis; B) effect on astrocytes, GFAP analysis. These evidences are in line with the literature, in which the expression of S1P3 on microglia is considered low and not relevant (S1P2 is predominant), while the receptor appears to be highly expressed in astrocytes.

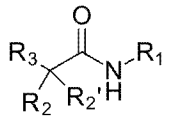
Fig. 3: Effect of a compound of the invention on Abeta(25-35) lesioned rats. Microscope scanning (GFAP staining) A) Ab (23-35) (right hemisphere) +Vehicle B) Ab(25-35) (right hemisphere)-example 33 at 30 mg/kg (left hemisphere was Sham-treated). C) quantitative analysis of GFAP-positive cells by visual scoring (*$p<0.05$ vs vehicle group, Kruskall-Wallis).

Fig. 4: Effect of a compound of the invention in the Object Recognition Test on quisqualic acid lesioned rats. Treatment with example 33 significantly ameliorates

cognitive functions in ORT measuring episodic memory in Quisqualic lesioned rats as reported in the table of ANOVA (right panel). To note the difference in the exploration time between familiar and novel objects (F= familiar object, N= novel object).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

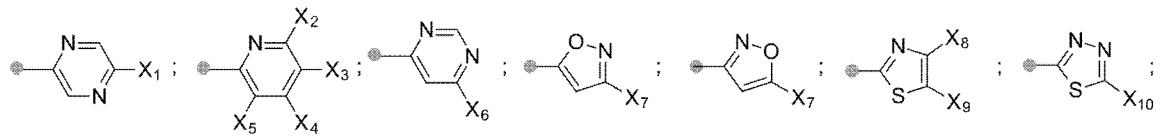
In a first aspect of this invention (embodiment A), there is provided compounds of formula (A),



(A)

wherein

●—R_1 is



X_1, X_6, X_7, X_9 and X_{10} are halogen, C_1-C_4 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms;

X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5 and X_8, are hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms;

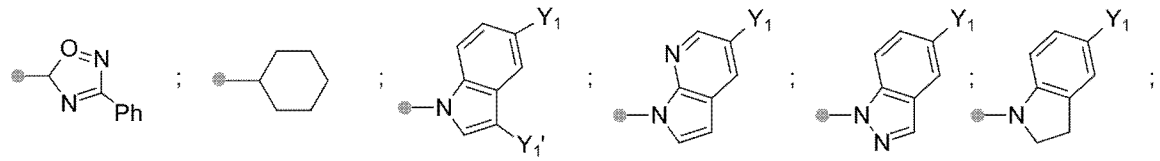
with the proviso that at least one of X_2, X_3, X_4, and X_5 is not hydrogen;

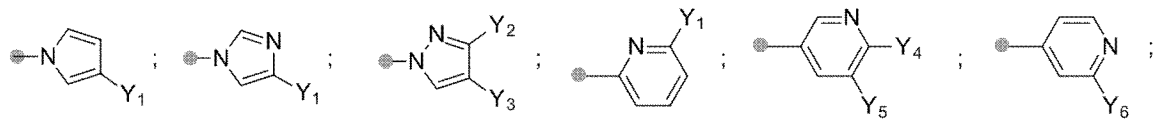
R_2 is a C_3-C_6 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl, with one or more fluorine atoms or with trifluoromethyl-furanyl;

R_2' is hydrogen, F, C_1-C_3 linear or branched alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms;

or R_2 and R_2' together with the carbon atom they are attached to form a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl ring;

●—R_3 is





Y_1 is halogen;

Y_1' is C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms;

Y_2 is cyano or methoxyphenyl, C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms;

Y_3 is hydrogen, halogen or methoxyphenyl;

Y_4 is hydrogen, halogen, N-methylpyrazolyl or a C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkoxy optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms,

Y_5 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, or a C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms;

with the proviso that at least one of Y_4 and Y_5 is not hydrogen;

Y_6 is halogen, C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, or a C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkoxy optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms;

enantiomers, enantiomerically enriched mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Under one aspect of embodiment A (embodiment A1), there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein halogen is selected from the list of Cl, Br and F;

C_1-C_4 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms is selected from the list of methyl, trifluoromethyl, *n*-propyl and *t*-butyl;

C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms is selected from the list of methyl, trifluoromethyl and *n*-propyl; C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkoxy optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms is selected from the list of methoxy and difluoromethoxy;

C_3-C_6 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl, with one or more fluorine atoms or with trifluoromethyl-furanyl is selected from *n*-propyl,3-phenyl-*n*-

propyl *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl, cyclohexyl and (5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2yl)-methyl;

C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl is selected from the list of cyclobutyl and cyclopentyl;

Under another aspect of embodiment A (embodiment A2), there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein halogen is selected from the list of Cl, Br and F;

C_1-C_4 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms is selected from the list of methyl, trifluoromethyl and *t*-butyl; C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms is selected from the list methyl and trifluoromethyl;

C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkoxy optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms is selected from the list of methoxy and difluoromethoxy;

C_3-C_6 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl, with one or more fluorine atoms or with trifluoromethyl-furanyl is selected from *n*-propyl,3-phenyl-*n*-propyl *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl, cyclohexyl and (5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2yl)-methyl;

C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl is selected from list of cyclobutyl and cyclopentyl;

Under another aspect of embodiment A (embodiment A3), there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein R_1 and R_3 are as described under embodiment A and wherein

X_1 is halogen

X_2 is hydrogen, halogen or methyl

X_3 is hydrogen, halogen or trifluoromethyl

X_4 is hydrogen or methyl

X_5 is hydrogen or halogen

with the proviso that at least one of X_2, X_3, X_4, and X_5 is not hydrogen

X_6 is halogen

X_7 is *t*-butyl or trifluoromethyl, preferably *t*-butyl

X_8 is hydrogen, methyl or *t*-butyl

X_9 is halogen

X_{10} is *t*-butyl

R_2 is *n*-propyl, 3-phenyl-*n*-propyl, i-propyl, *n*-butyl, cyclohexyl or (5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2yl)-methyl

R_2' is hydrogen, F, methyl

or R_2 and R_2' together with the carbon atom they are attached to form a cyclobutyl or cyclopentyl ring;

Y_1 is halogen

Y_1' is methyl

Y_2 is methyl, *n*-propyl, cyano, trifluoromethyl or 4-methoxyphenyl

Y_3 is hydrogen, halogen, or 4-methoxyphenyl

Y_4 is hydrogen, halogen, methoxy or 1-methyl-pyrazol-4-yl

Y_5 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano or methyl

with the proviso that at least one of Y_4 and Y_5 is not hydrogen

Y_6 halogen, methoxy or difluoromethoxy

Under another aspect of embodiment A (embodiment A4), there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein R_1 and R_3 are as described under embodiment A and wherein

X_1 is Cl or Br

X_2 is hydrogen, methyl, Br or F

X_3 is hydrogen, Br, Cl, F, or trifluoromethyl

X_4 is hydrogen or methyl

X_5 is hydrogen or F

with the proviso that at least one of X_2, X_3, X_4, and X_5 is not hydrogen

X_6 is Cl

X_7 is *t*-butyl or trifluoromethyl, preferably *t*-butyl

X_8 is hydrogen, methyl or *t*-butyl

X_9 is Br, Cl or F

X_{10} is *t*-butyl

R_2 is *n*-propyl, 3-phenyl-*n*-propyl, i-propyl, *n*-butyl, cyclohexyl or (5-trifluoromethyl-

furan-2yl)-methyl;

R_2' is hydrogen, F, methyl;

or R_2 and R_2' together with the carbon atom they are attached to form a cyclobutyl or cyclopentyl ring;

Y_1 is Br

Y_1' is methyl

Y_2 is methyl, *n*-propyl, cyano, trifluoromethyl and 4-methoxyphenyl

Y_3 is hydrogen, Br, Cl, and 4-methoxyphenyl

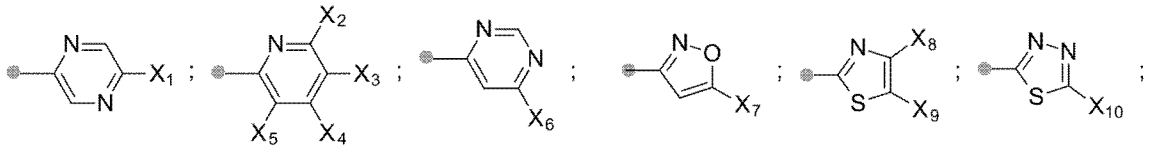
Y_4 is hydrogen, Br, Cl, methoxy or 1-methyl-pyrazol-4-yl

Y_5 is hydrogen, Br, Cl, F, cyano or methyl

with the proviso that at least one of Y_4 and Y_5 is not hydrogen

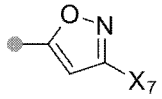
Y_6 is Br, Cl, F, methoxy or difluoromethoxy

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3 or A4 (embodiments B1) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_1 is selected from



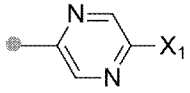
and wherein R_2, R_2',R_3, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10},Y_1, Y_1', Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiment A, A1, A2, A3 or A4

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3 or A4 (embodiments B2) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_1 is selected from



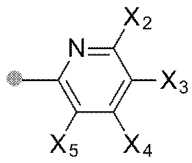
and wherein R_2, R_2',R_3, X_7, Y_1, Y_1',Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiment A, A1, A2, A3 or A4

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3 or A4 (embodiments B3) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_1 is selected from



and wherein R_2, R_2', R_3, X_1, Y_1, Y_1',Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiment A, A1, A2, A3 or A4

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3 or A4 (embodiments B4) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_1 is selected from



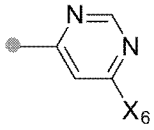
and wherein R_2, R_2',R_3, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, Y_1, Y_1',Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiment A, A1, A2, A3 or A4

Under a particular aspect of embodiments B4 (embodiments B4a), there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein X_2 and X_4 are hydrogen

and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2',R_3, X_3, X_5, Y_1, Y_1',Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments B4.

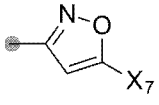
Under another particular aspect of embodiments B4 (embodiments B4b), there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein X_2, X_4 and X_5 are hydrogen and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2, R_3, X_3, Y_1, Y_1',Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments B4.

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3 or A4 (embodiments B5) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_1 is selected from



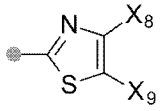
and wherein R_2, R_2', R_3, X_6, Y_1, Y_1', Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiment A, A1, A2, A3 or A4

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3 or A4 (embodiments B6) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_1 is selected from



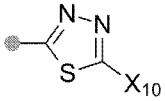
and wherein R_2, R_2', R_3, X_7, Y_1, Y_1', Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiment A, A1, A2, A3 or A4

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3 or A4 (embodiments B7) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_1 is selected from



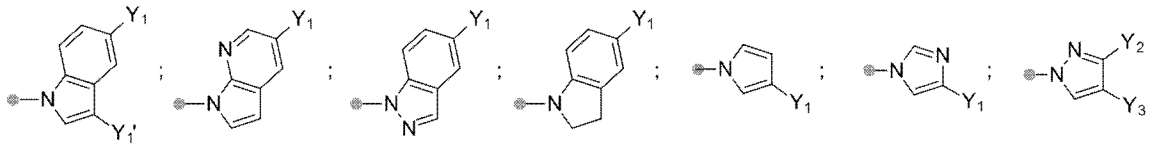
and wherein R_2, R_2', R_3, X_8, X_9, Y_1, Y_1',Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiment A, A1, A2, A3 or A4

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3 or A4 (embodiments B8) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_1 is selected from



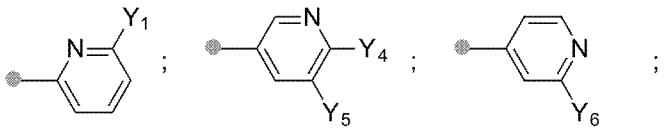
and wherein R_2, R_2', R_3, X_{10}, Y_1, Y_1', Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiment A, A1, A2, A3 or A4

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4,, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8 (embodiments C1) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_3 is selected from



and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2', X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10},Y_1, Y_2, and Y_3 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4,, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8

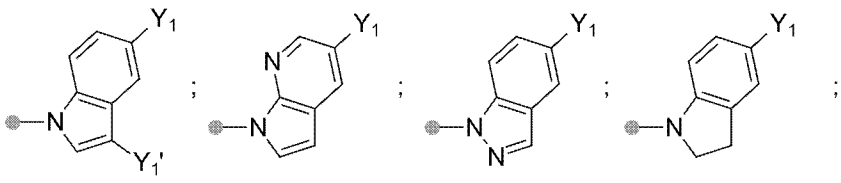
Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4,, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8 (embodiments C2) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_3 is selected from



and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2', X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_1, Y_4, Y_5, and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a,

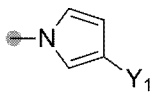
B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4,, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8 (embodiments C3) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_3 is selected from



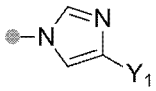
and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2', X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_1, Y_1', Y_4, Y_5, and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4,, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8 (embodiments C4) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_3 is selected from



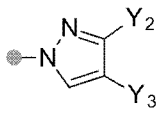
and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2', X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10} and Y_1 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8 (embodiments C5) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_3 is selected from



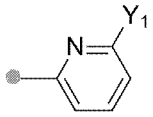
and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2', X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10} and Y_1 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8 (embodiments C6) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_3 is selected from



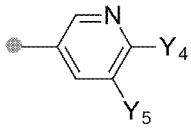
and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2', X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_2 and Y_3 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8 (embodiments C7) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_3 is selected from



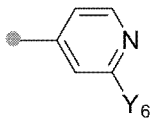
and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2', X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10} and Y_1 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4,, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8 (embodiments C8) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_3 is selected from



and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2', X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10} and Y_4 and Y_5 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8

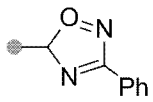
Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4,, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8 (embodiments C9) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_3 is selected from



and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2', X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10} and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6,

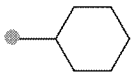
B7 or B8

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8 (embodiments C10) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein •—R_3 is selected from



and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2', X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9 and X_{10} are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8.

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 and B8 (embodiments C11) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein •—R_3 is selected from



and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2', X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9 and X_{10} are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8.

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7, B8, C1, C2,C3,C4,C5,C6, C7,C8,C9,C10 and C11 (embodiments D1) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein R_2 and R_2' do not form a cycloalkyl ring together with the carbon atom they are attached to.

and wherein R_1,, R_3, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_1, Y_1', Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7, B8, C1, C2,C3,C4,C5,C6, C7,C8,C9,C10 or C11.

Under particular aspects of embodiments D1 (embodiments D1a), there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein R_2' is hydrogen and wherein R_1,R_2, R_3, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_1, Y_1', Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments D1.

Under other particular aspects of embodiments D1 (embodiments D1b), there is

provided compounds of formula (A) wherein R_2' is F and wherein R_1,R_2, R_3, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_1, Y_1', Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments D1.

Under another particular aspect of embodiments D1 (embodiments D1c), there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein R_2' is different from hydrogen or F and wherein R_1,R_2, R_3, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_1, Y_1', Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments D.

Under specific aspect of embodiments D1a, D1b and D1c (embodiments D1d), there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein R_2 is *n*-propyl and wherein R_1,R_2', R_3, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_1, Y_1', Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments D1a, D1b and D1c.

Under specific aspect of embodiments D1a, D1b and D1c (embodiments D1e), there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein R_2 is *i*-propyl and wherein R_1,R_2', R_3, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_1, Y_1', Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments D1a, D1b and D1c.

Under specific aspect of embodiments D1a, D1b and D1c (embodiments D1f), there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein R_2 is *n*-butyl and wherein R_1,R_2', R_3, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_1, Y_1', Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments D1a, D1b and D1c.

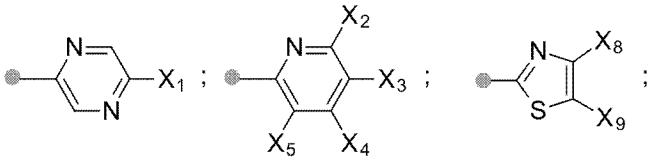
Under specific aspect of embodiments D1a, D1b and D1c (embodiments D1f), there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein R_2 is cyclohexyl and wherein R_1,R_2', R_3, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_1, Y_1', Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments D1a, D1b and D1c.

Under specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4,, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7, B8, C1, C2,C3,C4,C5,C6, C7,C8,C9,C10 and C11 (embodiments D2) there is provided compounds of formula (A) wherein R_2 and R_2' together with the carbon atom they are attached to form a cycloalkyl ring and wherein R_1, R_3, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_1, Y_1', Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined

under embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4,, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7, B8, C1, C2,C3,C4,C5,C6, C7,C8,C9,C10 and C11.

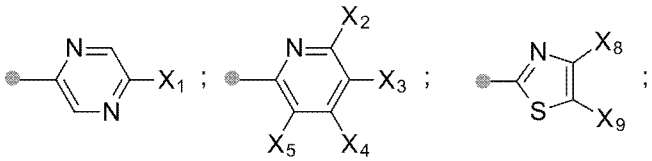
The combination of any of the above embodiments gives rise to a new embodiment under this invention.

For example, from the combination of embodiments B3, B4 and B7 there is provided other specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3 or A4 (Embodiments E1) which are compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_1 is selected from



and wherein R_2, R_2', R_3, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_8, X_9, Y_1,Y_1', Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiment A, A1, A2, A3 or A4

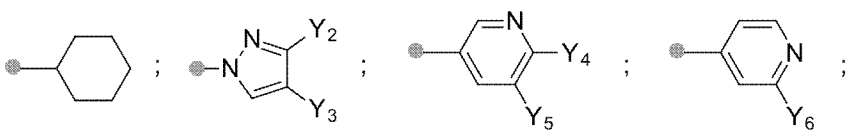
Likewise, from the combination of embodiments B3, B4a and B7, there is provided other specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3 or A4 (Embodiments E1a) which are compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_1 is selected from



X_2 and X_4 are hydrogen;

and wherein R_2, R_2',R_3, X_1, X_3,, X_5, X_8, X_9, Y_1,Y_1',Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiment A, A1, A2, A3 or A4

Also, from the combination of embodiments C6, C8,C9 and C11 there is provided other specific aspects of embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4,, B1, B2, B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8 (Embodiments E2) which are compounds of formula (A) wherein ●—R_3 is selected from



and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2', X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are, as the case may be, as defined under embodiments A, A1, A2, A3, A4,, B1, B2,

B3, B4, B4a, B4b, B5, B6, B7 or B8.

Examples 1-151 described below all constitute further individual embodiments of this invention, and any list combining any of the examples is yet another further embodiment of this invention.

For example, in a further embodiment (embodiment F1) there is provided a compound selected form the list of

1-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(6-Chloro-5-fluoro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(6-Bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(2-Bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(6-Methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(2-Difluoromethoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-[6-(1-Methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-thiazol-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-3-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-6-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-2-fluoro-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(2-Bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(2-Bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-amide;

2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide ;

2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(4-Bromo-3-cyano-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide ;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-hexanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(4-[4-methoxy-phenyl]-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(4-Bromo-3-methyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(4-Bromo-imidazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-[3-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-pyrazol-1-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(4-Bromo-3-cyano-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-[5-Fluoro-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-[5-Cyano-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-N-(5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)3-methyl-butyramide;

N-(5-Bromo-3-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-2-(5-bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-3-methyl-butyramide;

N-(5-Bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-2,2-dicyclohexyl-acetamide;

1-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

1-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)amide;

2-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(6-Chloro-5-methyl-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

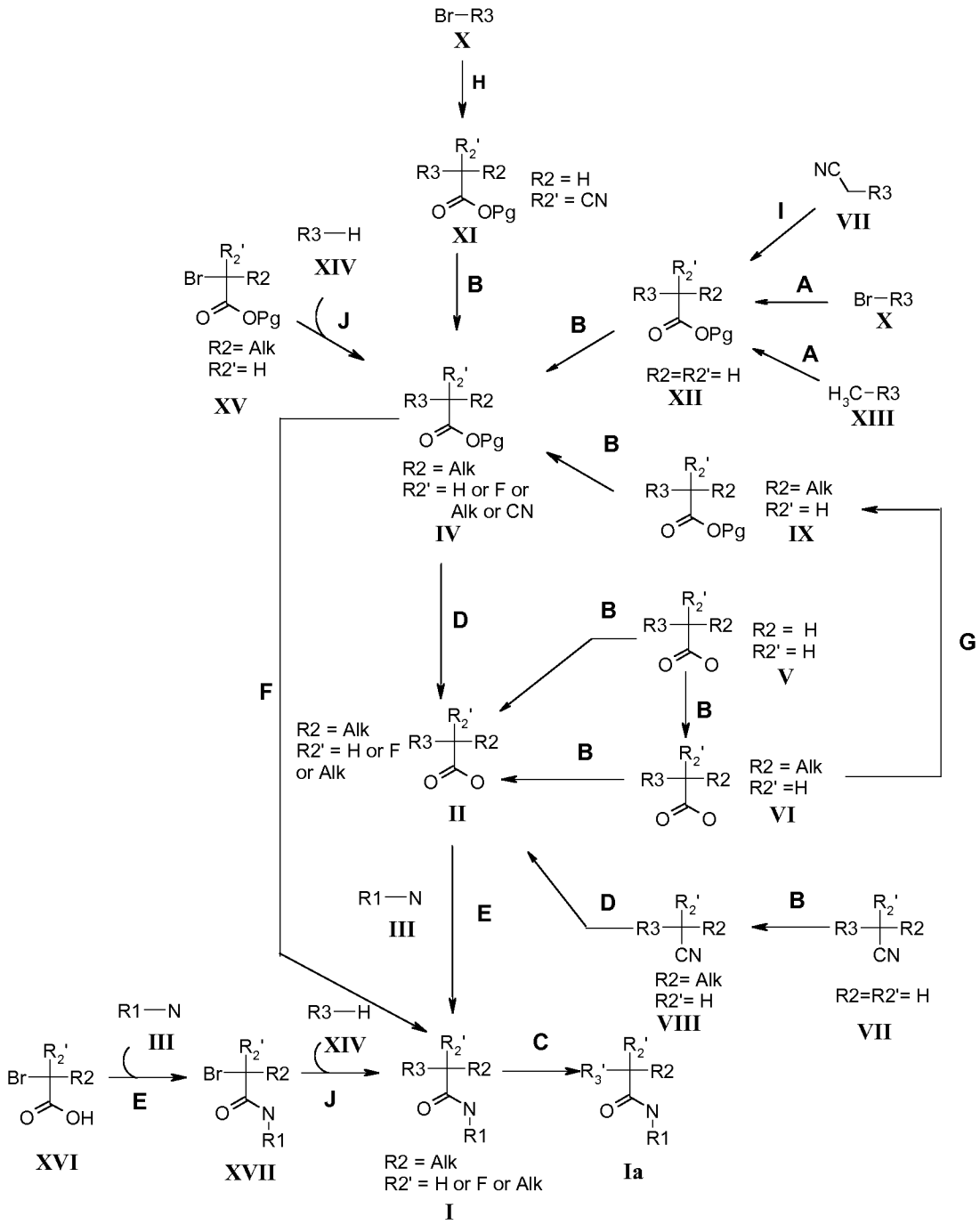
and 2-(2-Chloro-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide

Likewise, in a in a further embodiment (embodiment F2) there is provided a compound selected form the list of 2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (3-tert-butyl-isoxazol-5-yl)-amide and 2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-hexanoic acid (3-tert-butyl-isoxazol-5-yl)-amide

GENERAL ROUTE TO COMPOUNDS OF THE INVENTION

Depending on the exact nature of the compound, compounds of the invention may be obtained under general Schemes 1-5.

Scheme 1



A: carboxylation or Reformatsky-Negishi coupling; **B**: alkylation; **C**: miscellaneous modifications on final compounds; **D**: Hydrolysis; **E**: Amide coupling between acid and amine; **F**: Amide coupling between ester and amine; **G**: esterification; **H**: alkylation on dicarbonyl compounds; **I**: alcoholysis; **J**: N-alkylation

Compounds with general structure **I** can be prepared as shown in Scheme 1. The

key step of the synthesis is coupling between acids of general structure **II** and the appropriate amines of general structure **III** using coupling agents known in literature. Alternatively, amides of structure **I** can be achieved directly from esters **IV** where R2 is alkyl and R2'can be fluorine or hydrogen. When acids of general structure **II** are not commercially available, they can be prepared according to different approaches.

Alkylation of commercially available heteroarylacetic acid of general structure **V**, with the appropriate haloalkane, in presence of a strong bases such LiHMDS, n-butyllithium, sodium hydride and other known in literature gives acids of general structure **II**.

When R2 and R2' are different alkyl groups, acids of general structure **II** can be prepared in two steps. Heteroaryl acetic acids of general structure **V** can be alkylated to give intermediates of general structure **VI,** which undergo to a second alkylation to furnish acids of general structure **II**.

Alternatively commercially available heteroarylacetonitriles of general structure **VII** can be alkylated affording intermediates of general structure **VIII** which can be hydrolyzed to acids **II**.

Acids of general structure **II** can be obtained from hydrolysis of esters of general structure **IV** as reported in Scheme 1 where Pg can be methyl, ethyl or *tert*-butyl group. In case R2' is a cyano group, hydrolysis and mono-decarboxylation occur simultaneously.

When esters of general structure **IV** are not commercially available they can be prepared following different synthetic pathways shown in Scheme 1.

Esters of general structure **IV** where R2 is an alkyl group and R2' is fluorine can be prepared from acids **VI**, which are converted to corresponding esters **IX** and finally fluorinated in presence of a strong base and an electrophilic source of fluorine as reported by Tengeiji *et al. Molecules* **2012**, *17*, 7356-7378.

Esters **IV** can be prepared from heteroaryl bromides of structure **X** which are transformed into intermediates **XI** via palladium catalyzed reaction with malonitrile for example see Xiang Wang *et al. J. Org. Chem.*, **2008**, *73*, 1643–1645. Derivatives **XI** can

be alkylated to give esters **IV** where R2' is cyano group.

Ester **IV** can be prepared directly from alkylation of heteroaryl acetic esters of general structure **XII**.

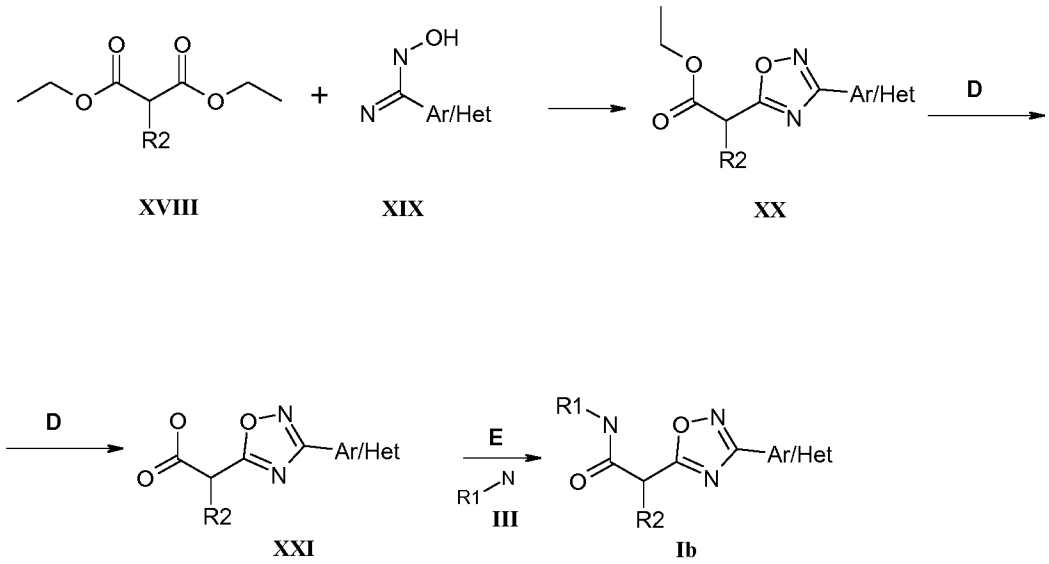
When esters **XII** are not commercially available, they can be synthesised with three different approaches: by alcoholysis of heteroaryl acetonitriles of general structure **VII**, via Negishi-Reformatsky coupling between heteroaryl bromides of structure **X** and *tert*-butyl ester of bromoacetic acid as described by Hartwig, J.F. *et al. JACS*, **2003**, *125*, 11176-11177 or by carboxylation of methyl group of compounds of general structure **XIII** in presence of a strong base as LDA (see WO9815278).

Esters of general structure **IV** can be prepared from N-alkylation of nitrogen bearing heterocycles **XIV** (pyrazoles, pyrroles, indoles) with ester of α-bromoalkanoic acid of general structure **XV**.

An alternative approach for the synthesis of compounds of general structure **I**, depicted in Scheme 1, consists of coupling between appropriate amine of general structure **III** with α-bromoacid of general structure **XVI** using a suitable coupling agent to give intermediate of general structure **XVII**. N-alkylation of nitrogen bearing heterocycles **XIV** (pyrazoles, pyrroles, and indoles) with intermediates **XVII** offer compounds of general structure **I**.

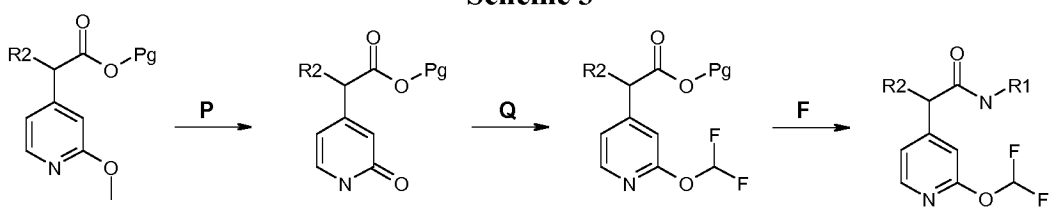
Compounds of general structure **I** can be further modified into derivatives **Ia** when R3 contains groups that can be modified in few synthetic steps. For example, when R3 contains methoxy group, it can be demethylated and O-alkylated with different alkyl groups; or in presence of primary amino group, this one can be alkylated to the corresponding tertiary amine or can be acylated with the appropriate carboxylic acid.

Scheme 2



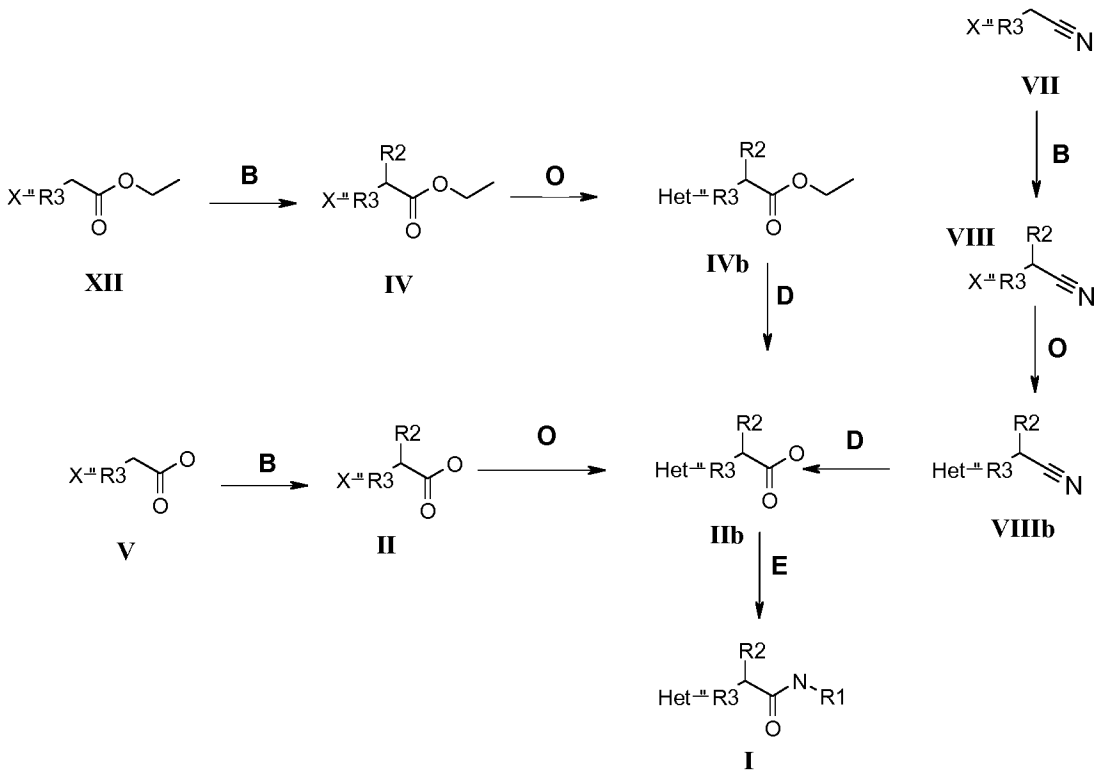
Scheme 2 describes the synthetic approach to prepare compounds of general structure **Ib**, where R3 is 1,2,4-oxadiazole substituted in position 3 with an aryl or heteroaryl group. Condensation between diethyl alkyl malonate **XVIII** and amidoxime **XIX** gives oxadiazole **XX,** which can be hydrolyzed to corresponding acid **XXI** and coupled with the appropriate amine of general structure **III** using a suitable coupling agent to give compounds of general structure **Ib**.

Scheme 3



In Scheme 4 it is depicted the synthesis for a single point modification of intermediates of general structure **IV**, where methoxy group is replaced by difluoromethoxy moiety. Methoxypyridine esters of general structure **IV** are converted into the corresponding pyridones **XXII** followed by difluoromethylation of the oxygen (Makoto *et al. Organic Letters*, **2006**, *8*, 3805-3808) to give esters of general structure **IVa**. Direct coupling with the appropriate amines of general structure **III** affords final compounds **I**.

Scheme 4



Scheme 4 depicts possible approaches for the synthesis of compounds of general structure **I**, where R3 is a bis-heteroaryl system. These syntheses can be applied on intermediates of general structure **XII**, **V** and **VII** containing a halogen in the R3 system. Intermediates of general structure **II**, **IV**, **VIII** can be obtained respectively from compounds **V**, **XII** and **VII** as described in Scheme 1. Suzuki coupling on **II**, **IV** and **VIII** gives compounds of general structure **IIb**, **IVb** and **VIIIb**. Intermediate **IVb** and **VIIIb** can be hydrolyzed to give compounds of general structure **IIb** which are converted into compounds **I** reacting with the appropriate amines of general structure **III**, using a suitable coupling agent.

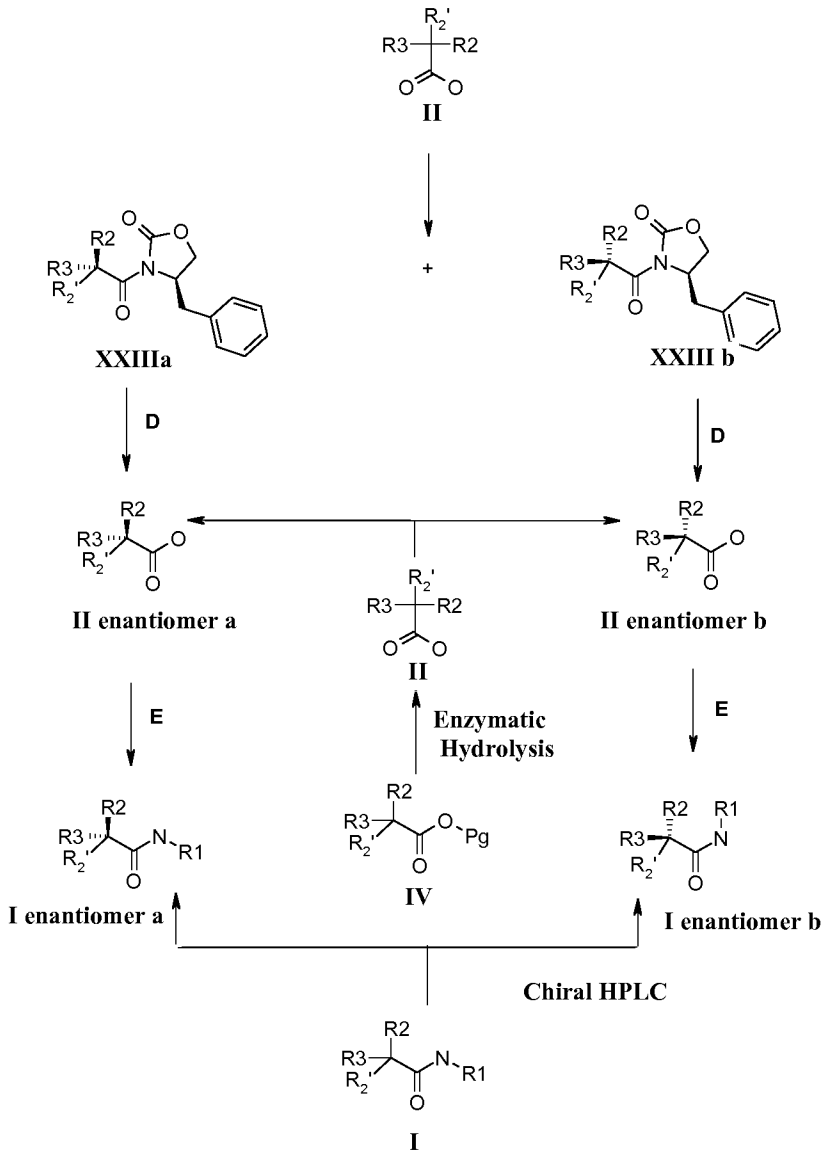
Enantiomers or enantiomerically enriched compositions could also be obtained by using optically active starting materials or by enantiomeric resolution strategies.

Enantiomeric resolution strategies of compounds of general structure **I** are reported in scheme 5. Racemic mixtures of compounds **I** can be separated by chiral preparative HPLC.

Alternatively, acid of general structure **II** can be coupled with chiral auxiliaries

such oxazolidinones to give diastereoisomers **XXIIIa** and **XXIIIb**. The resulting diastereoisomers could be separated and hydrolyzed to give the two acids in pure enantiomeric form that could be coupled with the appropriate amine of general structure **III**, using a suitable coupling agent to give compounds of general structure **I** as enantiomers. Alternatively racemic acids of general structure **II** can be solved before amide coupling with conventional approaches such as crystallization in presence of a chiral amine, enzymatic resolution, chiral preparative HPLC.

Scheme 5



Enantiomers or enantiomerically enriched compositions could also be obtained by using optically active starting materials.

BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION

***In vitro* cellular assay for activity against S1P**

CHO-S1P3 R1 cells were generated by stably transfecting wt CHO-K1 cells with pcDNA6.2/cLumioDEST-hS1P3 and were maintained under antibiotic selection with 6 μg/ml blasticidin. CHO-S1P1 MG12 cells were also generated by stable transfection of wt CHO-K1 cells and were selected with 1 mg/ml hygromycin.

The compounds were tested on CHO-S1P3 R1 cells for their ability to act as antagonists of the sphyngosine induced intracellular Ca- flux, that was measured by the fluorescent calcium indicator Fluo-4 AM on a Molecular Devices FLIPR3 instrument.

Cells were seeded as 30K cells per well in a 96-well plate (black, clear bottom, TC coated) in 100 μl culture medium. After 24 h incubation cells were loaded with 100 μL HBSS containing 20mM HEPES buffer, 5 mM probenecid, 4 μM FLUO-4 AM and pluronic acid 0.02% and kept at 37°C, 5% CO2 for 30 minutes. Loading solution was then washed out with HBSS- 20 mM Hepes buffer.

Compounds were dispensed to the cells as first addition, at the final concentration of 10 μM for primary screening and in 8 points concentration response (30 μM - 0.001 μM) with a final DMSO concentration of 0.3%. Sphingosine was added as second addition at the final concentration equal to the EC80. Calcium responses were read on a fluorescence imaging plate reader (FLIPR3; Molecular Devices) by exciting the cells with an argon ion laser at 488 nm. Emission was recorded by using a band spectrum filter (510-570 nm; emission peak of Fluo-4/Ca2+ =516 nm).

The compound activity was also evaluated for the activity on Gαi pathway both against S1P1 receptor and S1P3 receptor.

Changes in intracellular cAMP concentrations were measured with a HTRF® assay (cAMP Dynamic 2 Kit, Cisbio Bioassays, Codolet, France), according to the manufacturer's protocol.

CHO-S1P1 MG12 or CHO-S1P3 R1 ready-to-use frozen cells were thawed, resuspended in DPBS (Lonza, Basel, Switzerland) with 1mM IBMX and dispensed in

384-well low volume microplates (Greiner Bio-One GmbH, Frickenhausen, Germany) as 10000 cells in 5 µl per well. Cell treatment was performed in assay buffer containing PBS 0.2% BSA. The cells were pre-incubated for 15 min at room temperature with 2.5 µl of a 4-fold concentrated compound solution either at single concentration or in a concentration response titration (0.6% final DMSO concentration). Subsequently, 2.5 µl of a Sphingosine/forskolin solution at 4-fold the respective EC80 concentrations were added to each well except for positive control wells, where only forskolin was added. After 45 min, 5 µl of the HTRF® detection reagents (anti cAMP-Cryptate and cAMP-d2) were added to the cells according to the kit instructions. After 1 hour incubation at room temperature, the time resolved fluorescence was read with an AnalystGT microplate reader (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA, USA) with excitation at 337 nm, emission at 665 nm and 620 nm (for acceptor and donor signals, respectively).

In vitro phenotypic assay: S1P proliferation assay in primary cortical astrocytes

Primary cortical astrocytes were prepared from E17 embryos (Sprague–Dawley) rat neocortex by enzymatic dissociation. The isolated cortices were minced into small pieces with a sterile blade, washed for three times with dissociation medium and incubated with trypsin (0.25%) in waterbath at 37°C for 10mins. The pellet was placed in FBS (10%)-containing MEM medium and pipetted for 20 strokes; the cell suspension was centrifuged at 1050 rpm for 10 mins at r.t. and the pellet was resuspended in growth medium (BME, 10% FBS, 2mM glutamine, 1 mM pyruvate, Penicillin/Streptomycin 1000 U/ml). The cells were seeded in poly-D-lysine (70K-150K kD) pre-coated 75 cm^2 flasks on at, at 37°C, 5% CO_2 and 95% humidity. The mature cultures were grown until astrocytes had reached confluence (12-15 days). Then, cultures are placed in an orbital shaker and shacked (200 RPM) overnight at 37°C, 5% CO_2 and 95% humidity. Medium was then removed and the cell layer containing mostly astrocytes was removed by trypsinization (0.25%) for 15mins at 37°C. Furthermore, after blocking trypsin with MEM 10% FBS, medium was eliminated by centrifugation at 1200 RPM. Cells are

seeded into black wall, clear bottom 96-well plates (30K cells/well) in 10% FBS/BME (day 1). 24h later, on day 2, the medium was replaced with serum free BME. On day 3, the cells were treated with the antagonists for 1hr before S1P addition (S1P final concentration: 1 μM). The final DMSO concentration was 0.1% v/v. On day 5 (48h S1P stimulation), cells were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde/4% sucrose, permeabilized in 0.2% Triton-X 100, and blocked in 0.1% BSA. The primary antibody Rb-anti-Ki67 (1:500, Abcam) was incubated for 3hr at room temperature, followed by the Alexa Fluor 546 conjugated secondary antibody. The plates were acquired with BD Pathway 435 and the nuclear intensity of the Ki67 staining measured with BD Attovision software. The proliferation was expressed as percentage of Ki67-positive nuclei per total nuclei.

Neurodegeneration, neuroinflammation and behavioural *in vivo* assays.

The efficacy of the compounds of the invention on neurodegeneration and neuroinflammation can be evaluated with two different methodological approaches aimed to reproduce some pathological features of Alzheimer's disease:

1) the excitotoxic insult (quisqualic acid - QUIS) in the Nucleus Basalis Magnocellularis (NBM), characterized by severe neurodegeneration of cholinergic neurons along with significant neuroinflammation.
2) the β-amyloid peptide 25-35 (Aβ25-35) injection in NBM of rats, inducing a significant glia reaction around Aβ25-35 deposits with modest toxicity on cholinergic neurons.

Readouts are based on immunochemical analysis and are: count of cholinergic neurons (ChAT-positive), astrocytes (GFAP-positive) and microglia (OX-42 or Iba-1 positive). The analysis is performed by two different approaches, the visual scoring (blind) and the digital platform APERIO®.

QUIS-treated animals can also undergo the Object Recognition Test (ORT, measuring episodic memory) or other behavioural tests to measure the improvement of cognitive functions upon treatment with a compound of the invention.

Animals

Three-month old male Wistar rats (Harlan, Milan, Italy) weighing 230-250 g were used. The rats were housed in macrolon cages with ad lib food and water and maintained on a 12 h light/dark cycle at 23°C room temperature (RT). All experiments were carried out according to the guidelines of the European Community's Council for Animal Experiments (86/609/EEC). Efforts were made to minimize the number of animals used and their suffering.

Quisqualic acid and ABeta(25-35) peptide injections into the nucleus basalis and drug treatment

The quisqualic acid (Sigma Chemical Co., Milan, Italy; dissolved in phosphate buffer at the concentration of 0.12 M volume 0.5 μl) or 10 ug of ABeta(25-35) peptide (Bachem) dissolved PBS at the concentration of 10 μg/μl and aggregate at 37° for 2 h before injection volume 1 μl) was injected by means of an Hamilton microsyringe into the right NBM under chloral hydrate anaesthesia at the following stereotaxic coordinates: AP= - 0.2, L= -2.8 from bregma and H= 7 from the dura (Paxinos and Watson, 1982, Casamenti *et al.*, 1998). Controlateral NBM were injected with PBS solution. The study was performed for 7 days after surgery. Rats were orally (ip) administered with a compound of the invention or vehicles with two administration, 24h and 1 h before surgery and once daily for 7 days after lesioning. Last administration was performed 1h before sacrifice.

Object recognition test

Object recognition was evaluated according to Ennanceur and Delacour (1988) and Scali et al., (1997). Briefly, the rats were placed in a grey polyvinylchloride arena (60×60×40h cm) illuminated by a 50 W lamp suspended 50 cm above the arena. The objects to be discriminated were prisms, pyramids and cylinders made of plastic. The day before testing, rats were allowed to explore the arena for 2 min. On the day of the test, in the scopolamine protocol, a session of 2 trials separated by an intertrial interval of 240 min was carried out. In the first trial (acquisition trial, T1) two identical objects were

presented in two opposite corners of the arena. The rats were left in the arena until criterion of 20 s of total exploration of the objects was reached. Exploration was defined as directing the nose at a distance < 2 cm to the object and/or touching it with the nose. During the second trial (retention trial, T2) one of the objects presented in T1 was replaced by a new (differently shaped) object and the rats were left in the arena for 5 min. The times spent exploring the familiar (F) and the new object (N) were recorded separately and the difference between the two exploration times was taken. From one rat to the next, care was taken to avoid object and place preference by randomly changing the role of the objects (familiar or new object) and their position in the two opposite corners of the box during T2. Furthermore, in order to avoid olfactory stimuli the objects to be discriminated were cleaned carefully. In the time delay procedure, T2 was performed 24 h after T1 when a spontaneous decay of memory was presents in control rats. Drug's administrations were performed 30 min before the acquisition trial T1.

Immunohistochemistry

Under deep chloral hydrate anaesthesia, the rats were perfused transcardially with ice-cold paraformaldehyde solution (4% in phosphate-buffer, pH 7.4). The brains were postfixed for 4 h and cryoprotected in 18% sucrose solution for at least 48 h. Brains were cut in a cryostat throughout the injected area into 30 µm-thick coronal sections and placed in anti-freezer solution (phosphate-buffered saline containing 30% ethylene glycol and 30% glycerol) and stored at -20°C until used for immunohistochemistry, according to the following schedule.

Day 1 ChAT (marker of cholinergic neurons, goat antiserum, Millipore, 1:200), was used as neurodegeneration marker and GFAP (marker of astrocytes, rabbit polyclonal antibody DAKO, 1: 1000) and Iba-1 (marker of microglia, rabbit antibody, Wako, 1 1:500) or OX-42 (CD11b/c, marker of activated microglia, mouse antibody, BD Biosciences Pharmingen, 1:400) as neuroinflammation markers of astrocytes and microglia, respectively.

Secondary antibodies: biotinylated IgG (Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, CA),

diluted 1:1000.

Immunohistochemical procedure

Slices were processed as free-floating sections, briefly, the primary antibody was added at the appropriate dilution (in Blocking buffer: PBST with 0.5% BSA) and left overnight under mild agitation at room temperature. Then the corresponding biotinylated secondary antibody (in Blocking buffer: PBST with 0.1% BSA) was added to the slices and left 90 min at room temperature, under mild agitation, and then removed and washed with PBS. Bound antibody was visualized by using Vectastain ABC Kit (Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, CA) with DAB (Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, CA) as chromogen. The sections were mounted, counterstained with Ematossilin (Carlo Erba Reagents, Italy), dehydrated and coverslipped with mounting medium (Leica).

Immunohistochemical marker quantification

All immunohistochemical markers were quantified in the NMB area by the Aperio® digital pathology platform; briefly, 4-6 slides per animal were digitalized by using the scanner Scanscope CS (Aperio®), then the right and left NMB areas were manually identified for each slide creating a Region Of Interest (ROI) where specific macros of analysis were applied to quantify the signal. Each right striatum (injected with AAV9-Ex1-AcGFP-Q138) was compared with its contralateral (left) one (injected with AAV9-Ex1-AcGFP-Q17). Data from each slide were averaged on a per animal basis and the resulting values were used for statistical analysis.

ChAT was quantified as number of cells per area, as a single cell population. GFAP and Iba-1, were evaluated as positive pixel counts per area in the Region of Interest (ROI).

FORMULATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Compounds under formula (A) are formulated preferably in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or the like. In general, it is preferable to administer the pharmaceutical composition in orally-administrable form, but certain formulations may be administered via a parenteral, intravenous, intramuscular, transdermal, buccal, subcutaneous, suppository, nasal or other route. One of ordinary skill

in the art may modify the formulations within the teachings of the specification to provide numerous formulations for a particular route of administration without rendering the compositions of the present invention unstable or compromising their therapeutic activity.

In particular, the modification of the present compounds to render them more soluble in water or other vehicle, for example, may be easily accomplished by minor modifications (salt formulation, esterification, etc.) which are well within the ordinary skill in the art. It is also well within the routineer's skill to modify the route of administration and dosage regimen of a particular compound in order to manage the pharmacokinetics of the present compounds for maximum beneficial effect in patients.

In certain pharmaceutical dosage forms, the pro-drug form of the compounds, especially including ester and ether derivatives, as well as various salt forms of the present compounds, are preferred.

One of ordinary skill in the art will recognize how to readily modify the present compounds to pro- drug forms to facilitate delivery of active compounds to a targeted site within the host organism or patient.

The routineer also will take advantage of favourable pharmacokinetic parameters of the pro-drug forms, where applicable, in delivering the present compounds to a targeted site within the host organism or patient to maximize the intended effect of the compound.

Actual methods of preparing such dosage forms are known, or will be apparent, to those skilled in this art; for example, see Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Company, Easton, Pennsylvania, 15th Edition, 1975.

The composition or formulation to be administered will, in any event, contain a quantity of the active compound in an amount effective to alleviate the symptoms of the subject being treated.

While human dosage levels have yet to be optimized for the compounds of the invention, generally, a daily dose is from about 0.05 mg/kg to about 100 mg/kg of body weight.

The amount of active compound administered will, of course, be dependent on the subject and disease state being treated, the severity of the affliction, the manner and schedule of administration and the judgment of the prescribing physician.

For purposes of the present invention, a prophylactically or preventive effective amount of the compositions according to the present invention (i.e., an amount which substantially reduces the risk that a patient will either succumb to a disease state or condition or that the disease state or condition will worsen) falls within the same concentration range as set forth above for therapeutically effective amounts and is usually the same as a therapeutically effective amount.

In some embodiments of the present invention, one or more compounds of formula (A) are administered in combination with one or more other pharmaceutically active agents. The phrase “in combination”, as used herein, refers to agents that are simultaneously administered to a subject. It will be appreciated that two or more agents are considered to be administered "in combination" whenever a subject is simultaneously exposed to both (or more) of the agents.

Each of the two or more agents may be administered according to a different schedule; it is not required that individual doses of different agents be administered at the same time, or in the same composition. Rather, so long as both (or more) agents remain in the subject's body, they are considered to be administered “in combination”.

EXAMPLES

Experimental section

All reagents and solvents were obtained commercially. Air and moisture sensitive liquid solutions were transferred via syringe. The course of reactions was followed by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) and/or liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (HPLC-MS or UPLC-Ms). TLC analyses were performed on silica (Merck 60 F254) and spots revealed by UV visualisation at 254 nm and $KMnO^4$ or ninhydrin stain.

Purifications by column chromatography were performed using silica cartridges Isolute flash Si or silica (Merck 60) or with flash chromatography purification

instruments (Biotage). Compounds purities were above 90%.

All nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were recorded using a Bruker Avance AV 400 System (400.13 MHz for ^1H) equipped with BBI a probe.

Abbreviation

THF: Tetrahydrofuran

NH_4Cl: Ammonium chloride

AcOEt: Ethyl Acetate

Na_2SO_4: Sodium sulphate

HCl: Hydrochloric acid

DMF: N,N-dimethylformamide

NaH: Sodium Hydride

H_2O: Water

DCM: dichloromethane

NaOH: sodium hydroxide

K_2CO_3: potassium carbonate

$NaHCO_3$: sodium hydrogencarbonate

MeOH: methanol

EDC: 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride

DCE: 1, 2-dichloroethane

DIPEA: N,N-diisopropyl-N-ethylamine

NaCl: sodium chloride

K_3PO_4: Tripotassium phosphate

$Pd_2(dba)_3$: Tris(dibenzylideneacetone)dipalladium (0)

Qphos: 1,2,3,4,5-Pentaphenyl-1′-(di-*tert*-butylphosphino)ferrocene

T_3P: Propylphosphonic Anhydride

EtOH: ethanol

Cs_2CO_3: Cesium carbonate

LiHMDS: lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide

H_2SO_4: Sulfuric acid

LDA: Lithium diisopropylamide

cHex: cyclohexane

NH_4OH: ammonium hydroxide

H_2: hydrogen

Pd/C: palladium on activated carbon

CDI: 1,1'-Carbonyldiimidazole

CH_3CN: Acetonitrile

Analytical Methods

Method c: Anaytical HPLC-MS were run using a Waters 2795 separation module equipped with a Waters Micromass ZQ (ES ionisation) and Waters PDA 2996, using a X-Bridge C18 3.5 μm 2.10 x 50 mm column. Gradient: 0.1% ammonia/water and acetonitrile with gradient 85/15 to 5/95 flow 0.8 ml/min over 5/10 minutes. Temperature: 40°C.UV Detection at 215 and 254 nm. ESI+ detection in the 80-1000 m/z range

Method d: Analytical UPLC -MS were run using a Acquity Waters UPLC with equipped with a Waters SQD (ES ionization) and Waters Acquity PDA detector, using a column BEH C18 1,7 μm, 2,1 x 5.00. Temperature: 40°C.UV Detection at 215 and 254 nm. ESI+ detection in the 80-1000 m/z range Gradient 0.1% ammonium bicarbonate/water and acetonitrile with a gradient 95/5 to 15/85 flow: 0.8 ml/min over 4 min.

Method e: Analytical UPLC -MS were run using a Acquity Waters UPLC with equipped with a Waters SQD (ES ionization) and Waters Acquity PDA detector, using a column BEH C18 1,7 μm, 2,1 x 5.00. Temperature: 40°C. UV Detection at 215 and 254 nm. ESI+ detection in the 80-1000 m/z range. Gradient 0.04% formic acid/95% water/5% acetonitrile and CH3CN with a gradient 95/5 to 0/100 flow: 0.8 ml/min over 4 minutes.

Method f: Analytical UPLC -MS were run using a Acquity Waters UPLC with equipped with a Waters SQD (ES ionization) and Waters Acquity PDA detector, using a

column BEH C18 1,7 μm, 2,1 x 5.00. Temperature: 40°C. UV Detection at 215 and 254 nm. ESI+ detection in the 80-1000 m/z range. Gradient 0.1% formic acid/water and 0.1% formic acid/ CH3CN with a gradient 95/5 to 5/95 flow: 0.6 ml/min over 3 minutes.

Preparative HPLC Method

Method a: Preparative HPLC was run using a Waters 2767 system with a binary gradient Module Waters 2525 pump and coupled to a Waters Micromass ZQ 25 (ES) or Waters 2487 DAD, using a X-Bridge C18 5 μm 19 x 150. Gradient 0.1% ammonia/water and methanol flow: 17 ml/min.

Method b: Preparative HPLC was run using a Waters 2767 system with a binary gradient Module Waters 2525 pump and coupled to a Waters MS3100 SQ or Waters 2487 DAD, using a X-Bridge C18 5 μm 19 x 150. Gradient 0.1% formic acid/water and 0.1%formic acid/ methanol flow: 17 ml/min.

General synthetic procedures

General procedure A1 for carboxylation

To a solution of N,N-diisopropylamine (2.1 eq) in anhydrous THF (0.4 mL*mmol) cooled to -78°C, a solution of n-butyllithium (2.5 M in hexane, 2 eq) was added dropwise under an inert atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at -78°C for one hour and then the desired methylpyridine (1 eq) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78°C for one hour and a solution of diethyl carbonate (1.2 eq) in THF (0.3 mL*mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature and left stirring overnight. The mixture was quenched with H_2O and extracted twice with AcOEt. The organic layer was collected, washed with saturated sodium chloride solution, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

General procedure A2 for Reformatsky-Negishi coupling

To prepare the Reformatsky reagent Zinc dust (1.2 eq) was suspended in anhydrous THF under N_2 and Trimethylsilyl chloride 0.1 eq was added dropwise and the resulting suspension was refluxed for 1h. Then bromoacetic acid tert-butyl ester (1.2 eq)

was added dropwise and the resulting reaction mixture was refluxed for 2 h. The resulting Reformatsky reagent was added to a degassed suspension of Bromo-aryl or heteroaryl compound (1 eq), Q-phos (0.05 eq) and Palladium source (0.05 eq.) in anhydrous THF. The resulting reaction mixture was heated at 75°C overnight. The reaction was worked up adding a saturated solution of NH_4Cl and AcOEt. The aqueous layer was extracted again with AcOEt and the resulting organic layers were combined, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

General procedure B1 for the alkylation of acid:

To a solution of heteroaryl-acetic acid (1 eq) in anhydrous THF cooled to -78°C, a solution of LiHMDS (1M 2.2 eq) in THF was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at -78°C for 1 hour. Then 1-iodoproprane (1.1 eq) was added portionwise and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature and left stirring overnight. The reaction mixture was quenched with H_2O and extracted with AcOEt. The aqueous layer was separated; the solution was acidified to pH3 with 6N HCl and extracted with AcOEt three times. The organic phases were collected, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

General procedure B2 for alkylation - cyclization

Ethyl 2-(5-bromopyridin-3-yl)acetate (1eq) was dissolved in DMF (5 mL*mmol); 18-crown-6 ether (0.05eq) and NaH 60% dispersion in mineral oil (2.5eq) were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes; dibromo alkane (1.1 eq) was added dropwise and reaction was stirred at room temperature for 5h. NaOH 15% solution in H_2O (1.5 mL *mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for 16h at room temperature. H_2O was added and pH was adjusted to 3 with HCl 6N. Aqueous solution was extracted with DCM; organic phases were collected, dried over Na_2SO_4, filtered and evaporated. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography

General procedure B3 for alkylation

A solution of acid (1eq) in dry THF (1.4 mL*mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of n-Butyllithium 1.6 M in n-hexane (2.2 eq) in THF (0.3 mL*mmol) at -78°C.

The reaction was stirred at -78°C in inert atmosphere for 2h; then a solution of haloalkane (1.1 eq) in THF (0.6 mL*mmol) was added dropwise. Solution was allowed to warm up to room temperature and stirred for 16h. H_2O was carefully added and mixture was diluted with AcOEt. Aqueous phase was collected, acidified to pH=1 with 6N HCl and extracted with AcOEt; organic layer was collected, dried over Na_2SO_4, filtered and evaporated under vacuum

General procedure B4 for fluoro insertion

A solution of LiHMDS 1M in THF (1.1 eq) was diluted with THF (4.0 mL*mmol) and cooled to -78°C; a solution of ethyl ester (1.0 eq) in the same solvent (2.0 mL*mmol) was added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 minutes and then cooled to -78°C again. A solution in THF (4.0 mL*mmol) of N-fluorobenzene sulfonimide (1.3 eq) was added dropwise; the mixture was then warmed to room temperature and stirred for 12 hours. The reaction was quenched with NH_4Cl saturated aqueous solution, extracted with AcOEt and washed with H_2O. The organic layer was collected and the solvent was removed under reduce pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

General procedure B5 for alkylation of acid and ester

Heteroaryl acetic acid ethyl ester (1eq) was dissolved in DMF (2 mL* mmol), cesium carbonate (1.2 eq) and iodoalkane (1.1 eq) were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. H_2O was added and crude extracted three times with AcOEt. Organic phases were combined, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

General procedure C1 for phenol alkylation

To a suspension of the desired phenol (1 eq) and K_2CO_3 (2 eq) in DMF, the desired alkyl bromide (4 eq) was added and the mixture was heated at 70°C for 18 hours. H_2O was added and the mixture was extracted with AcOEt. The organic phase was collected and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

General procedure D1 for acid hydrolysis

A solution of the desired ester in concentrated HCl (0.37mmol/mL) was stirred at 100°C for two hours. The mixture was concentrated under reduce pressure and the crude product was used in the next step without further purification.

General procedure D2 for acid hydrolysis

To a solution of tert-butyl ester (1 eq) in DCM (10 mL* mmol), trifluoroacetic acid (1 mL*mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for three days. The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, then was diluted with DCM and extracted with $NaHCO_3$ saturated solution. The aqueous layer was separated, acidified to pH3 with HCl 1N and extracted with DCM. The organic phase was separated, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure, affording the title compound.

General procedure D3 for basic hydrolysis

To a solution of ester (1 eq) in MeOH (7.5mL*mmol), a solution of 2N NaOH (7.5mL*mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the residue was suspended in H_2O and the mixture was acidified with 1N HCl to pH3. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM and the organic layer was collected and dried over Na_2SO_4. The title compound was obtained without further purification.

General procedure E1 for the amide coupling with thionyl chloride:

To a solution of carboxylic acid (1 eq) in 1,2-dichloroethane (4.3mL*mmol) thionyl chloride (1.2 eq) and catalytic amount of DMF were added and the mixture was stirred at 60°C for 4 hours. Then the mixture was allowed to cool down to room temperature and the desired amine (1.2 eq) and DIPEA (3 eq) were added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight then washed with saturated $NaHCO_3$ solution, the organic layer collected and the solvent was removed under reduce pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

General procedure E2 for amide coupling with EDC and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole hydrate

To a solution of acid (1 eq) in DMF (3 mL*mmol), amine (1.1 eq), 1-hydroxybenzotriazole hydrate (0.36 eq) and EDC (1.5 eq) were added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for one hour. $NaHCO_3$ saturated solution was added and the mixture was extracted with DCM. The combined organic extracts were washed with saturated NaCl solution, dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

General procedure E3 for the amide coupling with N-bromosuccinimide triphenylphosphine:

To a solution of triphenylphosphine (1.6 eq) in DCM (1ml*mmol of carboxylic acid) cooled at 0°C, N-bromosuccinimide (1.6 eq) was added and the mixture left at 0°C for 30 minutes. The desire carboxylic acid (1 eq) was added and the reaction was allowed to warm up to room temperature and lest stirring for 45 minutes. Amine (2.5 eq) was added and the mixture was left stirring for 18 hours at room temperature. The mixture was washed with 1N HCl solution and $NaHCO_3$ saturated solution. The organic phase was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

General procedure E4 for the amide coupling with T3P

To a solution of carboxylic acid (1eq) and amine (1eq) in AcOEt, DIPEA (2 eq) was added and solution cooled to 0 °C. T3P 50% solution in AcOEt (1.5 eq) was added and reaction was stirred for 12 h at room temperature. $NaHCO_3$ saturated solution was added, organic layer was separated, dried over Na_2SO_4, filtered and evaporated. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

General procedure F1 for amide coupling of ester

To a solution of acid (1 eq 0.12 g, 0.47 mmol) in DMF (3 mL*mmol), amine (1.1 eq), 1-hydroxybenzotriazole hydrate (0.36 eq) and EDC (1.5 eq) were added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for one hour. $NaHCO_3$ saturated solution was added and the

mixture was extracted with DCM. The combined organic extracts were washed with saturated NaCl solution, dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

General procedure I for nitrile alcoholysis

To a solution of EtOH (2 mL*mmol of nitrile) H_2SO_4 concentrated (0.76 mL*mmol of nitrile) was added dropwise and the desired nitrile (1 eq) was added portion wise. The solution was stirred at 100°C for three hours. The mixture was added dropwise to a solution of $NaHCO_3$ (3.00 g*mmol of nitrile) in H_2O (7.5 mL*mmol of nitrile) and it was extracted twice with DCM. The organic layer were collected, dried and evaporated, affording the desired compound.

General procedure C1 for phenol alkylation

To a suspension of the desired phenol (1 eq) and K_2CO_3 (2 eq) in DMF, the desired alkyl bromide (4 eq) was added and the mixture was heated at 70°C for 18 hours. H_2O was added and the mixture was extracted with AcOEt. The organic phase was collected and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

General procedure J1 for alkylation

To a solution of N-heterocycle (1 eq) in DMF (2ml*mmol), NaH (60% in mineral oil, 1.2 eq) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes. 2-Bromo-alkanoic acid ethyl ester (1.1 eq) was added and the reaction was left stirring at room temperature overnight. Saturated NaCl solution was added and the mixture was extracted with DCM. The organic phase was collected, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

General procedure J2 for alkylation

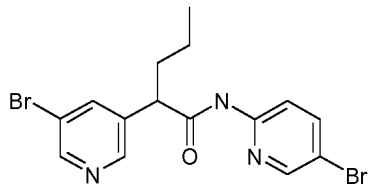
A suspension of N-heterocycle (1 eq) and K_2CO_3 (2 eq) in acetone (4 mL* mmol) was heated at 55°C for 10 minutes and then was allowed to cool down to room temperature. 2-Bromo-alkanoic acid ethyl ester (1.1 eq) was the added and the mixture

was heated at 55°C for 18 hours. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was suspended in DCM and washed with H2O. The organic phase was collected, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure.

General procedure O for Suzuki coupling

Ester/Acid (1eq) was dissolved in degassed dioxane (4 mL *mmol), boronic acid or ester (1eq), K_3PO_4 (1.7 eq), phosphine (0.02 eq), $Pd_2(dba)_3$ (0.01 eq) were added then degassed H_2O (0.5 mL *mmol) was added and reaction mixture was heated at 100°C in a pressure tube for 16 h. AcOEt and NaCl saturated solution were added. Organic phase was collected and evaporated. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

EXAMPLE 1: 2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide



2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid

To a solution of (5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid (2.00 g, 9.2 mmol) in anhydrous THF (20 mL) cooled to -78°C, a solution of LiHMDS (1M, 20 mmol) in THF was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at -78°C for 1 hour. Then 1-iodo-proprane (1.70 g, 10.2 mmol) was added portionwise and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature and left stirring overnight. The reaction mixture was quenched with H_2O and extracted with AcOEt. The aqueous layer was separated; the solution was acidified to pH3 with HCl 6N and extracted with AcOEt three times. The organic phases were collected, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex/AcOEt 1/1) to afford the title compound (1.2 g, 50%).

$C_{10}H_{12}BrNO_2$ Mass (calculated) [258.12]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 269$.

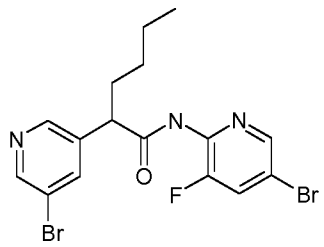
2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

To a solution of 2-(5-bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (0.12 g, 0.47 mmol) in DCE (2 mL) thionyl chloride (0.08 g, 0.56 mmol) and catalytic amount of DMF were added and the mixture was stirred at 60°C for four hours. Then the mixture was allowed to cool down to room temperature and 5-bromo-pyridin-2-ylamine (0.10 g, 0.59 mmol) and DIPEA (0.18 g, 1.395 mmol) were added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight then washed with sodium bicarbonate saturated solution, the organic layer collected and the solvent was removed under reduce pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex/AcOEt 1/1), to afford the title compound (0.05 g, 25%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 8.62 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 7.91 (m, 2H), 7.81 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.23-2.12 (m, 1H), 1.87-1.75 (m, 1H), 1.44 – 1.24 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

$C_{15}H_{15}Br_2N_3O$, Calculated [413.11], found [M+H$^+$] 414, RT= 1.74 (method f).

EXAMPLE 2: 2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-hexanoic acid (5-bromo-3-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide



2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-hexanoic acid

The title compound was obtained following general procedure for alkylation B1 and starting from (5-bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid and 1-Iodo-butane (1.82 g, 51%).

$C_{11}H_{14}BrNO_2$ Mass (calculated) [272]; (found) [M+H]$^+$ = 274

5-Bromo-3-fluoro-pyridin-2-ylamine

To a solution of 3-fluoro-pyridin-2-ylamine (0.30 g, 2.68 mmol) in acetonitrile

(15 mL), in inert atmosphere, N-bromosuccinimide (0.48 g, 2.68 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred for 4 hours. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex/AcOEt 66/34) to give the title compound (0.46 g, 89%).

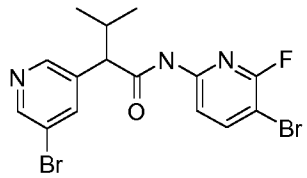
$C_5H_4BrFN_2$ Mass (calculated) [191]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 193$

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-hexanoic acid (5-bromo-3-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

The title compound was obtained following general procedure E1 for amide coupling and starting from 2-(5-bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-hexanoic acid and 5-bromo-3-fluoro-pyridin-2-ylamine, (0.10 g, 34%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 8.60 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.64 (dd, J = 9.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (bs, 1H), 2.28 – 2.14 (m, 1H), 1.88 – 1.74 (m, 1H), 1.46 – 1.18 (m, 4H), 0.89 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). $C_{16}H_{16}Br_2FN_3O$, Calculated [445.12], found [M+H$^+$], 2Br pattern 446, RT=1.64 (method f).

EXAMPLE 3: N-(5-Bromo-6-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-2-(5-bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-3-methyl-butyramide



2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-3-methyl-butyric acid

The title compound was prepared following general procedure B1 for the alkylation of acid. (1.80 g, 61%).

Mass (calculated $C_{10}H_{12}BrNO_2$ [258]; found [M+1] = 258-260 bromine pattern

N-(5-Bromo-6-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-2-(5-bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-3-methyl-butyramide

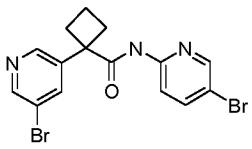
Amide coupling was performed with thionyl chloride following the procedure E4. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography eluting (CHex/AcOEt

0-40%) to give title compound (0.09 g, 36%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 8.62 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.05 – 7.97 (m, 2H), 7.93 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (bs, 1H), 2.98 (d, *J* = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 2.52 – 2.38 (m, 1H), 1.12 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.79 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H).

C15H14N3OFBr2, Calculated [431.10], found [M+H$^+$], 432, RT=1.79 (method f).

EXAMPLE 4: 1-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide



1-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutane carboxylic acid

Ethyl 2-(5-bromopyridin-3-yl)acetate (1.0 g, 4.09 mmol, 1eq) was dissolved in DMF (20 mL); 18-crown-6 ether (0.054 g, 0.205 mmol, 0.05eq) and NaH 60% dispersion in mineral oil (0.41g, 10.2 mmol, 2.5eq) were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes; 1,3-dibromopropane (0.46 mL, 4.50 mmol, 1.1 eq) was added dropwise and reaction was stirred at room temperature for 5h. NaOH 15% solution in H_2O (10 mL) were added and the mixture was stirred for 16h at room temperature. H_2O was added and pH was adjusted to pH=3 with HCl 6N. Aqueous solution was extracted with DCM (2 x20 mL), organic phases were collected, dried over Na_2SO_4, filtered and evaporated. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex/AcOEt 5%-60%) to give the title compound (0.38 g, 37% over two steps).

$C_{10}H_{10}BrNO_2$Mass (calculated) [256]; found [M+1] =256-258 bromine pattern.

1-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

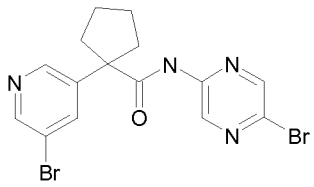
Amide coupling on 1-(5-bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutane carboxylic acid and 5-bromo-pyridin-2-ylamine was performed using general procedure E2 to give the title compound (0.015 g, 11%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 8.66 – 8.56 (m, 2H), 8.29 – 8.24 (m, 1H), 8.19 –

8.12 (m, 1H), 7.88 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 3.01 – 2.89 (m, 2H), 2.63 – 2.51 (m, 2H), 2.24 – 1.93 (m, 2H).

$C_{15}H_{13}N_3OBr_2$, Calculated [411.09], found [M+H$^+$], 2Br pattern 412, RT=1.61 (method f).

EXAMPLE 5: 1-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclopentanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide



1-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclopentanecarboxylic acid

Starting from 1-(5-bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid ethyl ester, the title compound was synthesised using the general procedure B2 for cyclization, followed by basic hydrolysis (D3) (0.66 g, 59% over two steps).

Mass (calculated) $C_{11}H_{12}BrNO_2$ [270]; found [M-1] =270-272 bromine pattern.

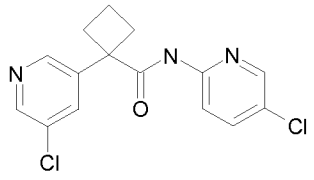
1-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclopentanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide

Amide coupling was performed with thionyl chloride following the procedure E1to give the title compound (0.021 g, 9%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 9.31 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.62 (dd, J = 10.7, 2.1 Hz, 2H), 8.28 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (t, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 2.71 – 2.55 (m, 2H), 2.17 – 2.03 (m, 2H), 1.99 – 1.73 (m, 4H).

$C_{15}H_{14}N_4OBr_2$, Calculated [426.11], found [M+H$^+$], 2Br pattern, 427, RT=1.61 (method f).

EXAMPLE 6: 1-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide



(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was synthesized from 3-bromo-5-chloropyridine using general procedure A2 for alkylation (8.20 g, 77%).

$C_{11}H_{14}ClNO_2$Mass (calculated) [227]; found [M+1] =228-230 chlorine pattern.

1-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was prepared using the general procedure B2 for cyclization starting from (5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid tert-butyl ester and 1,3-diiodopropane (0.47 g, 37%).

$C_{14}H_{18}ClNO_2$Mass (calculated) [267]; found [M+1] =268-270 chlorine pattern.

1-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid

The acid was obtained from 1-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid tert-butyl ester using general procedure D2 for acid hydrolysis (0.33 g, quant.).

$C_{10}H_{10}ClNO_2$Mass (calculated) [211]; found [M+1] =268-270 chlorine pattern

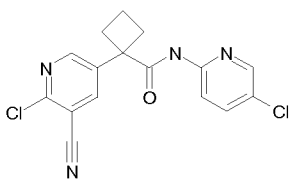
1-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

Starting from 1-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid and 5-bromo-pyridin-2-ylamine amide coupling was performed with thionyl chloride following the procedure E1To give the title compound (0.05 g, 4%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 8.56 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.53 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 3.03 – 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.64 – 2.51 (m, 2H), 2.25 – 2.09 (m, 1H), 2.09 – 1.94 (m, 1H).

$C_{15}H_{13}N_3OCl_2$, Calculated [322.19], found [M+H$^+$], 322, RT=1.53 (method f).

EXAMPLE 7: 1-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide



(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was synthesized from 5-Bromo-2-chloronicotinonitrile using general procedure A2 for alkylation. (1.60 g, 35%).

Mass (calculated) $C_{12}H_{13}ClN_2O_2$ [252]; found [M+1] = 253

1-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid

The title compound was prepared using the general procedure B2 for cyclization, followed by acid hydrolysis using general procedure D2. (0.18 g, 30%).

Mass (calculated) $C_{11}H_9ClN_2O_2$ [236]; found [M+1] = 237

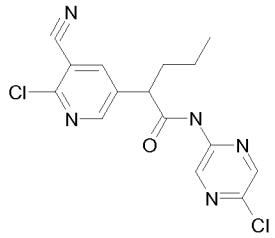
1-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

Amide coupling was performed following the procedure E1, starting from 1-(6-chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid and acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amine to give the title compound (0.066 g, 50%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 8.64 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 8.24 – 8.07 (m, 2H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.69 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.17 – 2.71 (m, 2H), 2.64 – 2.29 (m, 2H), 2.36 – 1.92 (m, 2H).

$C_{16}H_{12}N_4OCl_2$, Calculated [347.20], found [M+H$^+$], 347, RT=1.59 (method f).

EXAMPLE 8: 2-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide



(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was synthesized following the general procedure A2 starting from 5-bromo-2-chloro-nicotinonitrile. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex/AcOEt gradient) to give the title compound (0.85 g, 75% y).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) *δ* 8.47 (s, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 3.58 (s, 2H), 1.46 (s, 9H).

2-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid tert-butyl ester

Alkylation was performed following the general procedure B1 starting from (6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid tert-butyl ester, to give the title compound (0.60 g, 60% y).

$C_{15}H_{19}ClN_2O_2$Mass (calculated) [294]; (found) $[M+H]^+$= 295

2-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid

The title compound was synthesized following the general procedure D2 starting from 2-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid tert-butyl ester; (0.12 g, 98% y).

$C_{11}H_{11}ClN_2O_2$ Mass (calculated) [238]; (found) $[M+H]^+$ = 239

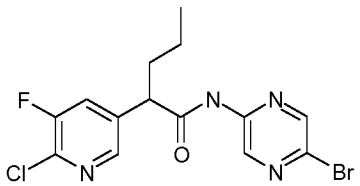
2-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide

The title product was synthesized following the general procedure E2 starting from 2-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid and 5-Chloro-pyrazin-2-ylamine, (0.10 g, 53%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 9.30 (s, 1H), 8.56 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (s, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 3.59 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.27 – 2.12 (m, 1H), 1.90-1.80 (m, 1H), 1.46 – 1.19 (m, 2H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

$C_{15}H_{13}N_5OCl_2$, Calculated [350.20], found $[M+H^+]$, 2Cl pattern 350-352, RT=1.60 (method f).

<u>EXAMPLE 9: 2-(6-Chloro-5-fluoro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide</u>



(6-Chloro-5-fluoro-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was synthesized following the general procedure A2 starting from 5-bromo-2-chloro-3-fluoro-pyridine. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex/AcOEt gradient) to give (6-Chloro-5-fluoro-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic

acid tert-butyl ester (0.36 g, 30%).

$C_{11}H_{13}ClFNO_2$Mass (calculated) [245]; (found) $[M+H]^+$= 246

2-(6-Chloro-5-fluoro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was synthesized following the general procedure B1 starting from (6-Chloro-5-fluoro-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid tert-butyl ester. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex/AcOEt gradient) to give 2-(6-Chloro-5-fluoro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid tert-butyl ester (0.17 g, 56%).

$C_{14}H_{19}ClFNO_2$Mass (calculated) [287]; (found) $[M+H]^+$= 288.

2-(6-Chloro-5-fluoro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid

The title compound was synthesized following the general procedure D2 starting from (2-(6-Chloro-5-fluoro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid tert-butyl ester (0.16 g, quant.).

$C_{10}H_{11}ClFNO_2$Mass (calculated) [231]; (found) $[M+H]^+$= 232.

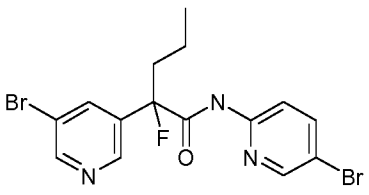
2-(6-Chloro-5-fluoro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide

The title compound was synthesized following the general procedure E1 starting from 2-(6-Chloro-5-fluoro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid and 5-Bromo-pyrazin-2-ylamine (0.03 g, 33%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol-d4) δ 9.20 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 7.0, Hz, 1H), 2.20 – 2.06 (m, 1H), 1.86 – 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.47 – 1.19 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

$C_{14}H_{13}N_4OFClBr$, Calculated [387.63], found $[M+H^+]$, Cl-Br pattern 389, RT=1.77 (method f).

EXAMPLE 10: 2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)2-Fluoro-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl) amide



2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid

To a solution of (5-Bromo-pyridil-3-yl) acetic acid (2 .0 g, 9.3 mmol, 1 eq) in anhydrous THF cooled to -78°C, a solution of LiHMDS (20.4 mL, 20.4 mmol, 2.2 eq) in THF was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at -78°C for 1 hour. Then 1-iodopropane (1.0 mL, 10.2 mmol, 1.1 eq) was added portionwise and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature and left stirring overnight. The reaction mixture was quenched with H_2O and extracted with AcOEt. The aqueous layer was separated; the solution was acidified to pH = 3 with 6N HCl and extracted with AcOEt. The organic phases were collected, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex: AcOEt 92:8 to 34:66) to give the title compound (1.2 g, 50%).

$C_{10}H_{12}BrNO_2$ mass (calculated) [258]; (found) $[M+H]^+$ = 259 m/z.

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic ethyl ester

To a solution of 2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (1.50 g, 5.8 mmol, 1 eq) in EtOH (10 mL), H_2SO_4 (0.5 mL, 2.6 eq, 15.2 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at 85°C for 12 hours. Then the mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature. The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, dissolved in DCM and washed with sodium bicarbonate saturated solution. The organic layer was collected and the solvent was removed under reduce pressure to give the desired product employed in the next step without further purification (1.5 g, 88%).

$C_{12}H_{16}BrNO_2$ mass (calculated) [286]; (found) $[M+H]^+$ = 287 m/z.

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-2-fluoro-pentanoic ethyl ester

A solution of LiHDMS (1M in THF, 0.58 mL, 1.1 eq) was diluted with THF (2.0 mL) and cooled to -78°C; a solution of the 2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic ethyl ester (0.15 g, 0.52mmol, 1.0 eq) in the same solvent (1.0 mL) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 minutes and then cooled to -78°C again. A solution in THF (2.0 mL) of N-fluorobenzene sulfonimide (0.22 g, 0.68 mmol, 1.3 eq) was added dropwise; the mixture was then warmed to room temperature and stirred for 12 hours. The

reaction was quenched with NH_4Cl saturated aqueous solution, extracted with AcOEt and washed with H_2O. The organic layer was collected and the solvent was removed under reduce pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex: AcOEt 100:0 to 80:20) give the desired product as an orange oil (0.10 g, 63%).

$C_{12}H_{15}BrFNO_2$ mass (calculated) [304]; (found) $[M+H]^+$ = 305 m/z.

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-2-fluoro-pentanoic carboxylic acid

To a solution of 2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-2-fluoro-pentanoic ethyl ester (0.48 g, 1.6 mmol, 1 eq) in MeOH (3 mL), a solution of 2N NaOH (3 mL, 6 mmol, 4 eq) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the residue was suspended in H_2O and the mixture was acidified with 1N HCl to pH = 3. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM and the organic layer was collected and dried over Na_2SO_4. The title compound was isolated without further purification (0.41 g, 95%).

$C_{10}H_{11}BrFNO_2$ Mass (calculated) [276]; (found) $[M+H]^+$ = 277 m/z.

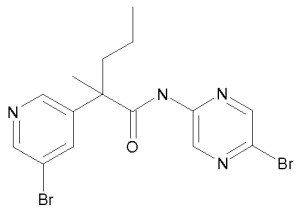
2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)2-Fluoro-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

To a solution of 2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-2-fluoro-pentanoic carboxylic acid (0.12 g, 0.44 mmol, 1 eq) in DMF (1.5 mL), 5-Bromo-2-aminopyridine (0.08 g, 0.48 mmol, 1.1 eq), 1-hydroxybenzotriazole hydrate (0.02 g, 0.13 mmol, 0.3 eq) and EDC (0.10 g, 0.52 mmol, 1.2 eq) were added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for one hour. $NaHCO_3$ saturated solution was added and the mixture was extracted with DCM. The combined organic extracts were washed with saturated NaCl solution, dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex: AcOEt 100:0 to 77:23) to give the title compound (0.07 g, 38%).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 8.76 – 8.68 (m, 2H), 8.61 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.42 – 2.21 (m, 1H), 2.18 – 1.99 (m, 1H), 1.47 – 1.31 (m, 2H), 0.89 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

$C_{15}H_{14}Br_2FN_3O$, Calculated [431.10], found [M+H$^+$], 432, RT=2.35 (method e).

EXAMPLE 11: 2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-2-methyl-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide



2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-propionic acid

(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid was alkylated with iodomethane using general procedure B1 for the alkylation of acid to give the title product (0.6 g, 61%).

$C_8H_8BrNO_2$Mass (calculated) [230]; found [M+1] =230-232 bromine pattern.

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-2-methyl-pentanoic acid

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-propionic acid was alkylated using general procedure B1 for the alkylation, heating at 50 °C to give the title compound (0.1 g, 28%).

$C_{11}H_{14}BrNO_2$Mass (calculated) [272]; found [M+1] =272-274 bromine pattern.

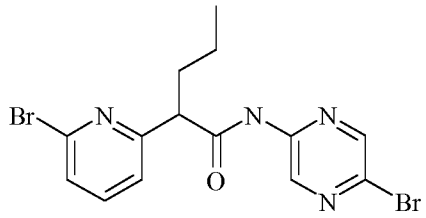
2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-2-methyl-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide

Amide coupling was performed with thionyl chloride following the procedure E1, starting from 2-(5-bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-2-methyl-pentanoic acid and 5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amine to give the title compound after preparative HPLC in basic condition (0.02 g, 10%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 10.45 (s, 1H), 9.10 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.61 – 8.53 (m, 2H), 8.44 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (t, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.16 – 2.03 (m, 1H), 2.01 – 1.83 (m, 1H), 1.57 (s, 3H), 1.20 – 1.02 (m, 2H), 0.85 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

$C_{15}H_{16}N_4OBr_2$, Calculated [428.1], found [M+H$^+$], 2Br pattern 429, RT=1.66 (method f).

EXAMPLE 12: 2-(6-Bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide



(6-Bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-acetic acid ethyl ester

To a solution of N,N-diisopropylamine (1.85 g, 18.31 mmol) in anhydrous THF (7 mL) cooled to -78°C, a solution of n-butyllithium (2.5 M in hexane, 17.44 mmol) was added drop wise under inert atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at -78°C for one hour and then 2-bromo-6-methylpyridine (1.5 g, 8.7 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at -78°C for one hour and a solution of diethyl carbonate (1.23 g, 10.46 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature and left stirring overnight. The mixture was quenched with H_2O and extracted twice with AcOEt. The organic layer was collected, washed with saturated sodium chloride solution, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography on silica gel (cHex/AcOEt 70/30) to give the title compound as an yellow oil (1.16 g, 55%).

$C_9H_{10}BrNO_2$ Mass (calculated) [244]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 246$.

2-(6-Bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester

The title compound was obtained following the general procedure B1 and starting from (6-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-acetic acid ethyl ester (0.85 g, 63%).

$C_{12}H_{16}BrNO_2$ Mass (calculated) [286]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 288$.

2-(6-Bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-pentanoic acid

To a solution of 2-(6-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester (0.40 g, 1.4 mmol) in MeOH (3 mL), a solution of 2N NaOH (3ml) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours. The solvent was removed under reduced

pressure, the crude product was suspended in H_2O and the mixture was acidified with 1N HCl to pH3. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM and the organic layer was collected and dried over Na_2SO_4. The title compound was obtained in quantitative yield without further purification.

$C_{10}H_{12}BrNO_2$ Mass (calculated) [258]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 260$.

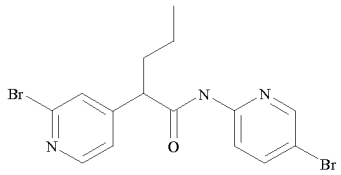
2-(6-Bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide

To a solution of 2-(2-bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (0.12 g, 0.47 mmol) in DMF (1.5 mL), 5-bromo-pyrazin-2-ylamine (0.09 g, 0.51 mmol), 1-hydroxybenzotriazole hydrate (0.02 g, 0.17 mmol) and EDC (0.13 g, 0.70 mmol) were added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for one hour. $NaHCO_3$ saturated solution was added and the mixture was extracted with DCM. The combined organic extracts were washed with saturated NaCl solution, dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex/AcOEt 75/25) to give the title compound (0.02 g, 8%).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 9.59 (s, 1H), 9.29 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.21 -2.16 (m, 1H), 2.08 – 1.92 (m, 1H), 1.45 – 1.21 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

$C_{15}H_{15}Br_2N_3O$, Calculated [414.09], found $[M+H^+]$ 415, RT= 1.71 (method f).

EXAMPLE 13: 2-(2-Bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide



(2-Bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-acetic acid tert-butyl ester

To a solution of diisopropylamine (2.1 g, 20.93 mmol) in anhydrous THF (30 mL) under nitrogen, cooled at -78°C, a solution of n-butyllithium in hexane (2.5 M, 19.18 mmol) was added dropwise. The mixture was allowed to warm up to -30°C and left

stirring for 30 minutes. Then the reaction was cooled again to -78°C and a solution of 2-bromo-4-methylpyridine (3.0 g, 17.44 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added. The reaction turned to dark orange and it was stirred at -30°C for 30 minutes. Then the reaction was cooled to -78°C and a solution of di-tert-butyl dicarbonate (0.18 g, 19.18 mmol) in THF (10 ml) was added. Then the reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature and let stirring overnight. The mixture was quenched with H_2O and extracted with AcOEt twice. The organic layer was separated, washed with NaCl saturate solution, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex/AcOEt 80/20) to give the title compound (0.81 g, 13%).

$C_{11}H_{14}BrNO_2$Mass (calculated) [272]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 274$.

2-(2-Bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was obtained following general procedure for alkylation B1 and starting from (2-bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-acetic acid tert-butyl ester (0.83g, 3.05 mmol), (0.68g, 71%).

$C_{14}H_{20}BrNO_2$ Mass (calculated) [314]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 316$.

2-(2-Bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid

To a solution of 2-(2-Bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid tert-butyl ester (0.68 g, 2.16 mmol) in DCM (20 mL), trifluoroacetic acid (2 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for three days. The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, then was diluted with DCM and extracted with $NaHCO_3$ saturated solution. The aqueous layer was separated, acidified to pH3 with HCl 1N and extracted with DCM. The organic phase was separated, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure, affording the title compound (0.44 g, 72%).

$C_{10}H_{12}BrNO_2$ Mass (calculated) [258]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 260$.

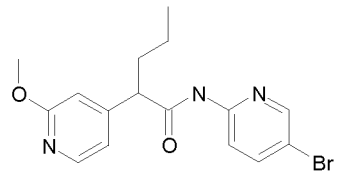
2-(2-Bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

The title compound was obtained following the general procedure E2 for coupling with EDC and starting from 2-(2-bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid and 5-bromo-pyridin-2-ylamine (0.05 g, 30%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 8.34 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.81 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.28 (m, 1H), 3.42 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.23 – 2.09 (m, 1H), 1.88 – 1.74 (m, 1H), 1.34 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

$C_{15}H_{15}Br_2N_3O$, Calculated [413.11], found [M+H$^+$] 414, RT= 1.75 (method f).

EXAMPLE 14: 2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide



2-(Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-acetic acid ethyl ester

The title compound was synthesized following the general procedure A1 starting from 2-methoxy-4-methyl-pyridine. (4.63 g, 73%)

$C_{10}H_{13}NO_3$ Mass (calculated) [195]; (found) [M+H]$^+$= 196

2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester

The title compound was synthesized following the general procedure B1 starting 2-methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-acetic acid ethyl ester. Title compound was obtained in (0.75 g, 75%).

$C_{13}H_{19}NO_3$ Mass (calculated) [237]; (found) [M+H]$^+$= 238

2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

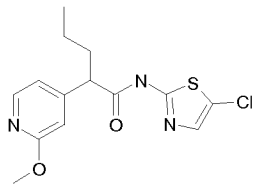
To 2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester (0.150 g, 0.6 mmol, 1 eq) 1,5,7-Triazabicyclo[440]dec-5-ene (0.03 g, 0.2 mmol, 0.3 eq) and 2-amino-5-bromopyridine (0.44 g, 2.5 mmol, 4 eq) were added in a vessel that was sealed with a septum and placed into the microwave cavity. Microwave irradiation (maximum emitted power 230W) was used to increase the temperature to 130°C .The reaction mixture was then kept at this temperature for 30 min. Then the residue was diluted with DCM and washed with $NaHCO_3$ saturated solution. The organic phase was separated, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The crude was purified by silica gel chromatography

(cHex/AcOEt gradient) to give the title compound (0.03 g, 15%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 8.29 – 8.23 (m, 1H), 8.18 – 8.09 (m, 2H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.83 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 6.90 – 6.82 (m, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.43 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.22 – 2.07 (m, 1H), 1.88 – 1.74 (m, 1H), 1.41 – 1.21 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.3, 1.5 Hz, 3H).

$C_{16}H_{18}BrN_3O_2$, Calculated [364.24], found [M+H$^+$], Br pattern 364-366, RT= 1.65(method f).

EXAMPLE 15: 2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-thiazol-2-yl)-amide



2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid

The title compound was synthesized following the general procedure D3 starting from 2-(2-methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester. (1.50 g, 79%).

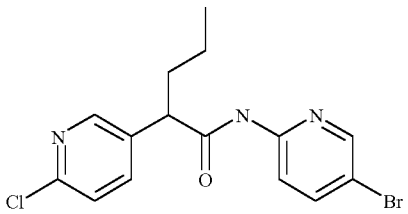
Mass (calculated) $C_{11}H_{15}NO_3$ [209]; (found) [M+H$^+$] = 210.

Synthesis of 2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-thiazol-2-yl)-amide

The title compound was synthesized following the general procedure E1 starting from 2-(2-methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid and 5-chloro-thiazol-2-ylamine (0.04 g, y 16%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 10.11 (bp, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 6.86 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.56 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.29 – 2.04 (m, 1H), 1.95 – 1.66 (m, 1H), 1.43 – 1.19 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). $C_{14}H_{16}N_3O_2SCl$, Calculated [325.81], found [M+H$^+$], 326, RT= 2.01 (method e).

EXAMPLE 16: 2-(6-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide



(6-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid ethyl ester

To a solution of EtOH (27 mL), concentrated H_2SO_4 (10 mL) was added dropwise and 2-chloropyridine-5-acetonitrile (2.00 g, 13.1 mmol) was added portionwise. The solution was stirred at 100°C for three hours. The mixture was added dropwise to a solution of $NaHCO_3$ (30.00 g) in H_2O (100 mL) and it was extracted twice with DCM. The organic layer were collected, dried and evaporated to give the title compound (2.60 g, quant.)

$C_9H_{10}ClNO_2$ Mass (calculated) [199]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 200$.

2-(6-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester

The title compound was obtained following general procedure B1 for alkylation and starting from (6-chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid ethyl ester (0.72 g, 45%).

$C_{12}H_{16}ClNO_2$ Mass (calculated) [241]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 242$.

2-(6-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid

2-(6-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester (0.72 g, 2.96 mmol) was dissolved in concentrated HCl (8 mL) and the solution was stirred at 100°C for two hours. The mixture was concentrated under reduce pressure and the crude product was used in the next step without further purification (1.00 g, quant.).

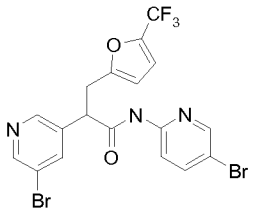
$C_{10}H_{12}ClNO_2$ Mass (calculated) [213]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 214$.

2-(6-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

The title compound was obtained following general procedure E1 for amide coupling and starting from 2-(6-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid and 5-bromo-pyridin-2-ylamine, (0.12 g, 65%).

$C_{15}H_{15}BrClN_3O$ Mass (calculated) [368]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 370$.

EXAMPLE 17: 2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-(5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2-yl)-propionamide



2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-3-(5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2-yl)-propionic acid ethyl ester

The title compound was obtained starting from (5-bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid ethyl ester and 2-bromomethyl-5-methyl-furan following general procedure B1 for alkylation (0.33 g, 72%).

$C_{15}H_{13}BrF_3NO_3$Mass (calculated) [392]; found [M+1] 392-394 bromine pattern.

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-3-(5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2-yl)-propionic acid

The title compound was obtained using general procedure D3 for ester hydrolysis and starting from 2-(5-bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-3-(5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2-yl)-propionic acid ethyl ester (0.30 g, quant.).

$C_{13}H_9BrF_3NO_3$Mass (calculated) [364]; found [M+1] 364-366 bromine pattern.

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-(5-trilfuoromethyl-furan-2-yl)-propionamide

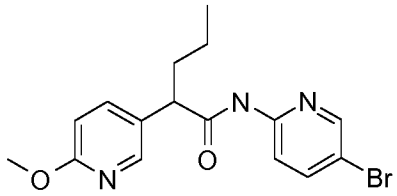
Acid (0.06g, 0.165mmol, 1eq) and 5-bromo-2-aminopyrdine (0.029g, 0.165 mmol, 1eq) were dissolved in AcOEt (2 mL), DIPEA (0.057 mL, 0.33 mmol, 2 eq) were added and solution cooled to 0 °C. T3P 50% solution in AcOEt (0.127 mL, 0.33 mmol, 1.5 eq) was added and reaction was stirred for 12 h at room temperature. NaHCO3saturated solution (2 mL) was added; organic layer was separated, dried over Na2SO4, filtered and evaporated. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex/0-35% AcOEt) to give the title compound (0.08g, 78%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 8.63 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H),

8.30 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (bs, 1H), 7.92 (t, *J*= 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 3.3, 1H), 6.09 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (m, 1H), 3.17 (m, 1H).

$C_{18}H_{12}N_3O_2F_3Br_2$, Calculated [519.11], found [M+H$^+$], 520, RT= 1.81 (method f).

EXAMPLE 18: 2-(6-Methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-pentatonic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide



Cyano-(6-methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid ethyl ester

Ethyl cyanoacetate (0.938 mL, 8.8 mmol, 1 eq) and 5-bromo-2-methoxy-pyridine (1.3 mL, 10 mmol, 1.2 eq) were added to a suspension of potassium tert-butoxide (2.4 g, 21.4 mmol, 2.5 eq) in 1,4-dioxane (25 mL) dry under N_2 atmosphere. A solution of palladium acetate (0.039 g, 0.17mmol, 0.02 eq) and Qphos (0.198 g, 0.39mmol, 0.04 eq) in 1,4-dioxane (10 mL) dry was added dropwise to reaction mixture. The reaction was heated at 70°C for 2 h before cooling to room temperature; 1N acetic acid solution (15 mL) and AcOEt (20 mL) were added, organic layer was collected, dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography with (cHex -10% AcOEt) to give the title compound(1.13g, 60%).

$C_{11}H_{12}N_2O_3$Mass (calculated) [220]; (found) [M+H]$^+$ = 221.

2-Cyano-2-(6-methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester

Cyano-(6-methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid ethyl ester (1.13 g, 5.1 mmol, 1eq) was dissolved in dimethylformamide (10 mL), cesium carbonate (2 g, 6.12 mmol, 1.2 eq) and 1-iodo-propane (0.55 mL, 5.6 mmol, 1.1 eq) were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. H_2O (500 mL) was added and crude extracted three times with AcOEt (3 x 100 mL). Organic phases were combined, dried over Na2SO4 and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography

(cHex-10%AcOEt) to give the title compound (1 g, 74%).

$C_{14}H_{18}N_2O_3$ Mass (calculated) [262]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 263$.

2-(6-Methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid

2-cyano-2-(6-methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester (1g, 3.8 mmol, 1eq) was dissolved in methanol (7.5 mL) NaOH 2N solution (7.5 mL, 15 mmol, 4eq) was added and mixture was stirred one hour at room temperature and at 60°C for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was acidified to pH = 5 with HCl 1 N and extracted with AcOEt (3 x 20 ml). Organic layers were collected, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex-33% AcOEt) to give the title compound (0.65 g, 82%).

$C_{11}H_{15}NO_3$Mass (calculated) [209]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 210$.

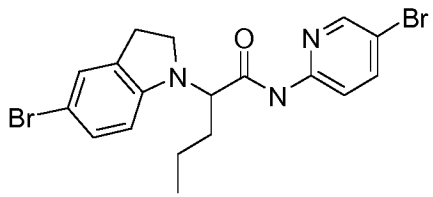
2-(6-Methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-pentatonic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

The amide coupling was performed using general procedure E1to give the title compound (0.01 g, 5%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.22 – 8.11 (m, 2H), 7.79 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.58 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.21-2.10 (m, 1H), 1.92 – 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.49 – 1.15 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

$C_{16}H_{18}N_3O_2Br$, Calculated [364.24], found $[M+H^+]$, Br pattern 364-366, RT= 1.67 (method f).

<u>Example 19: 2-(5-Bromo-2,3-dihydro-indol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide</u>



2-Bromo-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

2-Bromopentanoic acid (2.17 mL, 16.57 mmol, 1eq) was dissolved in dichloroethane

(15 mL) solution was reach to 0 °C, Oxalyl chloride (2.90 mL, 33.15 mmol, 2eq) was added follow by 1 drop of DMF and reaction was stirred at room temperature for 5h. Solution was evaporated to dryness. Acyl chloride was dissolved in dichloroethane (15 mL) and slowly added to a solution of 5-bromo-2-aminopyridine (3.1g, 18.23 mmol, 1.1eq) and DIPEA (5.78 mL, 33.15 mmol, 2eq) in dichloroethane over a period of 10 minutes; reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1h. $NaHCO_3$ saturated solution was added, organic phase was collected, washed with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over Na2SO4, filtered and evaporated. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex-5%AcOEt) to give the title compound (3.3 g, 65%).

$C_{10}H_{12}Br_2N_2O$ Mass (calculated) [336]; found [M+1] =336-338 bromine pattern

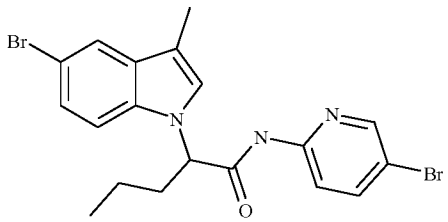
2-(5-Bromo-2,3-dihydro-indol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

2-Bromo-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide (0.13g, 0.39 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in CH_3CN (2 mL), DIPEA (0.081 mL, 0.46 mmol, 1.2 eq) and 5-bromoindoline (0.087 mL, 0.46 mmol, 1.2 eq) were added. Reaction was heated at 70°C for 16h. Acetonitrile was evaporated, the crude residue was partitioned in AcOEt (2 mL) and H_2O (2 mL), organic phase was collected, dried over Na_2SO_4, filtered and evaporated. The crude product was purified by reverse phase chromatography to give the title compound (0.021 g, 12%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 8.97 (s, 1H), 8.29 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (dd, J = 7.5, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.62 – 3.43 (m, 2H), 3.16 – 2.97 (m, 2H), 2.23 – 2.00 (m, 1H), 1.79 (m, 1H), 1.55 – 1.29 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

$C_{18}H_{19}N_3OBr_2$, Calculated [453.17], found [$M+H^+$], 2Br pattern 454, RT=2.12 (method f).

Example 20: 2-(5-Bromo-3-methyl-indol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide



2-(5-Bromo-3-methyl-indol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester

To a solution of 5-bromo-3-methyl-1H-indole (0.50 g, 2.38 mmol) in DMF (4 mL), NaH (60% in mineral oil, 0.11g, 2.85 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes. 2-Bromo-pentanoic acid ethyl ester (0.45 mL, 2.62 mmol) was added and the reaction was left stirring at room temperature overnight. Saturated NaCl solution was added and the mixture was extracted with DCM. The organic phase was collected, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex/AcOEt 80/20) to afford the title compound (0.35 g, 46%).

$C_{16}H_{20}BrNO_2$ Mass (calculated) [338]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 340$.

2-(5-Bromo-3-methyl-indol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

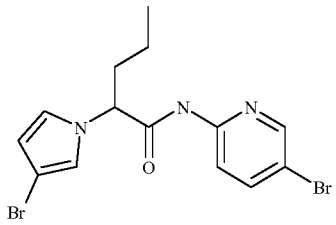
The title compound was obtained following general procedure F1 for amide coupling and starting from 2-(5-bromo-3-methyl-indol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester and 5-bromo-pyridin-2-ylamine (0.08 g, 34%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.20 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.76 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 7.32 (dd, J = 8.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 4.90 (dd, J = 10.7, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 2.48 – 2.36 (m, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.23 – 2.07 (m, 1H), 1.33 – 1.12 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

$C_{19}H_{19}Br_2N_3O$, Calculated [465.18], found [$M+H^+$], 2Br pattern, 466, RT=5.38 (method c).

Example 21: 2-(3-Bromo-pyrrol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-

amide



2-(3-Bromo-pyrrol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester

To a solution of 3-bromo-1-triisopropylsilanyl-1H-pyrrole (1.10g, 3.64 mmol) in THF (11 mL), a solution of tetrabutyl ammonium fluoride in THF (1M, 3.82 mL, 3.82 mmol) was added and reaction was stirred for 10 minutes at room temperature. 5 mL of diethyl ether were added and the mixture was washed with 10 mL of H_2O. The organic phase was collected, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure, obtaining 3-bromo-1H-pyrrole that was used without further purification. To a suspension of NaH (60% in mineral oil, 0.10 g, 4.11 mL) in THF (9 mL), under nitrogen atmosphere, a solution of 3-bromo-1H-pyrrole (0.50 g, 3.46 mmol) was added and the mixture was left stirring at room temperature for 1 hour. Then the reaction was cooled down to 0°C and a solution of 2-bromo-pentanoic acid ethyl ester (0.86 g, 4.11 mmol) in DMF (9 mL) was added. The reaction was allowed to warm up to room temperature and was left stirring for 3 hours. Then H_2O was added (10 mL) and the mixture was extracted with AcOEt (10 mL), the organic phase was collected, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex/AcOEt 95/5) to afford the title compound (0.45 g, 60%).

$C_{11}H_{16}BrNO_2$ Mass (calculated) [274]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 276$

2-(3-Bromo-pyrrol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

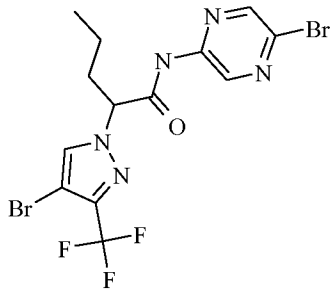
The title compound was obtained following the general procedure F1 for amide coupling and starting from 2-(3-bromo-pyrrol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester and 5-bromo-pyridin-2-ylamine (0.06 g, 32%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 11.00 (s, 1H), 8.45 (t, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.04 – 7.98 (m, 2H), 6.97 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (t, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (dd, J = 2.7, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.91

(dd, J = 8.9, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.06 – 1.85 (m, 2H), 1.22 – 1.08 (m, 2H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

$C_{14}H_{15}Br_2N_3O$, Calculated [401.10], found [M+H$^+$], 2Br pattern, 402, RT=1.87 (method f).

Example 22: 2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide



2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester

A suspension of 4-bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazole (0.74 g, 3.44 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (0.95 g, 6.88 mmol) in acetone (16 mL) was heated at 55°C for 10 minutes and then was allowed to cool down to room temperature. 2-Bromo-pentanoic acid ethyl ester (0.79 g, 3.78 mmol) was the added and the mixture was heated at 55°C for 18 hours. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was suspended in DCM and washed with H_2O. The organic phase was collected, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the title compound (1.38 g, quant.).

$C_{11}H_{14}BrF_3N_2O_2$ Mass (calculated) [343]; (found) [M+H]$^+$ = 345

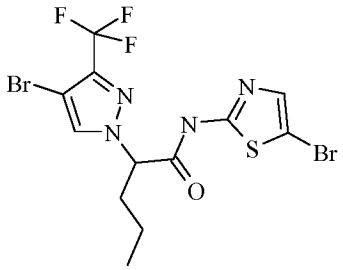
2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide

The title compound was prepared following general procedure F1 for amide coupling and starting from 2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester and 5-bromo-pyrazin-2-ylamine (0.02 g, 15%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 9.26 (s, 1H), 8.79 (s, 1H), 8.38 (s, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 4.92 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (q, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.43 – 1.23 (m, 2H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.5 Hz 3H). $C_{13}H_{12}Br_2F_3N_5O$, Calculated [471.07], found [M+H$^+$], 2Br pattern, 472.

RT=1.81 (method f).

Example 23: 2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-amide



2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid

The title compound was prepared following general procedure D3 for ester hydrolysis and starting form 2-[4-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl]-pentanoic acid ethyl ester (0.50 g, quant.).

$C_9H_{10}BrF_3N_2O_2$ Mass (calculated) [316]; (found) $[M+H]^+ = 318$

2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-amide

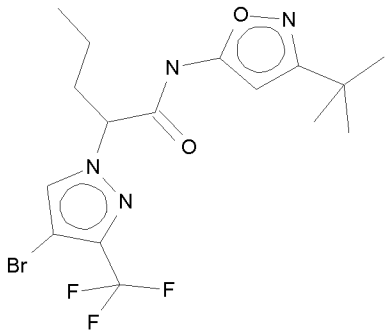
To a solution of triphenylphosphine (0.20 g, 0.76 mmol) in DCM (2ml) cooled at 0°C, N-bromosuccinimide (0.14 g; 0.76 mmol) was added and the mixture left at 0°C for 30 minutes. 2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (0.15 g, 0.48 mmol) was added and the reaction was allowed to warm up to room temperature and lest stirring for 45 minutes. 5-Bromo-thiazol-2-ylamine (0.31 g, 1.19 mmol) was added and the mixture was left stirring for 18 hours at room temperature. The mixture was washed with 1N HCl solution and $NaHCO_3$ saturated solution. The organic phase was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex/AcOEt 3/1), to afford the title compound (0.07 g, 40%).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 10.41 (s, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 4.98 (dd, J = 8.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.32 – 2.14 (m, 2H), 1.46 – 1.20 (m, 2H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

$C_{12}H_{11}Br_2F_3N_4OS$, Calculated [476.11], found $[M+H^+]$, 2Br pattern, 477 RT=1.90

(method f).

EXAMPLE 24: 2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (3-tert-butyl-isoxazol-5-yl)-amide

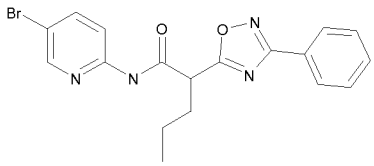


The title compound was obtained following general procedure E1 for amide coupling and starting from 2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid and 3-tert-Butyl-isoxazol-5-ylamine (0.02 g, 15%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 9.15 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 6.29 (s, 1H), 4.94 – 4.85 (m, 1H), 2.29 – 2.14 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.23 (m, 11H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

$C_{16}H_{20}N_4O_2F_3Br$, Calculated [437.25], found [M+H$^+$], Br pattern, 437-439, RT=1.90 (method f).

EXAMPLE 25: 2-(3-Phenyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide



2-(3-Phenyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester

Diethyl propyl malonate (1.0 g, 4.95 mmol, 1 eq) and N-hydroxy-benzamidine (0.337 g, 2.48 mmol, 0.5 eq) were mixed in a pressure tube and heated at 140°C for 24h. After cooling reaction, the crude residue was dissolved in AcOEt (5 mL) and purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex-50%AcOEt) to give the title compound (0.35g, 50%).

$C_{15}H_{18}N_2O_3$Mass (calculated) [274.32]; (found) [M+H]$^+$ = 275.25

2-(3-Phenyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)-pentanoic acid

The title compound was obtained following general procedure D3 for ester hydrolysis and starting from 2-(3-Phenyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester, the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex 20%AcOEt) to give the title compound (0.11 g, 30%).

$C_{13}H_{14}N_2O_3$Mass (calculated) [246.27]; (found) $[M-H]^-$ = 245.3

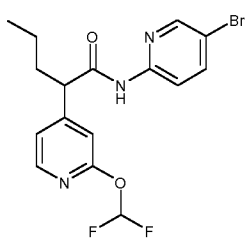
2-(3-Phenyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

2-(3-Phenyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)-pentanoic acid (0.11 g, 0.44 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in DCM (2 mL), CDI (0.798 g, 0.49 mmol, 1.1 eq) was added and reaction was stirred for 1h at room temperature. 5-Bromo-2-aminopyridine (0.77 g, 0.44 mmol, 1 eq) was added and reaction was stirred for 16h. NaOH 1N solution in H_2O (2 mL) was added; organic phase was collected, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under vacuo. The crude product was purified by preparative HPLC to give the title compound (0.031 g, 20%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 9.35 (s, 1H), 8.37 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.20 – 8.06 (m, 3H), 7.82 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.48 (m, 3H), 4.13 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.35 – 2.16 (m, 2H), 1.52-1.38 (m, 2H), 0.99 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

$C_{18}H_{17}N_4O_2Br$, Calculated [401.26], found $[M+H^+]$, Br pattern 401-403, RT= 1.88 (method f).

<u>EXAMPLE 26: 2-(2-Difluoromethoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide</u>



2-(2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester

2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester (1.0 g, 4.2 mmol, 1.0 eq.)

was dissolved in acetonitrile (12 mL) at 20°C and iodo-trimethylsilane (1.26 mL, 8.8 mmol, 2.1 eq.) was added dropwise. The mixture was heated to 80°C for 12 h and then cooled at room temperature. The solvent was concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (AcOEt: cHex 1:9) to afford the title compound (0.6 g, 58%).

$C_{12}H_{17}NO_3$ mass (calculated) [222]; (found) $[M+H]^+$ = 223 m/z.

2-(2-difluoromethoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester

2-(2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester (0.50 g, 2.2 mmol, 1.0 eq.) was dissolved in CH_3CN (10 mL) at 20°C and sodium chloro-difluoroacetate (0.41 g, 2.7 mmol, 1.2 eq.) was added portionwise. The reaction was heated at 100°C for 12 h and then cooled to room temperature. The solvent was distilled under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (AcOEt:cHex 1:9) to give the title compound (0.26 g, 42%).

$C_{13}H_{17}F_2NO_3$ mass (calculated) [273]; (found) $[M+H]^+$ = 274 m/z.

2-(2-difluoromethoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid 5-(2-Br-pyridin-2-yl)-amide

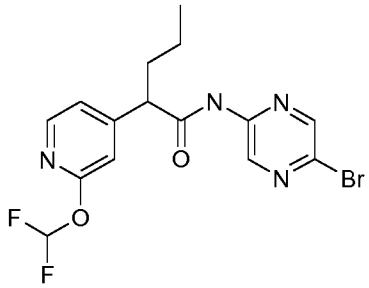
2-(2-difluoromethoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester (190 mg, 0.70 mmol, 1 eq.), 1,5,7-Triazabicyclo[4.4.0]dec-5-ene (30 mg, 0.22 mmol, 0.3 eq.) and 5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl amine (691 mg, 4 mmol, 5.7 eq.) were respectively transferred in the micro-wave tube and 2 micro-wave cycles were performed (T = 130°C; power= 230 W; t= 30 minutes). Then the reaction was cooled at room temperature and rinsed with dichloromethane. The organic solution was washed with sodium bicarbonate saturated solution and H_2O. The organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified on silica gel chromatography (AcOEt:cHex 1:5) to give the title compound (0.036 g, 13%).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 8.29 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.18 – 8.11 (m, 2H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.81 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 73.0 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 5.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.23 – 2.09 (m, 1H), 1.89 – 1.75

(m, 1H), 1.45 – 1.19 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

$C_{16}H_{16}BrF_2N_3O_2$, Calculated [400.2], found [M+H$^+$], Br pattern, 400-402, RT=2.06 (method d).

EXAMPLE 27: 2-(2-Difluoromethoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide

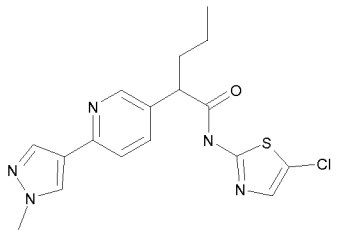


2-(2-difluoromethoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid ethyl ester (200 mg, 0.73 mmol, 1 eq.), 1,5,7-Triazabicyclo[4.4.0]dec-5-ene (30 mg, 0.22 mmol, 0.3 eq.) and 5-bromo-pyrazine-2-yl amine (690 mg, 4 mmol, 5.7 eq.) were respectively transferred in the micro-wave tube and 2 micro-wave cycles were performed (T = 130°C; power= 230 W; t= 30 minutes). Then the reaction was cooled at room temperature and rinsed with dichloromethane. The organic solution was washed with sodium bicarbonate saturated solution and H_2O. The organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified on silica gel chromatography (AcOEt:cHex 1:5) to give the title compound (0.016 g, 7%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 9.32 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 72.8 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (dd, *J* = 5.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.25 – 2.11 (m, 1H), 1.92 – 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.46 – 1.23 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

$C_{15}H_{15}N_4O_2F_2Br$, Calculated [401.21], found [M+H$^+$], Br pattern, 401-403, RT=2.17 (method e).

EXAMPLE 28: 22-[6-(1-Methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-thiazol-2-yl)-amide



2-(6-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanenitrile

The title compound was obtained starting from 2-chloropyridine-5-acetonitrile that was treated in the same conditions of general procedure B1 for alkylation (3.80 g, 58%).

2-[6-(1-Methyl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanenitrile

The title compound was synthesized following the general procedure O for Suzuki coupling starting from 2-(6-chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanenitrile and 1-methylpyrazole-4-boronic acid pinacol ester (3.80 g, 83%).

$C_{14}H_{16}N_4$Mass (calculated) [240]; found $[M+H^+]$ = 241.

2-[6-(1-Methyl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid

The starting nitrile (3.8 g, 15.6 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in HCl 6N aqueous solution (40 mL), solution was heated at 100 °C for 12h. H_2O was evaporated; the solid crude product was triturated with diethyl ether, filtered off and dried to give the title compound (3.7 g, 97%).

$C_{14}H_{17}N_3O_2$Mass (calculated) [259]; found $[M+H]^+$ = 260

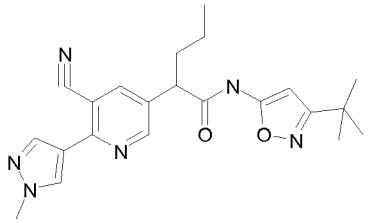
2-[6-(1-Methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-amide

The title compound was obtained following procedure E1 for amide coupling with thionyl chloride after preparative HPLC purification (0.05 g, 37%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 12.65 (s, 1H), 8.44 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 3.90 – 3.81 (m, 4H), 2.11 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.80 – 1.66 (m, 1H), 1.28 – 1.13 (m, 2H), 0.87 (t, *J* =

7.3 Hz, 3H). $C_{17}H_{18}N_5OSCl$, Calculated [375.88], found [M+H$^+$], 376, RT= 1.28 (method f).

EXAMPLE 29: 2-[5-Cyano-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (3-tert-butyl-isoxazol-5-yl)-amide



2-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was obtained by alkylation of (6-chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acid tert-butyl ester was performed following the general procedure B1 (0.60 g, 60%). $C_{15}H_{19}ClN_2O_2$Mass (calculated) [294]; (found) [M+H$^+$] = 295

2-[5-Cyano-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid tert-butyl ester

The title compound was synthesized following the general procedure O for Suzuki coupling, starting from 2-(6-chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid tert-butyl ester and 1-methylpyrazole-4-boronic acid pinacol ester. The crude was purified by silica gel chromatography (cHex/AcOEt gradient) to give the title compound (0.25 g, 77%).

$C_{19}H_{24}N_4O_2$Mass (calculated) [340]; (found) [M+H$^+$] = 341.

2-[5-Cyano-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid

The title compound was synthesized following the general procedure D2 starting from 2-[5-cyano-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid tert-butyl ester (0.20 g, quant.).

$C_{15}H_{16}N_4O_2$ Mass (calculated) = [284]; found [M+H$^+$] = 285.

2-[5-Cyano-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (3-tert-butyl-isoxazol-5-yl)-amide

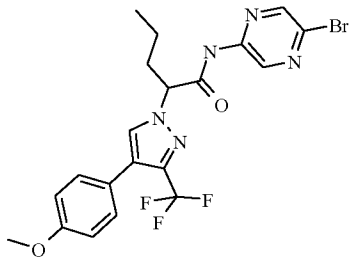
The title compound was synthesized following the general procedure E1 starting

from 2-[5-cyano-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid and 3-tert-Butyl-isoxazol-5-ylamine (0.01 g, 26%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 11.86 (s, 1H), 8.72 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.89 – 3.78 (m, 1H), 2.11 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.83 – 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.28 – 1.14 (m, 11H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

$C_{22}H_{26}N_6O_2$, Calculated [406.48], found [M+H$^+$], 407, RT=1.58 (method f).

EXAMPLE 30: 2-[4-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide



2-[4-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl]-pentanoic acid ethyl ester

The title compound was prepared following general procedure O for Suzuki coupling and starting from 4-bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazole and 4-methoxyphenyl boronic acid, after purification by silica gel chromatography (cHex/AcOEt 3/1) (0.09 g, 28%).

$C_{18}H_{21}F_3N_2O_3$ Mass (calculated) [370]; (found) [M+H]$^+$ = 372

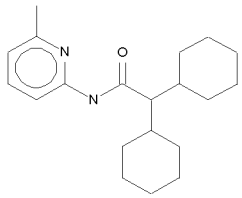
2-[4-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide

The title compound was prepared following general procedure F1 for amide coupling and starting from 2-[4-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl]-pentanoic acid ethyl ester and 5-bromo-pyrazin-2-ylamine (0.01g, 6%).

^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d3) δ 9.29 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 9.21 (s, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.93 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.38 – 2.23 (m, 2H), 1.42 – 1.28 (m, 2H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.4

Hz, 3H). $C_{20}H_{19}BrF_3N_5O_2$, Calculated [498.30], found [M-H$^+$], Br pattern, 496-498, RT=1.87 (method f).

EXAMPLE 31: 2,2-Dicyclohexyl-N-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-acetamide



The title compound was prepared following general procedure for E1 amide coupling and starting from commercially available dicyclohexyl-acetic acid and N-(3-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amine (0.031 g, 8%).

1H NMR (400 MHz, cdcl3) δ 8.08 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.63 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.93 – 1.56 (m, 12H), 1.37 – 1.08 (m, 9H), 1.07 – 0.90 (m, 2H).

$C_{20}H_{30}N_2O$, Calculated [314,465], found [M+H$^+$] 315, RT=5.2 (method c).

Examples 32-151 listed in table 1 below were made according to the method of column 3 and characterised by NMR (data not shown), and HPLC-MS (columns 5, 6, 7 and 8)

Table

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
32	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	368.66	1.71	370	96	f
33	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	414.10	1.63	415	100	f
34	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	427.13	1.87	428	90	f
35	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-thiazol-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	374.68	1.73	376	97	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
36	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (6-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	352.20	1.95	354	97	e
37	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (6-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	413.11	2.16	413	93	e
38	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (3-tert-butyl-isoxazol-5-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	380.28	2.19	382	100	e
39	2-(6-Bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	397.33	2.09	399	100	e

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
40	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-fluoro-thiazol-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	358.23	1.58	359	98	f
41	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-4-tert-butyl-thiazol-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	475.24	2.6	476	98	e
42	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-4-methyl-thiazol-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	433.16	1.82	434	98	f
43	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-3-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	427.13	1.86	428	98	e

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
44	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	419.14	2.15	420	95	e
45	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-6-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	431.10	1.82	432	97	f
46	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-tert-butyl-isoxazol-3-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	380.28	1.8	382	100	f
47	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	402.21	1.77	404	97	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
48	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-4,6-dimethyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	441.16	1.94	442	100	f
49	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-4-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	427.13	1.82	428	100	f
50	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	369.64	1.59	371	100	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
51	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (3-trifluoromethyl-isoxazol-5-yl)-amide	As in Example 1	392.17	1.76	394	95	f
52	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-2-fluoro-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 10	386.65	2.07	387	100	d
53	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-2-fluoro-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 10	432.09	1.93	433	100	d
54	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-2-fluoro-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 10	445.12	2.51	446	95	e

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
55	2-(6-Bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 12	413.11	1.81	414	95	f
56	2-(6-Bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 12	419.14	1.76	420	95	f
57	2-(2-Bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 13	414.10	1.64	415	95	f
58	2-(2-Bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 13	368.66	1.69	370	100	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
59	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 13	352.20	1.55	354	100	f
60	2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 15	370.27	1.66	372	100	f
61	2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 15	365.23	1.88	365	97	e
62	2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (3-tert-butyl-isoxazol-5-yl)-amide	As in Example 15	331.41	2.07	332	94	e

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
63	2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 15	378.26	2.23	378	95	e
64	2-(6-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 16	324.20	1.68	324	95	f
65	2-(6-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 16	325.19	1.85	325	95	e
66	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-N-(5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-3-(5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2-yl)-propionamide	As in Example 17	520.10	1.73	521	100	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
67	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-N-(5-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-3-(5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2-yl)-propionamide	As in Example 17	458.20	1.67	458	100	f
68	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-N-(5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-3-(5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2-yl)-propionamide	As in Example 17	474.66	1.78	474	100	f
69	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-N-(5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-3-(5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2-yl)-propionamide	As in Example 17	475.65	1.7	475	100	f
70	2-(6-Methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 18	370.27	1.67	372	100	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
71	2-(2-Methyl-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 18	354.27	1.07	356	95	f
72	2-(3-Trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 19	391.19	1.77	393	100	f
73	2-(4-Bromo-5-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 19	484.11	2	485	100	f
74	2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 19	470.08	1.91	471	95	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
75	2-(4-Bromo-3-cyano-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 19	427.09	1.74	428	100	f
76	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-hexanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 2	427.13	1.85	428	100	f
77	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-hexanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 2	382.68	1.81	384	100	f
78	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-hexanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 2	428.12	1.2	429	100	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
79	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-hexanoic acid (3-tert-butyl-isoxazol-5-yl)-amide	As in Example 2	394.31	1.86	396	100	f
80	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-hexanoic acid (5-bromo-6-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 2	445.12	1.92	446	100	f
81	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-5-phenyl-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 2	445.74	1.81	446	98	f
82	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-5-phenyl-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 2	489.20	1.91	489	90	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
83	2-(5-Bromo-3-methyl-indol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 20	420.73	5.28	421	95	c
84	2-(5-Bromo-3-methyl-indol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 20	404.28	4.95	406	100	c
85	2-(5-Bromo-indazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 20	407.69	4.73	409	95	c
86	2-(5-Bromo-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 20	407.69	4.81	409	97	c

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
87	2-(5-Bromo-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 20	391.24	4.35	393	100	c
88	2-(3-Bromo-pyrrol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 21	356.65	1.84	358	100	f
89	2-(3-Bromo-pyrrol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 21	402.08	1.78	403	100	f
90	2-(4-[4-methoxy-phenyl]-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 22	371.66	1.81	373	93	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
91	2-(4-Bromo-3-methyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 22	417.10	1.74	418	100	f
92	2-(4-Bromo-imidazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 22	402.08	1.79	402	100	f
93	2-(4-Bromo-imidazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 22	416.11	1.93	417	100	e

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
94	2-[3-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-pyrazol-1-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 22	430.30	1.79	432	100	f
95	2-(4-Bromo-3-tert-butyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 22	459.18	2.09	460	91	f
96	2-(4-Bromo-3-cyano-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 22	428.08	1.67	427	100	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
97	2-(4-Bromo-3-propyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 22	445.15	1.97	444	98	f
98	2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (6-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 22	409.18	1.79	409	100	f
99	2-(4-Chloro-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 22	426.62	1.8	428	92	f
100	2-(4-Chloro-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 22	382.17	1.78	382	97	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
101	2-(4-Chloro-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 22	425.63	1.88	427	98	f
102	2-(4-Chloro-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 22	381.18	1.85	381	95	f
103	2-(3-Bromo-pyrrol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (3-tert-butyl-isoxazol-5-yl)-amide	As in Example 23	368.27	1.83	370	100	f
104	2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 23	426.62	1.82	428	100	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
105	2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 23	409.18	1.76	411	100	f
106	1-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 23	468.07	1.87	469	98	f
107	1-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 23	423.62	1.84	425	100	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
108	1-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 23	424.60	1.75	426	100	f
109	1-(4-Chloro-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 23	424.60	1.77	424	95	f
110	1-(4-Chloro-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 23	423.62	1.86	425	98	f
111	1-(4-Chloro-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 23	379.16	1.83	379	98	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
112	1-(4-Bromo-3-cyano-pyrazol-1-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 23	425.08	1.69	424	95	f
113	2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 23	425.63	1.86	427	100	f
114	2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (6-chloro-pyrimidin-4-yl)-amide	As in Example 23	426.62	1.78	428	98	f
115	1-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 23	469.05	1.78	468	95	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
116	1-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 23	407.16	1.73	409	95	f
117	2-[6-(1-Methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 28	428.33	1.4	430	99	f
118	2-[5-Cyano-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 29	440.30	1.48	442	90	f
119	2-[5-Fluoro-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 29	388.83	1.46	389	95	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
120	2-[5-Fluoro-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 29	387.84	1.54	388	98	f
121	2-[5-Cyano-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 29	395.85	1.44	396	90	f
122	2-[5-Cyano-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 29	378.40	1.4	379	95	f
123	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-methyl-butyramide	As in Example 3	413.11	1.9	414	100	d

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
124	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-N-(5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-3-methyl-butyramide	As in Example 3	368.66	1.85	369	95	d
125	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-N-(5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)3-methyl-butyramide	As in Example 3	414.10	1.77	415	100	d
126	N-(5-Bromo-3-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-2-(5-bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-3-methyl-butyramide	As in Example 3	427.13	1.83	428	96	e
127	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-N-(5-chloro-thiazol-2-yl)-3-methyl-butyramide	As in Example 3	374.68	1.7	376	100	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
128	N-(5-Bromo-3-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-2-(5-bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-3-methyl-butyramide	As in Example 3	431.10	1.5	432	97	f
129	2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-N-(3-tert-butyl-isoxazol-5-yl)-3-methyl-butyramide	As in Example 3	380.28	1.78	382	100	f
130	N-(5-Bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-2,2-dicyclohexyl-acetamide	As in Example 31	380.32	2.52	380-382	97	d
131	N-(5-Bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-2,2-dicyclohexyl-acetamide	As in Example 31	385.36	2.6	385-387	96	d

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
132	2,2-Dicyclohexyl-N-(5-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-acetamide	As in Example 31	318.43	2.42	319	100	d
133	1-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 4	412.08	1.5	413	93	f
134	1-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amid	As in Example 4	366.64	1.57	366	100	f
135	1-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclopentanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 5	425.12	1.71	426	90	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
136	1-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 6	367.63	1.46	367	100	f
137	1-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 6	366.64	1.57	364	95	f
138	2-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 8	394.65	1.63	394	100	f
139	2-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 8	393.67	1.72	393	100	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
140	2-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 8	349.21	1.69	349	100	f
141	2-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)amide	As in Example 9	369.64	1.83	369	95	f
142	2-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 9	325.19	1.58	323	95	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
143	2-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 9	368.66	1.68	368	100	f
144	2-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 9	324.20	1.65	324	100	f
145	2-(6-Chloro-5-methyl-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 9	339.22	1.65	339	95	f

(continued)

Example	Name	Synthesis method	Expected MW	Retention time (min)	Found MW (M+1)	Purity	Analytical method
146	2-(6-Chloro-5-methyl-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 9	383.67	1.68	383	100	f
147	2-(6-Chloro-5-methyl-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 9	338.23	1.72	338	100	f
148	2-(6-Chloro-5-methyl-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 9	382.68	1.76	383	100	f
149	2-(2-Chloro-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 9	369.64	1.58	371	100	f
150	2-(2-Chloro-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 9	324.20	1.64	324	100	f
151	2-(2-Chloro-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	As in Example 9	368.66	1.67	368	100	f

BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

Examples 1-151 were tested in the above described cellular against CHO-S1P3 R1 cells, and show IC50 values ranging from 19 nM to 590 nM.

Example 33 was tested in the in vivo assays above described, at doses ranging 10 to 60 mg/kg showing anti-neuroinflammatory and neuroprotective activity (as et out in Figs 1-3) and improved cognitive functions (as set out in Fig 4).

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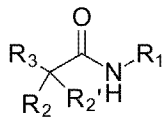
CLAIMS

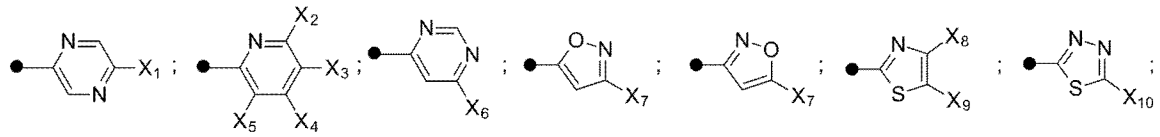
1. A compound of formula (A),



(A)

wherein

●—R_1 is



X_1, X_6, X_7, X_9 and X_{10} are halogen, C_1-C_4 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms;

X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5 and X_8, are hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms;

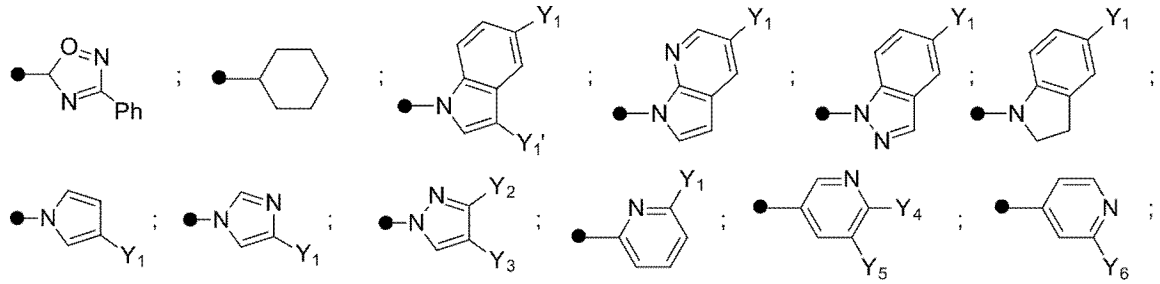
with the proviso that at least one of X_2, X_3, X_4, and X_5 is not hydrogen

R_2 is a C_3-C_6 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl, with one or more fluorine atoms or with trifluoromethyl-furanyl;

R_2' is hydrogen, F, C_1-C_3 linear or branched alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms;

or R_2 and R_2' together with the carbon atom they are attached to form a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl ring;

●—R_3 is



Y_1 is halogen;

Y_1' is C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more

fluorine atoms;

Y_2 is cyano or methoxyphenyl, C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms;

Y_3 is hydrogen, halogen or methoxyphenyl;

Y_4 is hydrogen, halogen, N-methylpyrazolyl or a C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkoxy optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms,

Y_5 is hydrogen halogen, cyano, or a C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms;

with the proviso that at least one of Y_4 and Y_5 is not hydrogen;

Y_6 is halogen, C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, or a C_1-C_3 linear branched or cyclic alkoxy optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms;

enantiomers, enantiomerically enriched mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1 wherein

X_1 is halogen;

X_2 is hydrogen, halogen or methyl;

X_3 is hydrogen, halogen or trifluoromethyl;

X_4 is hydrogen or methyl;

X_5 is hydrogen or halogen;

X_6 is halogen;

with the proviso that at least one of X_2, X_3, X_4, and X_5 is not hydrogen;

X_7 is *t*-butyl or trifluoromethyl, preferably *t*-butyl;

X_8 is hydrogen, methyl or *t*-butyl;

X_9 is halogen;

X_{10} is *t*-butyl;

R_2 is *n*-propyl, 3-phenyl-*n*-propyl, i-propyl, *n*-butyl, cyclohexyl, (5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2yl)-methyl;

R_2' is hydrogen, F, methyl;

or R_2 and R_2' together with the carbon atom they are attached to form a cyclobutyl or cyclopentyl group;

Y_1 is halogen;

Y_1' is methyl;

Y_2 is methyl, *n*-propyl, cyano, trifluoromethyl or 4-methoxyphenyl;

Y_3 is hydrogen, halogen, or 4-methoxyphenyl;

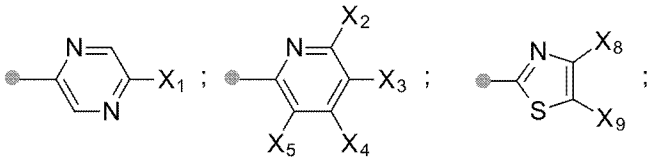
Y_4 is hydrogen, halogen, methoxy or 1-methyl-pyrazol-4-yl;

Y_5 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano or methyl;

with the proviso that at least one of Y_4 and Y_5 is not hydrogen;

Y_6 halogen, methoxy or difluoromethoxy.

3. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein ●—R_1 is selected from



and wherein R_2, R_2',R_3, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_8, X_9, Y_1,Y_1',Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are as defined in claims 1 or 2.

4. The compound of claim 3, which is selected from the group consisting of

1-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(6-Chloro-5-fluoro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(6-Bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(2-Bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(6-Methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(2-Difluoromethoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-[6-(1-Methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-thiazol-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-3-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-6-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-2-fluoro-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide ;

2-(2-Bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(2-Bromo-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-amide;

2-(2-Methoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(4-Bromo-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(4-Bromo-3-cyano-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-hexanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(4-[4-methoxy-phenyl]-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(4-Bromo-3-methyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(4-Bromo-imidazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

2-[3-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-pyrazol-1-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(4-Bromo-3-cyano-pyrazol-1-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-[5-Fluoro-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-[5-Cyano-6-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-N-(5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)3-methyl-butyramide;

N-(5-Bromo-3-fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-2-(5-bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-3-methyl-butyramide;

N-(5-Bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-2,2-dicyclohexyl-acetamide;

1-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

1-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(6-Chloro-5-cyano-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

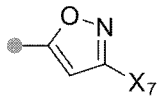
2-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)amide;

2-(5-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

2-(6-Chloro-5-methyl-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide;

and 2-(2-Chloro-pyridin-4-yl)-pentanoic acid (5-bromo-pyrazin-2-yl)-amide.

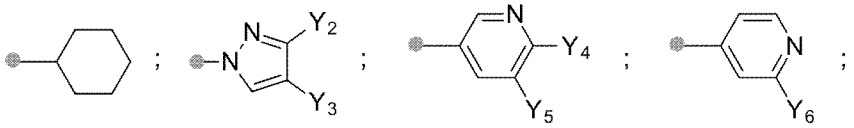
5. The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein ●—R_1 is



and wherein R_2, R_2',R_3, X_7, Y_1, Y_1',Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are as defined in claims 1 or 2.

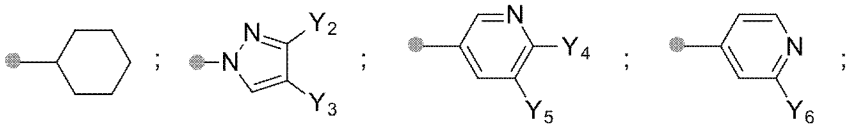
6. The compound of claim 5, which is selected from the group consisting of 2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-pentanoic acid (3-tert-butyl-isoxazol-5-yl)-amide and 2-(5-Bromo-pyridin-3-yl)-hexanoic acid (3-tert-butyl-isoxazol-5-yl)-amide.

7. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein ●—R_3 is selected from



and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2', X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are as defined in claims 1 or 2.

8. The compound of claim 3 or 5, wherein ●—R_3 is selected from



and wherein R_1, R_2, R_2', X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 and Y_6 are as defined in claims 3 or 5.

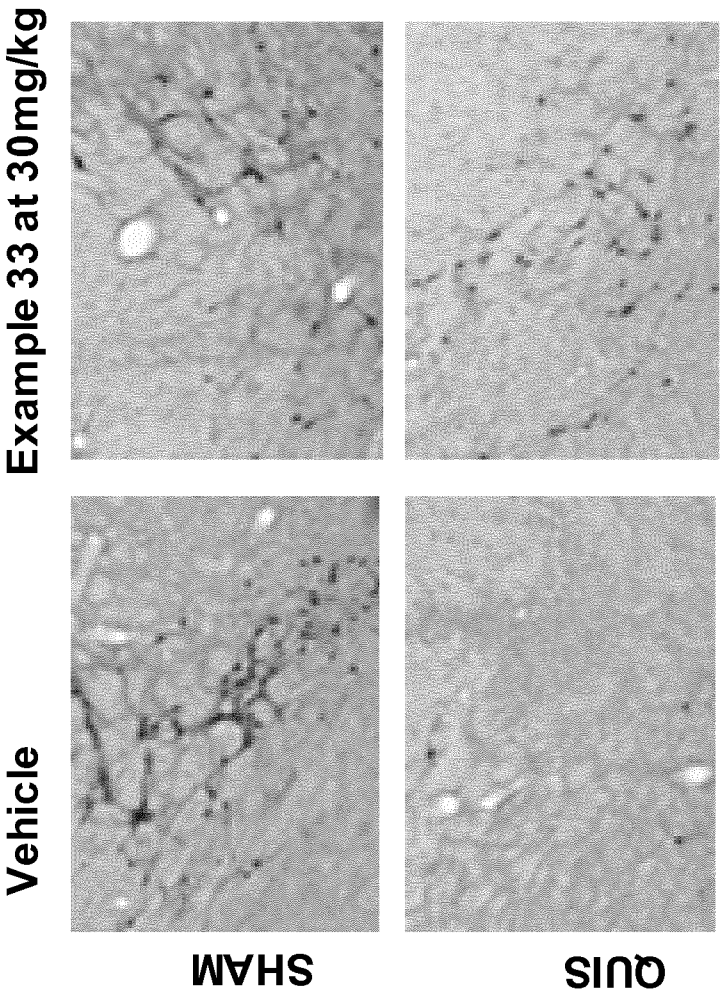
9. A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound according to claims 1-8.

10. The compound of claims 1-8 for use as medicaments.

11. The compound of claim 10 for use in the treatment of arthritis, fibrosis, inflammatory syndromes, atherosclerosis, vascular diseases, asthma, bradycardia, acute lung injury, lung inflammation, cancer, ocular hypertension, glaucoma, neuroinflammatory diseases, neurodegenerative diseases, Sandhoff's disease, kidney ischemia–reperfusion injury, pain, diabetic heart disease.

12. The compound of claim 10 for use in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Huntington's disease and Multiple Sclerosis.

13. The compounds of claim 10 for use in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.


Example 33 at 30mg/kg
Vehicle
SHAM
QUIS

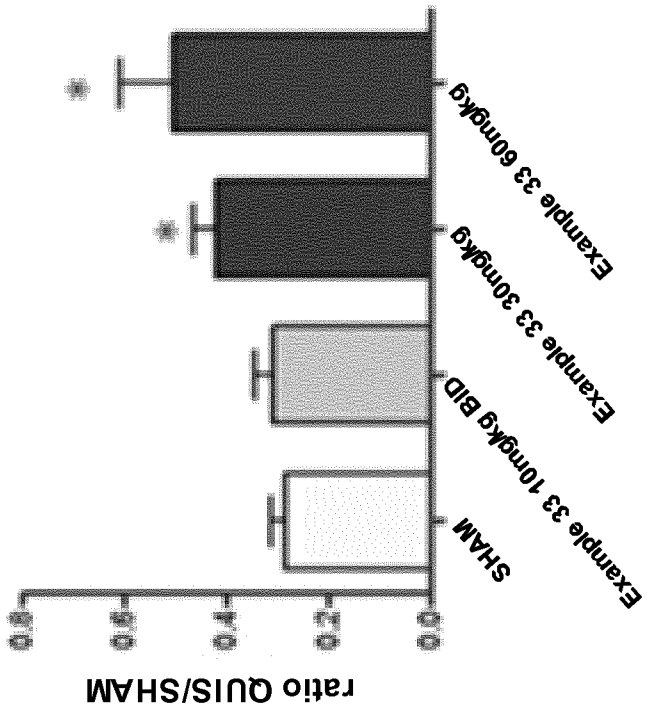

ratio QUIS/SHAM
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
SHAM
Example 33 10mg/kg BID
Example 33 30mg/kg
Example 33 60mg/kg
*
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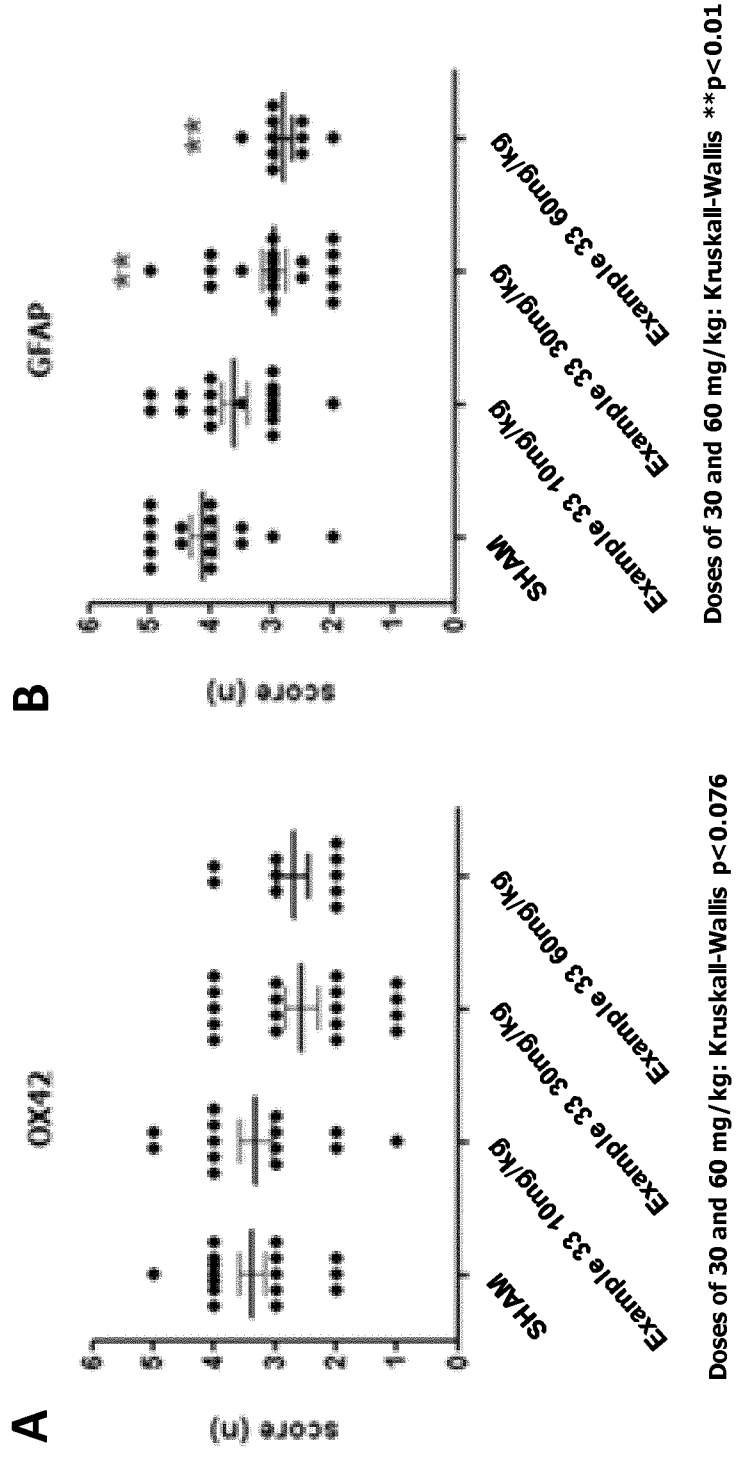
Figure 1


A
OX42
score (n)
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1
2
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SHAM
Example 33 10mg/kg
Example 33 30mg/kg
Example 33 60mg/kg
Doses of 30 and 60 mg/kg: Kruskall-Wallis p<0.076
B
GFAP
score (n)
**
**
SHAM
Example 33 10mg/kg
Example 33 30mg/kg
Example 33 60mg/kg
Doses of 30 and 60 mg/kg: Kruskall-Wallis **p<0.01

Figure 2

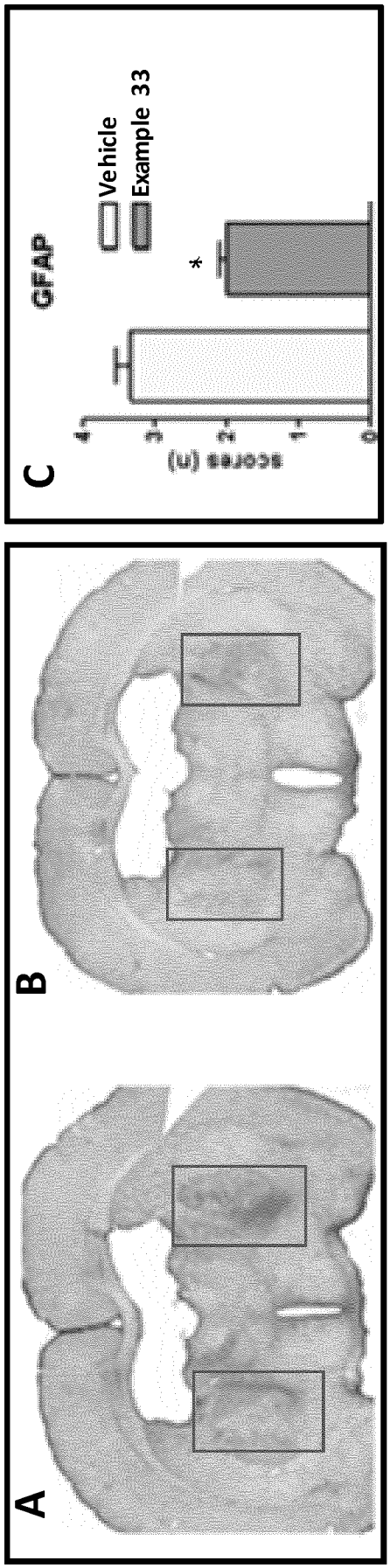
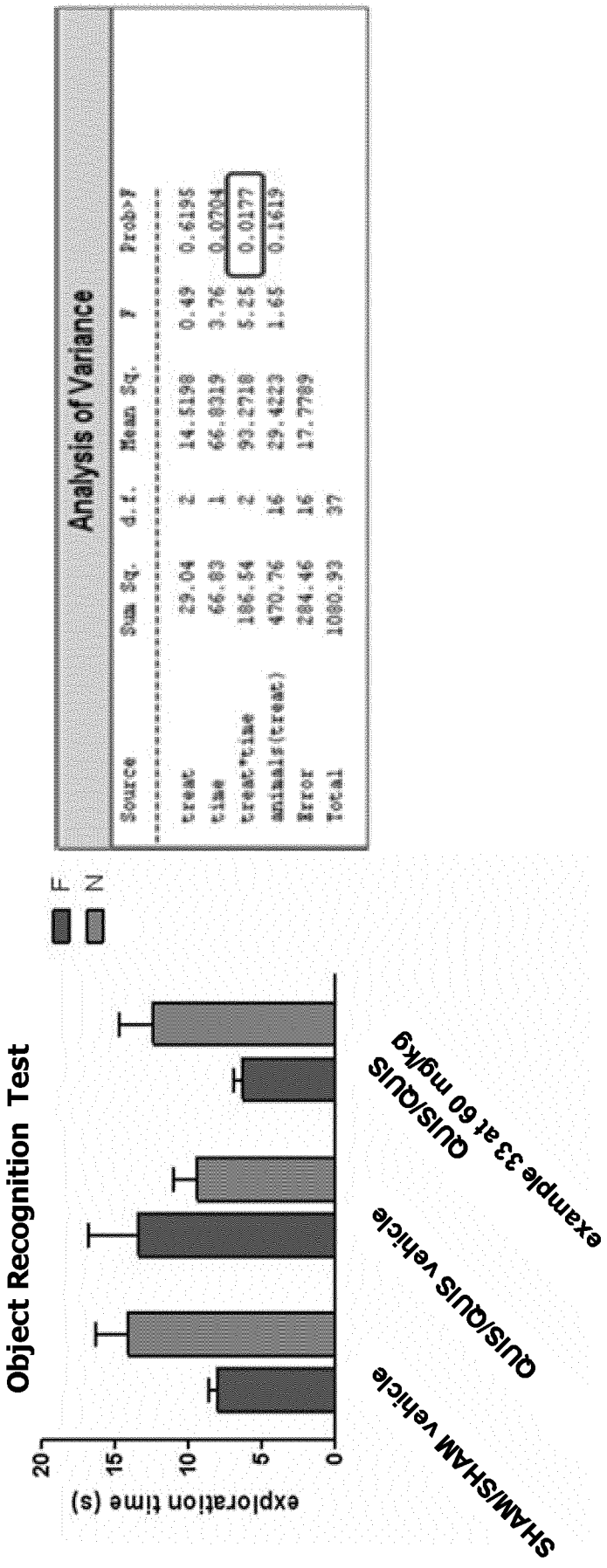


Figure 3



Analysis of Variance

Source	Sum Sq.	d.f.	Mean Sq.	F	Prob>F
treat	29.04	2	14.5198	0.49	0.6195
time	66.83	1	66.8319	3.76	0.0704
treat*time	186.54	2	93.2718	5.25	0.0177
animals(treat)	470.76	16	29.4223	1.65	0.1619
Error	284.46	16	17.7789		
Total	1080.93	37			

Figure 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2014/075986

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61P25/28 A61K31/444 C07D403/12 C07D213/75 C07D401/12
C07D413/12 C07D417/12
ADD.
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
C07D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, CHEM ABS Data, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	MIGUEL GUERRERO ET AL: "Discovery, design and synthesis of a selective S1P3 receptor allosteric agonist", BIOORGANIC & MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY LETTERS, vol. 23, no. 23, 1 December 2013 (2013-12-01), pages 6346-6349, XP055107070, ISSN: 0960-894X, DOI: 10.1016/j.bmcl.2013.09.075 the whole document -----	1-13
A	WO 2008/141013 A1 (ALLERGAN INC [US]; DONELLO JOHN E [US]; BEARD RICHARD L [US]; SCHWEIGH) 20 November 2008 (2008-11-20) the whole document -----	1-13

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

[X] See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
10 February 2015	20/02/2015

Name and mailing address of the ISA/	Authorized officer
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2014/075986

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 2011/019681 A1 (ALLERGAN INC [US]; NGUYEN PHONG X [US]; HEIDELBAUGH TODD M [US]; CHOW) 17 February 2011 (2011-02-17) table 2 -----	1-13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
PCT/EP2014/075986

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2008141013 A1	20-11-2008	US 2010249069 A1	30-09-2010
		US 2014011771 A1	09-01-2014
		WO 2008141013 A1	20-11-2008
WO 2011019681 A1	17-02-2011	AU 2010282701 A1	15-03-2012
		CA 2771083 A1	17-02-2011
		EP 2464629 A1	20-06-2012
		US 2011039866 A1	17-02-2011
		US 2012190694 A1	26-07-2012
		WO 2011019681 A1	17-02-2011