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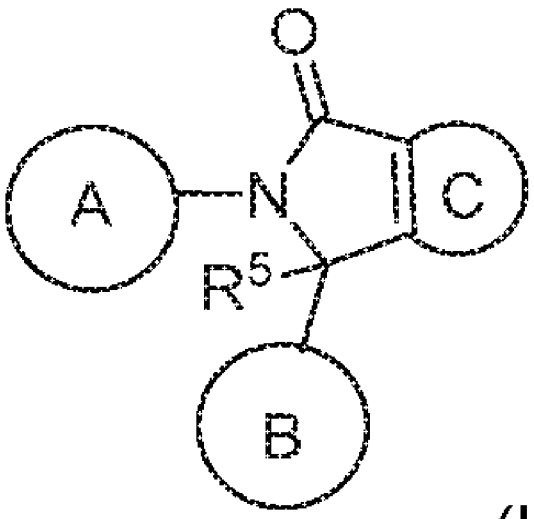
(54) Title: PYRAZOLO-PYRROLIDIN-4-ONE DERIVATIVES AS BET INHIBITORS AND THEIR USE IN THE TREATMENT OF DISEASE



(I)

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; (l) a method for manufacturing the compounds of the invention, and its therapeutic uses. The present invention further provides a combination of pharmacologically active agents and a pharmaceutical composition.

WO 2014/191906 A1

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PYRAZOLO-PYRROLIDIN-4-ONE DERIVATIVES AS BET INHIBITORS AND THEIR USE IN THE TREATMENT OF DISEASE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides pyrazolo-pyrrolidin-4-one derivatives and their use as BET inhibitors, for the treatment of conditions or diseases such as cancer.

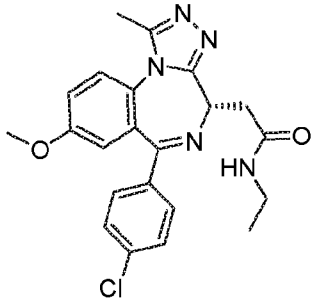
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

BET proteins are proteins encoded by either of the genes BRD2, BRD3, BRD4, or BRDT. Each of these proteins bears two N-terminal bromodomains. Bromodomains comprise of a conserved ~110 amino acid segment found in at least 42 diverse proteins that specifically interact with acetylated lysines that occur for example on histone tails (Filippakopoulos and Knapp, FEBS Letters, 586 (2012), 2692–2704). Histones are a constituent part of chromatin and their covalent modifications including lysine acetylation regulate gene transcription. Bromodomains are thus believed to regulate transcription by recruiting proteins to genes that are marked with specific patterns of lysine acetylation.

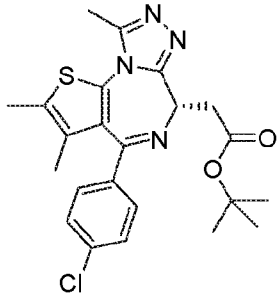
Several published reports have linked the BET protein family to diseases including cancer, metabolic disease and inflammation. Oncogenic fusions of BRD4 or BRD3 and the Nuclear protein in Testis (NUT) gene caused by chromosomal translocations are underlying an aggressive cancer named NUT midline carcinoma (French et al., J Clin Oncol, 22 (2004), 4135-9; French et al., J Clin Pathol, 63 (2008), 492-6). The BRD3/4 bromodomains are preserved in these fusion proteins, and their inhibition either by knockdown or with the selective BET bromodomain inhibitor JQ1 leads to death and/or differentiation of these cancer cells both in vitro and in animal tumour models (Filippakopoulos et al., Nature, 468 (2010), 1067-73). JQ1 and several other selective BET inhibitors have been shown to bind to BET bromodomains and thereby prevent acetyl-lysine binding, which prevents BET proteins from interacting with chromatin and thereby regulating transcription. BRD4 was also identified from an RNAi screen as a target in acute myeloid leukemia (AML) (Zuber et al., Nature, 478 (2011), 524-8). This finding was validated *in vitro* and *in vivo* using the BET inhibitor JQ1 and another selective BET inhibitor named I-BET151 that is chemically unrelated to JQ1 (Dawson et al., Nature, 478 (2011), 529-33). These and other studies showed that BET inhibitors have broad anti-cancer activity in acute leukemias, multiple myeloma and other hematological malignancies. In several cancer models an acute downregulation of the oncogenic transcription factor Myc upon BET inhibition has been observed (Delmore et al., Cell, 146 (2011), 904-17; Mertz et al., Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A, 108 (2011), 16669-74). More recent studies suggest that the therapeutic potential of BET inhibitors extends to other cancer indications, for example lung and brain cancer.

Another BET inhibitor named I-BET762 that is closely related to JQ1 in chemical structure and the manner in which it binds to BET bromodomains, was reported to modulate expression of key inflammatory genes and thereby protect against endotoxic shock and bacteria-induced sepsis in mouse models (Nicodeme et al., Nature, 468 (2010), 1119-23). This body of data has been used to support the clinical evaluation of the BET inhibitor RVX-208 in clinical trials in patients suffering from atherosclerosis, coronary artery disease, dyslipidemia, diabetes, and other cardiovascular diseases (McNeill, Curr Opin Investig Drugs, 3 (2010), 357-64 and www.clinicaltrials.gov), Both RVX-208 and I-BET762 have been shown to upregulate Apolipoprotein A-I, which is critically involved in reducing the tissue levels of cholesterol. Finally, BET proteins have been linked to propagation and transcription regulation of several viruses, and therefore it is believed that BET inhibitors could have anti-viral activity (Weidner-Glunde, Frontiers in Bioscience 15 (2010), 537-549).

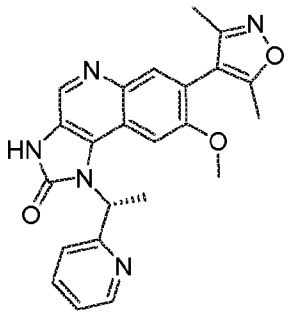
In summary, inhibitors of BET bromodomains have therapeutic potential in several human diseases.



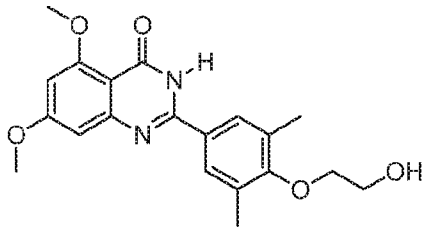
I-BET 762



JQ1



I-BET 151



RVX-208

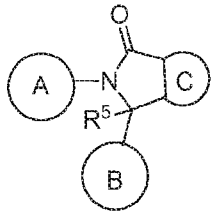
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

There remains a need for new treatments and therapies for the treatment of cancer. The invention provides compounds as BET inhibitors, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

pharmaceutical compositions thereof and combinations thereof. The invention further provides methods of treating, preventing or ameliorating cancer, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a BET inhibitor.

Various embodiments of the invention are described herein. Particularly interesting compounds of the invention have good potency in the biological assays described herein. In another aspect they should have a favourable safety profile. In another aspect, they should possess favourable pharmacokinetic properties.

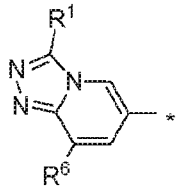
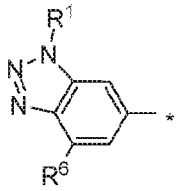
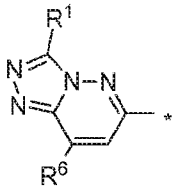
According to a first aspect of the invention, Embodiment 1, there is provided a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof,



(I)

wherein

A is selected from

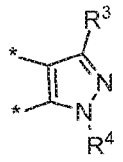




, and ;

B is

;

C is

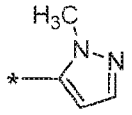


;

R^1 is methyl, optionally substituted with one or two fluoro;

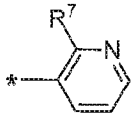
R^2 is selected from chloro and fluoro;

R^3 is selected from $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl and cyclopropyl; and R^4 is selected from $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, optionally substituted by –OH or -O-$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl; halo$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl substituted by –OH; or



or

R^3 is



; and R^4 is selected from H; $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl optionally substituted by -OH or -O-$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl; and cyclopropyl; R^5 is H;

R^6 is selected from methyl, methoxy, $–NH_2$ and –NH-C(O)-$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl

R^7 is methoxy;and * indicates the point of attachment to the remainder of the molecule.

In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to the definition of formula (I), or a salt thereof, or subformulae thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

In another embodiment, the invention provides a combination, in particular a pharmaceutical combination, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound according to the definition of formula (I), or a salt thereof, or subformulae thereof and one or more therapeutically active agents.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Described below are a number of embodiments (E) of the first aspect of the invention, where for convenience Embodiment 1 is identical thereto.

Unless specified otherwise, the term "compounds of the present invention" refers to compounds of fomula (I) and subformulae thereof, and salts thereof, as well as all stereoisomers (including diastereoisomers and enantiomers), rotamers, tautomers and isotopically labeled compounds (including deuterium substitutions), as well as inherently formed moieties.

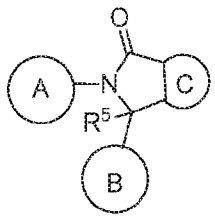
Unless specified otherwise, the term "compounds of the present invention" refers to compounds of fomula (I) and subformulae thereof, and salts thereof, as well as all stereoisomers (including diastereoisomers and enantiomers), rotamers, tautomers and isotopically labeled compounds (including deuterium substitutions), as well as inherently formed moieties.

As used herein, the term "C_{1-4}alkyl" refers to a fully saturated branched or unbranched hydrocarbon moiety having 1 to 4 carbon atoms. Representative examples of C_{1-4}alkyl include methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *iso*-propyl, *n*-butyl, *sec*-butyl, *iso*-butyl and *tert*-butyl.

Various embodiments of the invention are described herein. It will be recognized that features specified in each embodiment may be combined with other specified features to provide further embodiments of the present invention.

The invention therefore provides a compound of the formula (I) as described hereinabove as Embodiment 1.

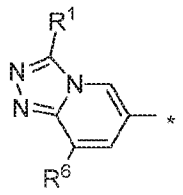
Embodiment 1.1. A compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof,

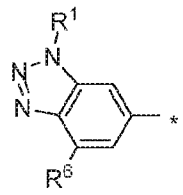


(I)

wherein

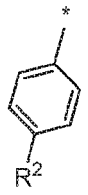
A is selected from





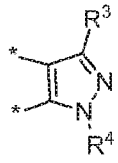
and ;

B is



;

C is



;

R^1 is methyl, optionally substituted with one or two fluoro;

R^2 is selected from chloro and fluoro;

R^3 is selected from (C_1-C_4)alkyl and cyclopropyl;

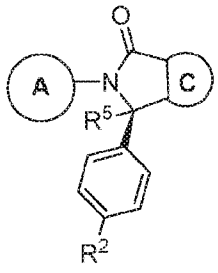
R^4 is (C_1-C_4)alkyl, optionally substituted by –OH or -O-(C_1-C_4)alkyl;

R^5 is H;

R^6 is selected from methyl and methoxy;

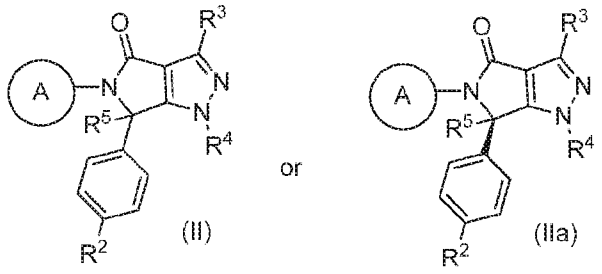
and * indicates the point of attachment to the remainder of the molecule.

Embodiment 2. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to Embodiment 1, which is of the formula (Ia):



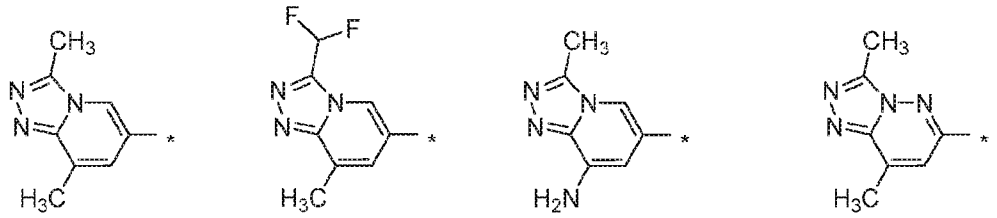
(Ia).

Embodiment 3. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to Embodiment 1 or 2, wherein the compound is of the formula (II) or (IIa):



Embodiment 4. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to any preceding Embodiment, wherein R^1 is selected from methyl and difluoromethyl.

Embodiment 5. A A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to any preceding Embodiment, wherein A is selected from



, , and ;

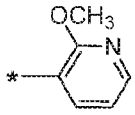
Embodiment 6. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to any preceding Embodiment, wherein R^2 is chloro.

Embodiment 7. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to any preceding Embodiment, wherein R^3 is selected from methyl, ethyl and cyclopropyl.

Embodiment 8. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to any preceding Embodiment, wherein R^3 is cyclopropyl.

Embodiment 9. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to any preceding Embodiment, wherein R^4 is methyl or $–CH_2CH_2OCH_3$.

Embodiment 10. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to Embodiment 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein R^3 is



and

R^4 is H.

Embodiment 11. A compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof, according to any one of Embodiments 1, 1.1 or 3 to 9, wherein the compound is present as the racemate of the 2 enantiomeric forms (Ia) and (Ib) disclosed herein.

Embodiment 12. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to Embodiment 1, which is selected from:

Example 1: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 2: (*R*)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 3: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 4: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

6Example 5: -(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 6: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one

Example 7: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo-[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 8: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 9: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 10: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 11: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 12: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 13: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 14: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(8-methoxy-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 15: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-(2-methoxyethyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 16: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 17: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo-[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 18: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridin-6-yl)-1-(2-methoxyethyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 19: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-((R)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxypropyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 20: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-((S)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxypropyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 21: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 22: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]triazolo-[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 23: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 24: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 25: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazin-6-yl)-1-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 26: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 27: tert-butyl (6-(6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-4-oxopyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-5(1H,4H,6H)-yl)-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-8-yl)carbamate ;

Example 28: 5-(8-amino-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ; and

Example 29: ethyl (6-(6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-4-oxopyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-5-(1H,4H,6H)-yl)-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-8-yl)carbamate .

Embodiment 13. A compound of formula (I), or a thereof, according to Embodiment 1, which is selected from:

Example 2: (*R*)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 3: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 4: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

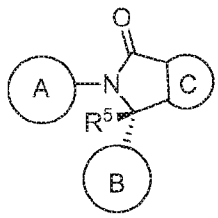
Example 7: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo-[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 11: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 24: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ; and

Example 28: 5-(8-amino-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one .

The present disclosure includes compounds of stereochemistry is as shown in formula (Ib):



(Ib).

Depending on the choice of the starting materials and procedures, the compounds can be present in the form of one of the possible isomers or as mixtures thereof, for example as pure optical isomers, or as isomer mixtures, such as racemates and diastereoisomer mixtures, depending on the number of asymmetric carbon atoms. The present invention is meant to include all such possible isomers, including racemic mixtures, diasteriomeric mixtures and optically pure forms. Optically active (*R*)- and (*S*)- isomers may be prepared using chiral synthons or chiral reagents, or resolved using conventional techniques. If the compound contains a double bond, the substituent may be E or Z configuration. If the compound contains a disubstituted cycloalkyl, the cycloalkyl substituent may have a cis- or trans-configuration. All tautomeric forms are also intended to be included.

As used herein, the terms "salt" or "salts" refers to an acid addition or base addition salt of a compound of the invention. "Salts" include in particular "pharmaceutical acceptable salts". The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" refers to salts that retain the biological effectiveness and properties of the compounds of this invention and, which typically are not biologically or otherwise undesirable. In many cases, the compounds of the present invention are capable of

forming acid and/or base salts by virtue of the presence of amino and/or carboxyl groups or groups similar thereto.

Pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts can be formed with inorganic acids and organic acids.

Inorganic acids from which salts can be derived include, for example, hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, and the like.

Organic acids from which salts can be derived include, for example, acetic acid, propionic acid, glycolic acid, oxalic acid, maleic acid, malonic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, benzoic acid, mandelic acid, methanesulfonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, toluenesulfonic acid, sulfosalicylic acid, and the like.

In another aspect, the present invention provides compounds of formula I in acetate, ascorbate, adipate, aspartate, benzoate, besylate, bromide/hydrobromide, bicarbonate/carbonate, bisulfate/sulfate, camphorsulfonate, caprate, chloride/hydrochloride, chlortheophyllonate, citrate, ethandisulfonate, fumarate, gluceptate, gluconate, glucuronate, glutamate, glutarate, glycolate, hippurate, hydroiodide/iodide, isethionate, lactate, lactobionate, laurylsulfate, malate, maleate, malonate, mandelate, mesylate, methylsulphate, mucate, naphthoate, napsylate, nicotinate, nitrate, octadecanoate, oleate, oxalate, palmitate, pamoate, phosphate/hydrogen phosphate/dihydrogen phosphate, polygalacturonate, propionate, sebacate, stearate, succinate, sulfosalicylate, sulfate, tartrate, tosylate trifenatate, trifluoroacetate or xinafoate salt form.

Any formula given herein is also intended to represent unlabeled forms as well as isotopically labeled forms of the compounds. Isotopically labeled compounds have structures depicted by the formulas given herein except that one or more atoms are replaced by an atom having a selected atomic mass or mass number. Examples of isotopes that can be incorporated into compounds of the invention include isotopes of hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorous, fluorine, and chlorine, such as ^{2}H, ^{3}H, ^{11}C, ^{13}C, ^{14}C, ^{15}N, ^{18}F ^{31}P, ^{32}P, ^{35}S, ^{36}Cl, ^{123}I, ^{124}I, ^{125}I respectively. The invention includes various isotopically labeled compounds as defined herein, for example those into which radioactive isotopes, such as ^{3}H and ^{14}C, or those into which non-radioactive isotopes, such as ^{2}H and ^{13}C are present. Such isotopically labelled compounds are useful in metabolic studies (with ^{14}C), reaction kinetic studies (with, for example ^{2}H or ^{3}H), detection or imaging techniques, such as positron emission tomography (PET) or single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) including drug or substrate tissue distribution assays, or in radioactive treatment of patients. In particular, an ^{18}F or labeled compound may be particularly desirable for PET or SPECT studies. Isotopically-labeled

compounds of formula (I) can generally be prepared by conventional techniques known to those skilled in the art or by processes analogous to those described in the accompanying Examples and Preparations using an appropriate isotopically-labeled reagents in place of the non-labeled reagent previously employed.

Further, substitution with heavier isotopes, particularly deuterium (i.e., ^2H or D) may afford certain therapeutic advantages resulting from greater metabolic stability, for example increased in vivo half-life or reduced dosage requirements or an improvement in therapeutic index. It is understood that deuterium in this context is regarded as a substituent of a compound of the formula (I). The concentration of such a heavier isotope, specifically deuterium, may be defined by the isotopic enrichment factor. The term "isotopic enrichment factor" as used herein means the ratio between the isotopic abundance and the natural abundance of a specified isotope. If a substituent in a compound of this invention is denoted deuterium, such compound has an isotopic enrichment factor for each designated deuterium atom of at least 3500 (52.5% deuterium incorporation at each designated deuterium atom), at least 4000 (60% deuterium incorporation), at least 4500 (67.5% deuterium incorporation), at least 5000 (75% deuterium incorporation), at least 5500 (82.5% deuterium incorporation), at least 6000 (90% deuterium incorporation), at least 6333.3 (95% deuterium incorporation), at least 6466.7 (97% deuterium incorporation), at least 6600 (99% deuterium incorporation), or at least 6633.3 (99.5% deuterium incorporation).

Pharmaceutically acceptable solvates in accordance with the invention include those wherein the solvent of crystallization may be isotopically substituted, *e.g.* D_2O, d_6-acetone, d_6-DMSO.

Compounds of the invention, i.e. compounds of formula (I) that contain groups capable of acting as donors and/or acceptors for hydrogen bonds may be capable of forming co-crystals with suitable co-crystal formers. These co-crystals may be prepared from compounds of formula (I) by known co-crystal forming procedures. Such procedures include grinding, heating, co-subliming, co-melting, or contacting in solution compounds of formula (I) with the co-crystal former under crystallization conditions and isolating co-crystals thereby formed. Suitable co-crystal formers include those described in WO 2004/078163. Hence the invention further provides co-crystals comprising a compound of formula (I).

As used herein, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" includes any and all solvents, dispersion media, coatings, surfactants, antioxidants, preservatives (*e.g.*, antibacterial agents, antifungal agents), isotonic agents, absorption delaying agents, salts, preservatives, drug stabilizers, binders, excipients, disintegration agents, lubricants, sweetening agents, flavoring agents, dyes, and the like and combinations thereof, as would be known to those skilled in the art (see, for example, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th Ed. Mack Printing Company,

1990, pp. 1289- 1329). Except insofar as any conventional carrier is incompatible with the active ingredient, its use in the therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions is contemplated.

The term "a therapeutically effective amount" of a compound of the present invention refers to an amount of the compound of the present invention that will elicit the biological or medical response of a subject, for example, reduction or inhibition of an enzyme or a protein activity, or ameliorate symptoms, alleviate conditions, slow or delay disease progression, or prevent a disease, etc. In one non-limiting embodiment, the term "a therapeutically effective amount" refers to the amount of the compound of the present invention that, when administered to a subject, is effective to (1) at least partially alleviate, inhibit, prevent and/or ameliorate a condition, or a disorder or a disease (i) mediated by BET proteins, or (ii) associated with BET protein activity, or (iii) characterized by activity (normal or abnormal) of BET proteins; or (2) reduce or inhibit the activity of BET proteins; or (3) reduce or inhibit the expression of BET. In another non-limiting embodiment, the term "a therapeutically effective amount" refers to the amount of the compound of the present invention that, when administered to a cell, or a tissue, or a non-cellular biological material, or a medium, is effective to at least partially reducing or inhibiting the activity of BET proteins; or at least partially reducing or inhibiting the expression of BET proteins.

A "BET protein" is a protein encoded by either of the genes BRD2, BRD3, BRD4, or BRDT". Unless indicated otherwise "BET proteins" or "BET protein" are used herein in the singular and plural forms interchangeably, and the use of either is not limiting. Unless indicated otherwise "BET proteins" includes all, or any combination of, such encoded proteins.

As used herein, the term "subject" refers to an animal. Typically the animal is a mammal. A subject also refers to for example, primates (*e.g.*, humans, male or female), cows, sheep, goats, horses, dogs, cats, rabbits, rats, mice, fish, birds and the like. In certain embodiments, the subject is a primate. In yet other embodiments, the subject is a human.

As used herein, the term "inhibit", "inhibition" or "inhibiting" refers to the reduction or suppression of a given condition, symptom, or disorder, or disease, or a significant decrease in the baseline activity of a biological activity or process.

As used herein, the term "treat", "treating" or "treatment" of any disease or disorder refers in one embodiment, to ameliorating the disease or disorder (i.e., slowing or arresting or reducing the development of the disease or at least one of the clinical symptoms thereof). In another embodiment "treat", "treating" or "treatment" refers to alleviating or ameliorating at least one physical parameter including those which may not be discernible by the patient. In yet another

embodiment, “treat”, "treating" or "treatment" refers to modulating the disease or disorder, either physically, (*e.g.*, stabilization of a discernible symptom), physiologically, (*e.g.*, stabilization of a physical parameter), or both. In yet another embodiment, “treat”, "treating" or "treatment" refers to preventing or delaying the onset or development or progression of the disease or disorder.

As used herein, a subject is “in need of” a treatment if such subject would benefit biologically, medically or in quality of life from such treatment.

As used herein, the term "a," "an," "the” and similar terms used in the context of the present invention (especially in the context of the claims) are to be construed to cover both the singular and plural unless otherwise indicated herein or clearly contradicted by the context.

All methods described herein can be performed in any suitable order unless otherwise indicated herein or otherwise clearly contradicted by context. The use of any and all examples, or exemplary language (*e.g.* "such as”) provided herein is intended merely to better illuminate the invention and does not pose a limitation on the scope of the invention otherwise claimed.

Any asymmetric atom (e.g., carbon or the like) of the compound(s) of the present invention can be present in racemic or enantiomerically enriched, for example the (*R*)-, (*S*)- or (*R,S*)-configuration. In certain embodiments, each asymmetric atom has at least 50 % enantiomeric excess, at least 60 % enantiomeric excess, at least 70 % enantiomeric excess, at least 80 % enantiomeric excess, at least 90 % enantiomeric excess, at least 95 % enantiomeric excess, or at least 99 % enantiomeric excess in the (*R*)- or (*S*)- configuration. Substituents at atoms with unsaturated double bonds may, if possible, be present in *cis*- (*Z*)- or *trans*- (*E*)- form.

Accordingly, as used herein a compound of the present invention can be in the form of one of the possible isomers, rotamers, atropisomers, tautomers or mixtures thereof, for example, as substantially pure geometric (*cis* or *trans*) isomers, diastereomers, optical isomers (antipodes), racemates or mixtures thereof.

Any resulting mixtures of isomers can be separated on the basis of the physicochemical differences of the constituents, into the pure or substantially pure geometric or optical isomers, diastereomers, racemates, for example, by chromatography and/or fractional crystallization.

Any resulting racemates of final products or intermediates can be resolved into the optical antipodes by known methods, *e.g.*, by separation of the diastereomeric salts thereof, obtained with an optically active acid or base, and liberating the optically active acidic or basic compound. In particular, a basic moiety may thus be employed to resolve the compounds of

the present invention into their optical antipodes, *e.g.*, by fractional crystallization of a salt formed with an optically active acid, *e.g.*, tartaric acid, dibenzoyl tartaric acid, diacetyl tartaric acid, di-*O,O'-p*-toluoyl tartaric acid, mandelic acid, malic acid or camphor-10-sulfonic acid. Racemic products can also be resolved by chiral chromatography, *e.g.*, high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) using a chiral adsorbent.

Furthermore, the compounds of the present invention, including their salts, can also be obtained in the form of their hydrates, or include other solvents used for their crystallization. The compounds of the present invention may inherently or by design form solvates with pharmaceutically acceptable solvents (including water); therefore, it is intended that the invention embrace both solvated and unsolvated forms. The term "solvate" refers to a molecular complex of a compound of the present invention (including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof) with one or more solvent molecules. Such solvent molecules are those commonly used in the pharmaceutical art, which are known to be innocuous to the recipient, e.g., water, ethanol, and the like. The term "hydrate" refers to the complex where the solvent molecule is water.

The compounds of the present invention, including salts, hydrates and solvates thereof, may inherently or by design form polymorphs.

COMPOSITIONS:

In another aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the present invention, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In a further embodiment, the composition comprises at least two pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, such as those described herein. For purposes of the present invention, unless designated otherwise, solvates and hydrates are generally considered compositions. Preferably, pharmaceutically acceptable carriers are sterile. The pharmaceutical composition can be formulated for particular routes of administration such as oral administration, parenteral administration, and rectal administration, etc. In addition, the pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can be made up in a solid form (including without limitation capsules, tablets, pills, granules, powders or suppositories), or in a liquid form (including without limitation solutions, suspensions or emulsions). The pharmaceutical compositions can be subjected to conventional pharmaceutical operations such as sterilization and/or can contain conventional inert diluents, lubricating agents, or buffering agents, as well as adjuvants, such as preservatives, stabilizers, wetting agents, emulsifiers and buffers, etc. Typically, the pharmaceutical compositions are tablets or gelatin capsules comprising the active ingredient together with one or more of:

a) diluents, *e.g.*, lactose, dextrose, sucrose, mannitol, sorbitol, cellulose and/or glycine;

b) lubricants, *e.g.*, silica, talcum, stearic acid, its magnesium or calcium salt and/or polyethyleneglycol; for tablets also

c) binders, *e.g.*, magnesium aluminum silicate, starch paste, gelatin, tragacanth, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose and/or polyvinylpyrrolidone; if desired

d) disintegrants, *e.g.*, starches, agar, alginic acid or its sodium salt, or effervescent mixtures; and

e) absorbents, colorants, flavors and sweeteners.

Tablets may be either film coated or enteric coated according to methods known in the art.

Suitable compositions for oral administration include an effective amount of a compound of the invention in the form of tablets, lozenges, aqueous or oily suspensions, dispersible powders or granules, emulsion, hard or soft capsules, or syrups or elixirs. Compositions intended for oral use are prepared according to any method known in the art for the manufacture of pharmaceutical compositions and such compositions can contain one or more agents selected from the group consisting of sweetening agents, flavoring agents, coloring agents and preserving agents in order to provide pharmaceutically elegant and palatable preparations. Tablets may contain the active ingredient in admixture with nontoxic pharmaceutically acceptable excipients which are suitable for the manufacture of tablets. These excipients are, for example, inert diluents, such as calcium carbonate, sodium carbonate, lactose, calcium phosphate or sodium phosphate; granulating and disintegrating agents, for example, corn starch, or alginic acid; binding agents, for example, starch, gelatin or acacia; and lubricating agents, for example magnesium stearate, stearic acid or talc. The tablets are uncoated or coated by known techniques to delay disintegration and absorption in the gastrointestinal tract and thereby provide a sustained action over a longer period. For example, a time delay material such as glyceryl monostearate or glyceryl distearate can be employed. Formulations for oral use can be presented as hard gelatin capsules wherein the active ingredient is mixed with an inert solid diluent, for example, calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate or kaolin, or as soft gelatin capsules wherein the active ingredient is mixed with water or an oil medium, for example, peanut oil, liquid paraffin or olive oil.

Certain injectable compositions are aqueous isotonic solutions or suspensions, and suppositories are advantageously prepared from fatty emulsions or suspensions. Said compositions may be sterilized and/or contain adjuvants, such as preserving, stabilizing, wetting or emulsifying agents, solution promoters, salts for regulating the osmotic pressure and/or buffers. In addition, they may also contain other therapeutically valuable substances. Said compositions are prepared according to conventional mixing, granulating or coating methods, respectively, and contain about 0.1-75%, or contain about 1-50%, of the active ingredient.

Suitable compositions for transdermal application include an effective amount of a compound of the invention with a suitable carrier. Carriers suitable for transdermal delivery include absorbable pharmacologically acceptable solvents to assist passage through the skin of the host. For example, transdermal devices are in the form of a bandage comprising a backing member, a reservoir containing the compound optionally with carriers, optionally a rate controlling barrier to deliver the compound of the skin of the host at a controlled and predetermined rate over a prolonged period of time, and means to secure the device to the skin.

Suitable compositions for topical application, *e.g.*, to the skin and eyes, include aqueous solutions, suspensions, ointments, creams, gels or sprayable formulations, *e.g.*, for delivery by aerosol or the like. Such topical delivery systems will in particular be appropriate for dermal application, *e.g.*, for the treatment of skin cancer, *e.g.*, for prophylactic use in sun creams, lotions, sprays and the like. They are thus particularly suited for use in topical, including cosmetic, formulations well-known in the art. Such may contain solubilizers, stabilizers, tonicity enhancing agents, buffers and preservatives.

As used herein a topical application may also pertain to an inhalation or to an intranasal application. They may be conveniently delivered in the form of a dry powder (either alone, as a mixture, for example a dry blend with lactose, or a mixed component particle, for example with phospholipids) from a dry powder inhaler or an aerosol spray presentation from a pressurised container, pump, spray, atomizer or nebuliser, with or without the use of a suitable propellant.

The compounds of formula I in free form or in pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, exhibit valuable pharmacological properties, e.g. BET protein modulating properties, e.g. as indicated in tests as provided in the next sections, and are therefore indicated for therapy or for use as research chemicals, e.g. as tool compounds.

Having regard to their activity as BET inhibitors, compounds of the formula (I) in free or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, are useful in the treatment of conditions which are mediated by the activity of BET proteins, such as cancer, and/or that are responsive (meaning especially in a therapeutically beneficial way) to inhibition of a BET protein, most especially a disease or disorder as mentioned herein below.

Compounds of the invention are believed to be useful in the treatment of diseases or disorders such as cancer. In particular, such cancers include benign or malignant tumours, a soft tissue sarcoma or a sarcoma such as liposarcoma, rhabdomyosarcoma or bone cancer, e.g. osteosarcoma, a carcinoma, such as of the brain, kidney, liver, adrenal gland, bladder, breast,

gastric, ovary, colon, rectum, prostate, pancreas, lung (including small cell lung cancer), vagina or thyroid, a glioblastoma, meningioma, glioma, mesothelioma, a neuroendocrine tumor such as neuroblastoma, a multiple myeloma, a gastrointestinal cancer, especially colon carcinoma or colorectal adenoma, a tumor of the head and neck, a melanoma, a prostate hyperplasia, a neoplasia, a neoplasia of epithelial character, a neoplasia originating from blood or bone marrow, a leukemia such as acute myeloid leukemia (AML) or acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) or B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia, a lymphoma, such as of B- or T-cell origin, such as diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL), NUT midline carcinoma or any other neoplasia with chromosomal rearrangements of the BET genes, and metastases in other organs. In particular, compounds of the invention are believed to be useful in a cancer selected from a neoplasia originating from blood or bone marrow; a leukemia such as acute myeloid leukemia (AML) or acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) or B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia; a lymphoma, such as of B- or T-cell origin, such as diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL); NUT midline carcinoma or any other neoplasia with chromosomal rearrangements of the BET genes, a neuroendocrine tumor such as neuroblastoma; a multiple myeloma; a lung cancer (including small cell lung cancer); and a colon cancer.

Compounds of the invention may also be of use in the treatment of atherosclerosis, coronary artery disease, dyslipidemia, diabetes, and other cardiovascular diseases, and/or as antiviral agents.

Thus, as a further embodiment, the present invention provides the use of a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof, in therapy. In a further embodiment, the therapy is selected from a disease which may be treated by inhibition of BET proteins. In another embodiment, the disease is a cancer disease selected from the afore-mentioned list.

Thus, as a further embodiment, the present invention provides a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof, for use in therapy. In a further embodiment, the therapy is selected from a disease which may be treated by inhibition of a BET protein. In another embodiment, the disease is a cancer disease selected from the afore-mentioned list.

In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of treating a disease which is treated by inhibition of a BET protein, comprising administration of a therapeutically acceptable amount of a compound of formula (I) or salt thereof. In a further embodiment, the disease is a cancer disease selected from the afore-mentioned list.

Thus, as a further embodiment, the present invention provides the use of a compound of formula (I) or salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament. In a further embodiment, the

medicament is for treatment of a disease which may be treated by inhibition of a BET protein. In another embodiment, the disease is a cancer disease selected from the afore-mentioned list.

The pharmaceutical composition or combination of the present invention can be in unit dosage of about 1-1000 mg of active ingredient(s) for a subject of about 50-70 kg, or about 1-500 mg or about 1-250 mg or about 1-150 mg or about 0.5-100 mg, or about 1-50 mg of active ingredients. The therapeutically effective dosage of a compound, the pharmaceutical composition, or the combinations thereof, is dependent on the species of the subject, the body weight, age and individual condition, the disorder or disease or the severity thereof being treated. A physician, clinician or veterinarian of ordinary skill can readily determine the effective amount of each of the active ingredients necessary to prevent, treat or inhibit the progress of the disorder or disease.

The above-cited dosage properties are demonstrable *in vitro* and *in vivo* tests using advantageously mammals, *e.g.*, mice, rats, dogs, monkeys or isolated organs, tissues and preparations thereof. The compounds of the present invention can be applied *in vitro* in the form of solutions, *e.g.*, aqueous solutions, and *in vivo* either enterally, parenterally, advantageously intravenously, *e.g.*, as a suspension or in aqueous solution. The dosage *in vitro* may range between about 10^{-3} molar and 10^{-9} molar concentrations. A therapeutically effective amount *in vivo* may range depending on the route of administration, between about 0.1-500 mg/kg, or between about 1-100 mg/kg.

The compound of the present invention may be administered either simultaneously with, or before or after, one or more other therapeutic agent. The compound of the present invention may be administered separately, by the same or different route of administration, or together in the same pharmaceutical composition as the other agents. A therapeutic agent is, for example, a chemical compound, peptide, antibody, antibody fragment or nucleic acid, which is therapeutically active or enhances the therapeutic activity when administered to a patient in combination with a compound of the invention.

COMBINATIONS

In one embodiment, the invention provides a product comprising a compound of formula (I) and at least one other therapeutic agent as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in therapy. In one embodiment, the therapy is the treatment of a disease or condition mediated by a BET protein. Products provided as a combined preparation include a composition comprising the compound of formula (I) and the other therapeutic agent(s) together

in the same pharmaceutical composition, or the compound of formula (I) and the other therapeutic agent(s) in separate form, *e.g.* in the form of a kit.

In one embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) and another therapeutic agent(s). Optionally, the pharmaceutical composition may comprise a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, as described above.

In one embodiment, the invention provides a kit comprising two or more separate pharmaceutical compositions, at least one of which contains a compound of formula (I). In one embodiment, the kit comprises means for separately retaining said compositions, such as a container, divided bottle, or divided foil packet. An example of such a kit is a blister pack, as typically used for the packaging of tablets, capsules and the like.

The kit of the invention may be used for administering different dosage forms, for example, oral and parenteral, for administering the separate compositions at different dosage intervals, or for titrating the separate compositions against one another. To assist compliance, the kit of the invention typically comprises directions for administration.

In the combination therapies of the invention, the compound of the invention and the other therapeutic agent may be manufactured and/or formulated by the same or different manufacturers. Moreover, the compound of the invention and the other therapeutic may be brought together into a combination therapy: (i) prior to release of the combination product to physicians (*e.g.* in the case of a kit comprising the compound of the invention and the other therapeutic agent); (ii) by the physician themselves (or under the guidance of the physician) shortly before administration; (iii) in the patient themselves, *e.g.* during sequential administration of the compound of the invention and the other therapeutic agent.

Accordingly, the invention provides the use of a compound of formula (I) for treating a disease or condition mediated by a BET protein, wherein the medicament is prepared for administration with another therapeutic agent. The invention also provides the use of another therapeutic agent for treating a disease or condition mediated by a BET protein, wherein the medicament is administered with a compound of formula (I).

The invention also provides a compound of formula (I) for use in a method of treating a disease or condition mediated by a BET protein, wherein the compound of formula (I) is prepared for administration with another therapeutic agent. The invention also provides another therapeutic agent for use in a method of treating a disease or condition mediated by a BET protein, wherein the other therapeutic agent is prepared for administration with a compound of formula (I). The

invention also provides a compound of formula (I) for use in a method of treating a disease or condition mediated by a BET protein, wherein the compound of formula (I) is administered with another therapeutic agent. The invention also provides another therapeutic agent for use in a method of treating a disease or condition mediated by a BET protein, wherein the other therapeutic agent is administered with a compound of formula (I).

The invention also provides the use of a compound of formula (I) for treating a disease or condition mediated by a BET protein, wherein the patient has previously (*e.g.* within 24 hours) been treated with another therapeutic agent. The invention also provides the use of another therapeutic agent for treating a disease or condition mediated by a BET protein, wherein the patient has previously (*e.g.* within 24 hours) been treated with a compound of formula (I).

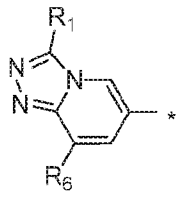
In one embodiment, the other therapeutic agent is an anticancer agent.

In a further embodiment, the other therapeutic agent is a modulator of a target in the field of epigenetics, such as an inhibitor of histone deacetylase (HDAC), or an inhibitor of histone methyltransferase (HMT).

GENERIC SCHEMES

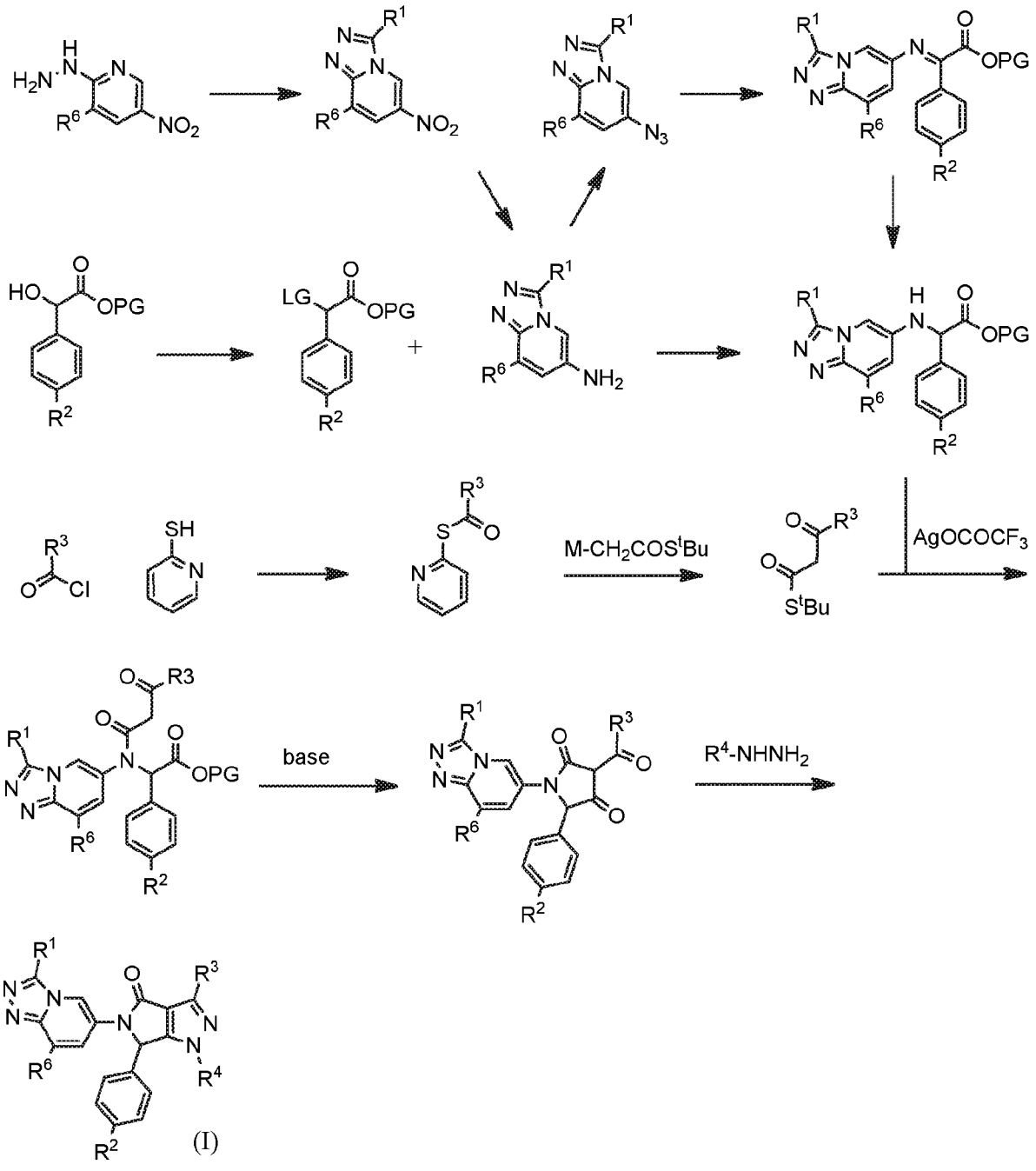
Typically, the compounds of formula (I) can be prepared according to the Schemes provided *infra*.

Compounds of formula (I), wherein A is



and R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 are as defined in Embodiment 1, may be prepared as described in Scheme 1.

Scheme 1



(I)

wherein

LG is a suitable leaving group, such as mesylate;

PG is a suitable acid protecting group, such as methyl; and

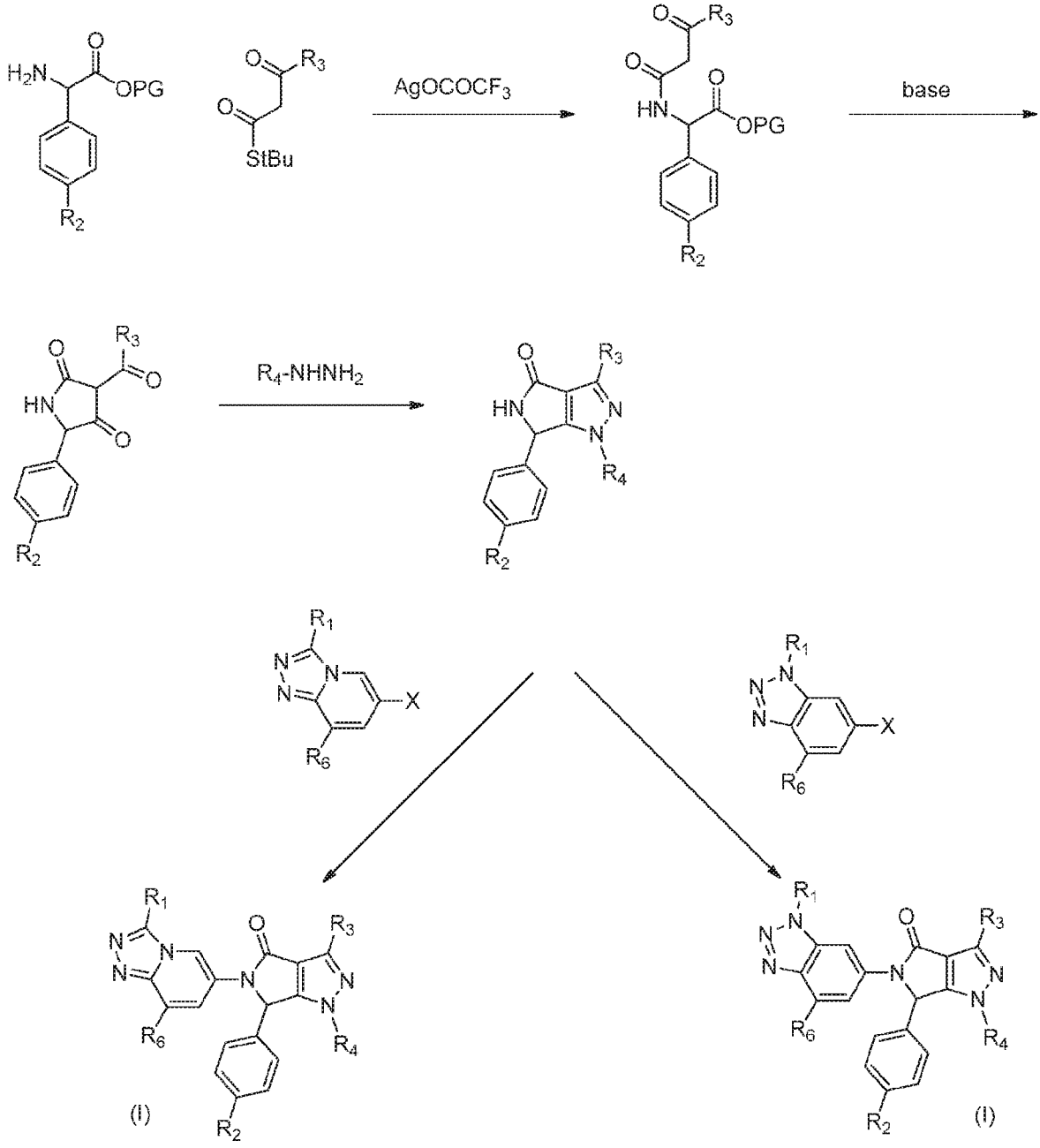
M is a suitable metal, such as Li or Na.

Scheme 1 illustrates one method for preparing compounds of the invention (e.g. Example 1-3). A 3-substituted 2-hydrazinyl-5-nitropyridine derivative is acylated with the corresponding acetic acid anhydride derivative at 0 °C – 25 °C in tetrahydrofurane or dioxane. The *in situ* acylated derivative is converted at elevated temperature, usually between 100-150 °C, into the 3,8-di-substituted 6-nitro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine derivative, which upon reduction of the nitro

group by catalytic hydrogenation, with 10% Pd-C 40-50 °C as the preferred catalytic system, in an appropiate solvent (methanol, ethanol, acetic acid) provided the 3,8-disubstituted [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-amine. Conversion of the secondary alcohol of the corresponding 2-aryl-2-hydroxy-acetate derivative into a leaving group, for example with (a) methanesulfonyl chloride or methanesulfonic anhydride in the presence of an organic base such as pyridine (together with a catalytic amount of 4-dimethylaminopyridine) or triethylamine or (b) 1-chloro-N,N,2-trimethylpropenylamine, followed by reaction with 3,8-disubstituted [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridin-6-amine at temperatures between 0 °C and 50 °C results in the formation of the secondary amine derivative. Alternatively, the the 3,8-disubstituted [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-amine is converted into the corresponding 6-azido-3,8-disubstituted 1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridine with trimethylsilyl azide in acetonitrile in the presence of tert-butylnitrite at a temperature between 0 °C and 20 °C. Reduction of the azide intermediate in the presence of a 4-substituted phenyl-2-oxoacetate with triphenylphosphine at a temperature between 20 and 100 °C followed by reduction of the generated imino-acetate with isopropanol-water in the presence of $[Ru(CO)_2(Ph_4C_4CO)]_2$ at elevated temperature, optimally between 80 to 120 °C, afforded the secondary amine intermediate. Sequent acylation with a beta-keto-thioester derivative in the presence of silver(I) trfluoroacetate at ambient temperature results in the formation of the beta-keto-amide derivative. The required beta-keto-thioester is generated from the corresponding S-pyridin-2-yl carbothioate derivative and S-tert-butyl ethanethioate in the presence of a strong base (LiHMDS, NaHMDS) at low temperature. Claisen condensation of the beta-keto-amide to the cyclized beta-diketone can be effected under basic conditions (a) either with CsF in DMF at a temperature between 20 °C and 100 °C or (b) with sodium ethoxide in EtOH at elevated temperature. The final pyrazolo-pyrrolidinone derivative is generated by condensation of the beta-diketone derivative with the corresponding R^4-containing hydrazine. Preferred reaction conditions for the condensation step are an alcoholic solvent and temperatures between 80-130 °C in the microwave.

Alternatively, compounds of formula (I), wherein A, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 are as defined in Embodiment 1, may be prepared as described in Scheme 2.

Scheme 2



wherein PG is as defined for Scheme 1 and X is halo.

Scheme 2 illustrates a modification of the method shown in Scheme 1 for preparing compounds of the invention (e.g. Examples 4-6). This method is similar to the one described in Scheme 1 except that the R^1-/R^6-containing bicyclic heteroaryl fragment is introduced by Chan-Lam or palladium-catalyzed C-N coupling. The 2-aryl-amino-ester derivative is reacted with the corresponding beta-keto-thioester in the presence of silver(I) trifluoroacetate at ambient temperature to provide the keto-amide derivative. Cylization to the lactam and subsequent condensation to the N5-unsubstituted 5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one intermediate is

carried out by the same methodology as described in Scheme 1. The lactam intermediate is arylated with the corresponding bicyclic heteroaryl-halide and an appropriate metal catalyst, for example a Cu-salt, preferably CuI , and a base such as K_2CO_3, Cs_2CO_3 or K_3PO_4, in an appropriate solvent such as dioxane or toluene at elevated temperatures, preferable between 80 -120 °C. Alternatively, Pd-catalyzed C-N bond forming conditions are applied, preferably $Pd_2(dba)_3$ and Xantphos together with Cs_2CO_3 as base in dioxane at 90-120 °C.

The invention further includes any variant of the present processes, in which an intermediate product obtainable at any stage thereof is used as starting material and the remaining steps are carried out, or in which the starting materials are formed *in situ* under the reaction conditions, or in which the reaction components are used in the form of their salts or optically pure material. Compounds of the invention and intermediates can also be converted into each other according to methods generally known *to those skilled in the art*.

SYNTHETIC METHODS

The following examples are intended to illustrate the invention and are not to be construed as being limitations thereon. Temperatures are given in degrees Celsius. If not mentioned otherwise, all evaporations are performed under reduced pressure, typically between about 15 mm Hg and 100 mm Hg (= 20-133 mbar). The structure of final products, intermediates and starting materials is confirmed by standard analytical methods, *e.g.*, microanalysis and spectroscopic characteristics, *e.g.*, MS, IR, NMR. Abbreviations used are those conventional in the art.

All starting materials, building blocks, reagents, acids, bases, dehydrating agents, solvents, and catalysts utilized to synthesis the compounds of the present invention are either commercially available or can be produced by organic synthesis methods known to one of ordinary skill in the art. Further, the compounds of the present invention can be produced by organic synthesis methods known to one of ordinary skill in the art as shown in the following examples.

Abbreviations

ACN	acetonitrile
Ac_2O	acetic acid anhydride
aq.	aqueous
Ar	argon
Boc	tert-butoxycarbonyl
Brine	saturated (at rt) sodium chloride solution
br. s.	broad singlet

CH_2Cl_2	dichloromethane
CuI	copper(I) iodide
d	doublet
DEA	diethylamine
DIPEA	diisopropyl ethyl amine
DMAP	4-dimethylaminopyridine
DMF	N,N-dimethylformamide
DMSO	dimethylsulfoxide
ESI-MS	electrospray ionisation mass spectrometry
EtOAc	ethyl acetate
EtOH	ethanol
h	hour(s)
H_2O	water
K_2CO_3	potassium carbonate
K_3PO_4	potassium phosphate
LC-MS	liquid chromatography mass spectrometry
LiHMDS	lithium hexamethyldisilazide
MeOH	methanol
$MgSO_4$	magnesium sulfate
m	multiplet
min	minute(s)
mL	milliliter(s)
MS	mass spectrometry
Ms_2O	methanesulfonic anhydride
MW	microwave
$NaHCO_3$	sodium bicarbonate
NaOH	sodium hydroxide
Na_2SO_4	sodium sulfate
NH_4Cl	ammonium chloride
NMR	nuclear magnetic resonance
$Pd_2(dba)_3$	tris(dibenzylideneacetone)dipalladium(0)
$POCl_3$	phosphoroxychloride
ppm	parts per million
R_f	ratio of fronts
rt (or RT)	room temperature
s	singlet
sat.	saturated
$scCO_2$	supercritical carbon dioxide

SFC	supercritical fluid chromatography
t	triplet
t_R	time of retention
TFA	trifluoroacetic acid
THF	tetrahydrofuran
UPLC	ultra performance liquid chromatography
Xantphos	4,5-Bis(diphenylphosphino)-9,9-dimethylxanthene

UPLC method:

UPLC 1: Column: Acquity UPLC HSS T3 C18, 1.7 μm 2.1 x 50 mm, Flow: 1.0 mL / min. Column temperature: 30 °C. Gradient: 5% to 100% B in 1.5 min, 100% B for 1 min, A = water + 0.1% TFA, B = ACN + 0.1% TFA

LC-MS method:

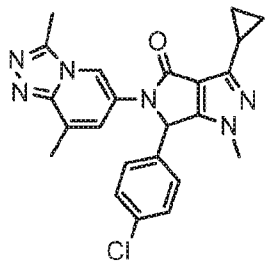
LC-MS 1:

Column: Waters Acquity HSS T3, 1.8 μm, 2.1 x 50 mm, oven at 60°C. Flow: 1.0 mL/min. Gradient: 5% to 98% B in 1.40 min, then 98% B for 0.40 min, 98% to 5% B in 0.10 min, 5% B for 0.10 min; A = water + 0.05% formic acid + 3.75 mM ammonium acetate, B = ACN + 0.04% formic acid. Detection UV/VIS (DAD), ESI (+/-). Mass spectrometer range : 100-1200 Da.

LC-MS 2:

Column: Waters Acquity HSS T3, 1.8 µm, 2.1 x 50 mm, oven at 60°C. Flow: 1.0 mL/min. Gradient: 5% to 98% B in 1.40 min, then 98% B for 0.40 min, 98% to 5% B in 0.10 min, 5% B for 0.10 min; A = water + 0.05% formic acid + 3.75 mM ammonium acetate, B = acetonitrile + 0.04% formic acid. Detection UV/VIS (DAD), ESI (+/-). Mass spectrometer range : 100-1200 Da.

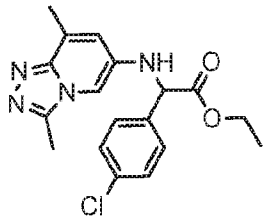
Example 1: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



To a solution of 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(cyclopropanecarbonyl)-1-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)pyrrolidine-2,4-dione (0.8 mmol, 339 mg) in MeOH (2 mL) was added methyl-hydrazine (2.4 mmol, 111 mg) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 3.5 h at 110 °C in the

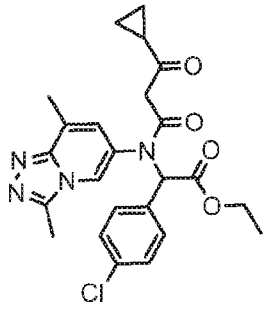
MW. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the residual oil was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc/MeOH 80:20:4 to 0:5:1) to afford the title product (218 mg, 60% yield) as a light yellow foam. t_R: 0.822 min (UPLC 1); t_R: 0.90 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 433 / 435 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 0.79 - 1.19 (m, 4 H) 1.88 - 2.10 (m, 1 H) 2.44 (s, 3 H) 2.62 (s, 3 H) 3.47 (s, 3 H) 6.61 (s, 1 H) 7.29 (s, 1 H) 7.41 (s, 4 H) 8.36 (s, 1 H).

Step 1.1: ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)amino)-acetate



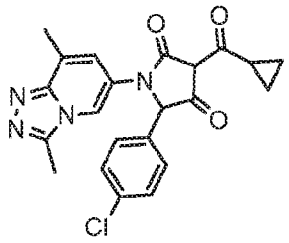
To a solution of ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (2.146 g, 10 mmol) and NEt_3 (6.97 mL, 50.0 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (40 mL) was added at 0 °C Ms_2O (3.136 g, 18.00 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 0.5 h at 0 °C. To the reaction mixture was added 3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]-triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-amine (1.946 g, 12.00 mmol) and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to RT. After heating for 3 h at 40-45 °C, the reaction mixture was added to sat. $NaHCO_3$ solution and EtOAc and the product was extracted with EtOAc. Combined extracts were washed with a small amount of brine, dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc/MeOH 75:25:3 to 0:50:5) to afford the title product (1.15 g, 30% yield) as a beige solid. t_R: 0.856 min (UPLC 1); t_R: 0.92 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 359 / 361 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.30 (EtOAc/MeOH 9:1); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ ppm 1.17 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 3 H) 2.42 (s, 3 H) 2.52 (s, 3 H) 4.04 - 4.15 (m, 1 H) 4.16 - 4.26 (m, 1 H) 4.83 (m, 1 H) 6.38 (s, 1 H) 6.61 (s, 1 H) 7.30 (d, *J*=8.6 Hz, 2 H) 7.38 (d, *J*=8.6 Hz, 2 H).

Step 1.2: ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-cyclopropyl-N-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-oxopropanamido)acetate



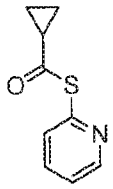
To a solution of ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-amino)acetate (851 mg, 1.5 mmol) and S-*tert*-butyl 3-cyclopropyl-3-oxopropanethioate (390 mg, 1.95 mmol, Step 1.4) in THF (15 mL) was added silver trifluoroacetate (431 mg, 1.95 mmol) at RT. The resulting dark brown solution was stirred for 1 h at RT. The reaction mixture was filtered over Celite, the filtrate concentrated and the resulting crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography(hexane/EtOAc/MeOH 90:10:1 to 0:100:10 containing 0.1% NEt_3) to afford the title product (604 mg, 83% yield) as a yellow foam. t_R: 0.870 min (UPLC 1); t_R: 0.95 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 465 / 467 $[M-H]^+$ (LC-MS 1).

Step 1.3: 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(cyclopropanecarbonyl)-1-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridin-6-yl)pyrrolidine-2,4-dione



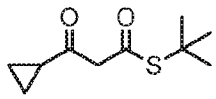
To a solution of ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-cyclopropyl-N-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-oxopropanamido)acetate (560 mg, 1.20 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) was added under Ar CsF (370 mg, 2.4 mmol) at RT and the resulting dark brown solution was stirred for 14 h at 60 °C. The reaction mixture was concentrated and to the residue was added to cold 1N H_2SO_4. The product was extracted with EtOAc. Combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered, concentrated and dried at 60 °C to provide the title product (101 mg, 18%) as a yellow foam. t_R: 0.881 min (UPLC 1); t_R: 0.77 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 423 / 425 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1).

Step 1.4: S-pyridin-2-yl cyclopropanecarbothioate



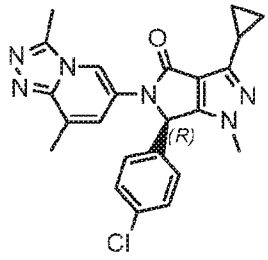
To a solution of pyridine-2-thiol (29.2 g, 260 mmol) in THF (260 mL) was added under Ar the cyclopropanecarbonyl chloride (27.7 g, 260 mmol) at RT and the reaction mixture was stirred for 0.5 h at 25 °C. The precipitated HCl-salt was filtered off and washed with Et_2O-hexane 1:4 and hexane. The light yellow precipitate was added to sat. $NaHCO_3$ solution and EtOAc and the product was extracted with EtOAc. Combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated to provide the title compound (37.3 g, 80% yield) as a yellow oil. t_R: 0.79 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 180 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ ppm 0.83 - 1.03 (m, 2 H) 1.09 - 1.28 (m, 2 H) 1.91 - 2.16 (m, 1 H) 7.10 - 7.28 (m, 1 H) 7.60 - 7.74 (m, 1 H) 8.55 (dd, *J*=4.8, 1.1 Hz, 1 H).

Step 1.5: S-*tert*-butyl 3-cyclopropyl-3-oxopropanethioate



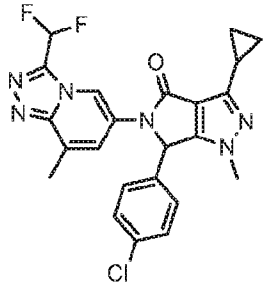
To a solution of S-pyridin-2-yl cyclopropanecarbothioate (16.5 g, 92 mmol) in THF (250 mL) was added under Ar a 1M LiHMDS solution in THF (229 mL, 229 mmol) at < -70 °C. To the reaction mixture was added a solution of S-tert-butyl ethanethioate (14.0 mL, 96 mmol) in THF (30 mL) below -70 °C. After stirring for 0.5 h at -78 °C the reaction mixture was slowly warmed up to -50 °C over a period of 1 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was added to 300 mL cold 1N H_2SO_4 and ice and the product was extracted with EtOAc. Combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated. The crude oil was redissolved in Et_2O, kept at 0 °C for 14 h, filtered through a short plug of silicagel and concentrated again to provide the title product (18.3 g, 95% yield) as a yellow oil. t_R: 1.089 min (UPLC 1); t_R: 1.06 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 201 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.59 (EtOAc); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ ppm 0.80 (m, 2 H) 0.91 - 0.99 (m, 2 H) 1.33 (s, 9 H) 1.92 (m, 1 H) 3.53 (s, 2 H).

Example 2: (*R*)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



The title compound (69 mg, 34 % yield) was obtained enantiomerically pure (>99%ee) as a white solid after chiral preparative chromatography (system: SFC-PicLab-Prep 100; column: Chiralpak AD-H 50 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/MeOH 40:60 (isocratic); flow: 150 g/min; detection UV: 245 nm) of the racemic mixture of 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Example 1) (210 mg, 0.46 mmol) and trituration of the resulting residue in Et_2O. t_R: 0.827 min (UPLC 1); t_R: 0.90 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 433 / 455 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 0.79 - 1.19 (m, 4 H) 1.88 - 2.10 (m, 1 H) 2.44 (s, 3 H) 2.62 (s, 3 H) 3.47 (s, 3 H) 6.61 (s, 1 H) 7.29 (s, 1 H) 7.41 (s, 4 H) 8.36 (s, 1 H). The second enantiomer, (*S*)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, was obtained via the same separation as a white solid (75 mg, 36% yield) in enantiomerically pure form (99% ee).

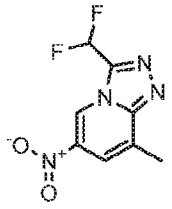
Example 3: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



To a solution of ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-cyclopropyl-N-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]-triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-oxopropanamido)acetate (540 mg, 0.941 mmol) in MeOH (5 mL) was added methylhydrazine (0.15 mL, 2.82 mmol) and the reaction mixture was heated in the MW for 3 h at 100 °C and for 2 h at 120 °C. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc/MeOH 90:10:1 to 0:100:10). The resulting residue was further purified by SFC (Reprosil70-NH_2 (250 x 30mm, 5 μm), gradient: 11-16% B in 6 min, A: $scCO_2$, B: MeOH; flow: 100 mL/min) to afford the title

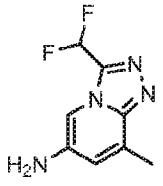
product (255 mg, 30% yield) after trituration in Et_2O as a white solid. t_R: 1.046 min (UPLC 1); t_R: 1.03 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 469 / 471 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.24 (EtOAc/MeOH 9:1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 0.90 - 1.15 (m, 4H) 1.91 - 2.10 (m, 1) 2.52 (s, 3H) 3.34 (s, 3 H) 6.71 (s, 1 H) 7.38 - 7.48 (m, 4 H) 7.59 (s, 1 H) 7.71 (t, *J*=51.2 Hz, 1 H) 8.65 (s, 1 H).

Step 3.1: 3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-6-nitro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine



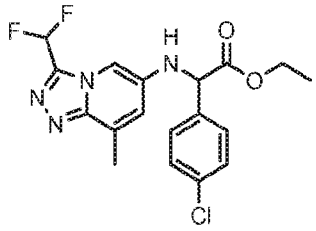
To a solution of 2-hydrazinyl-3-methyl-5-nitropyridine (2 g, 11.9 mmol) in THF (50 mL) was added a solution of 2,2-difluoroacetic anhydride (1.68 mL, 13.08 mmol) in THF (2 mL) at 0 °C over a period of 0.5 h. The reaction mixture was stirred for 0.5 h at 0 °C and the initially formed 2,2-difluoro-N'-(3-methyl-5-nitropyridin-2-yl)acetohydrazide was subsequently heated for 4 h at 140 °C in the MW. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 90:10:1 to 50:50:5) to provide the title product (2.31 g, 85% yield) as a brown solid. t_R: 0.68 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 229 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.48 (hexane/EtOAc/MeOH 50:50:5); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 2.69 (s, 3 H) 7.77 (t, *J*=56.7 Hz, 1 H) 8.09 (s, 1 H) 9.60 (s, 1 H).

Step 3.2: 3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-amine



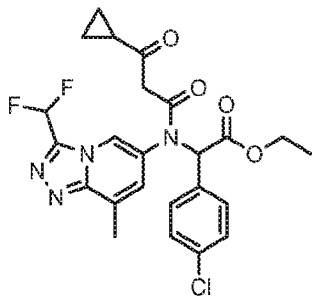
A solution of 3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-6-nitro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine (3.3 g, 10.12 mmol) in MeOH (30 mL) was hydrogenated over 10% Pd/C (0.86 g) for 3 h at 50 °C and 1000 mbar H_2. The reaction mixture was filtered over Celite and the filtrate was concentrated. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 100:100:5 to 0:100:5 containing 0.2% NEt_3) to provide the title product (1.05 g, 49% yield) as a white solid. t_R: 0.46 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 199 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.35 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 19:1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 2.52 (s, 3H) 5.41 (s, 2 H) 6.95 (s, 1 H) 7.61 (t, *J*=53.9 Hz, 1 H) 7.56 (s, 1 H).

Step 3.3: ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)amino)acetate



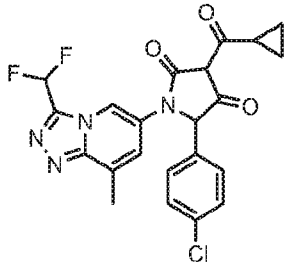
To a solution of ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (890 mg, 4.15 mmol) and NEt_3 (2.9 mL, 20.8 mmol) in dioxane (12 mL) was added at 0 °C Ms_2O (1.3 g, 7.46 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred for 0.5 h at 0 °C. To the reaction mixture was added 3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-amine (986 mg, 4.98 mmol) and the reaction mixture was heated in the MW for 1 h at 160 °C. The reaction mixture was added to sat. $NaHCO_3$ solution and EtOAc and the product was extracted with EtOAc. Combined extracts were washed with a small amount of brine, dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc/MeOH 90:10:1 to 50:50:5) to afford the title product (460 mg, 27% yield) as a reddish foam. t_R: 1.07 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 395 / 397 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.40 (hexane/EtOAc/MeOH 10:10:1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 1.15 (t, *J*=7.03 Hz, 3 H) 2.53 (s, 3H) 4.07 – 4.12 (m 1 H) 4.14 - 4.23 (m, 1 H) 5.35 (d, *J*=8.1 Hz, 1 H) 6.89 (d, *J*=8.1 Hz, 1 H) 7.25 (s, 1 H) 7.35 (s, 1 H) 7.44 - 7.62 (m, 5 H).

Step 3.4: ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-cyclopropyl-N-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-oxopropanamido)acetate



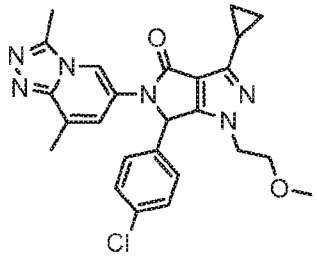
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Step 1.2 using ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-cyclopropyl-N-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-oxopropanamido)acetate (Step 3.3) and S-*tert*-butyl 3-cyclopropyl-3-oxopropanethioate (Step 1.5). t_R: 1.04 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 503 / 505 $[M-H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.30 (hexane/EtOAc/MeOH 10:10:1).

Step 3.5: ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-cyclopropyl-N-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-oxopropanamido)acetate



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Step 1.3 using ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-cyclopropyl-N-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-oxopropanamido)acetate (Step 3.4). t_R: 0.86 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 459 /461 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1).

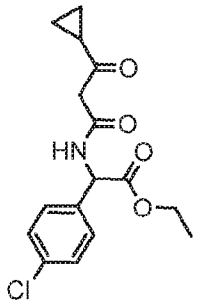
Example 4: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



To a suspension of 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-(2-methoxyethyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo [3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (170 mg, 0.512 mmol) and 6-bromo-3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridine (151 mg, 0.666 mmol) in dioxane was added under Ar CuI (48.8 mg, 0.256 mmol), K_3PO_4 (218 mg, 1.025 mmol) and N-N'-dimethylethylenediamine (151 mg, 0.666 mmol) and the reaction mixture was heated for 30 h at 110 °C. The reaction mixture was added to sat. $NaHCO_3$ solution containing some conc. aq. NH_3 and the product was extracted with EtOAc-MeOH 20:1. Combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc/MeOH 80:20:4 to 0:20:4). The resulting product was further purified by SFC (Propyl-pyridyl-urea (250 x 30mm, 5 μm), gradient: 15-10% B in 6 min, A: $scCO_2$, B: MeOH; flow: 100 mL/min) to afford the title product (65 mg, 26% yield) after trituration in Et_2O as a white solid, t_R: 0.863 min (UPLC 1); t_R: 0.91 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 477 / 479 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ ppm 0.95 - 1.05 (m, 2 H) 1.09 - 1.26 (m, 2 H) 1.96 - 2.06 (m, 1 H)

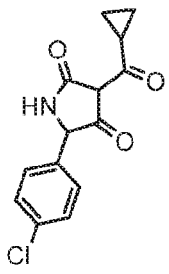
2.50 (s, 3 H) 2.58 (s, 3 H) 3.28 (s, 3 H) 3.44 -3.67 (m, 3 H) 3.88 - 3.96 (m, 1 H) 5.86 (s, 1 H) 6.82 (s, 1 H) 7.13 (d, *J*=8.3 Hz, 2 H) 7.27 (d, *J*=8.3 Hz, 2 H) 7.98 (s, 1 H).

Step 4.1: ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-cyclopropyl-3-oxopropanamido)acetate



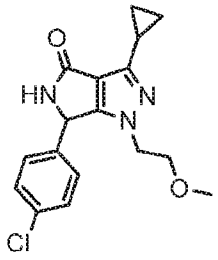
To a solution of ethyl 2-amino-2-(4-chlorophenyl)acetate (8.08 g, 37.8 mmol) and S-tert-butyl 3-cyclopropyl-3-oxopropanethioate (9.05 g, 45.4 mmol, Step 1.5) in THF (100 mL) was added under Ar silver trifluoroacetate (11.07 g, 49.1 mmol) at RT. The resulting dark brown solution was stirred for 16 h at RT. The reaction mixture was filtered over Celite, the filtrate concentrated and the resulting crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc/MeOH 80:20:4 to 0:20:4) to afford the title product (11.5 g, 94% yield) as a light brown oil. t_R: 0.998 min (UPLC 1); t_R: 0.98 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 322 / 324 $[M-H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.63 (EtOAc); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ ppm 0.98 - 1.31 (m, 7 H) 1.95 - 2.05 (m, 1 H) 3.54 - 3.73 (m, 2 H) 4.11 - 4.31 (m, 2 H) 5.45 - 5.62 (m, 1 H) 7.35 (s, 4 H) 8.46 (br. s., 1 H).

Step 4.2: 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(cyclopropanecarbonyl)pyrrolidine-2,4-dione



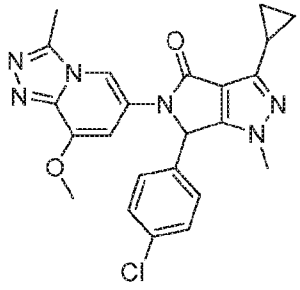
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Step 1.3 using ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-cyclopropyl-3-oxopropanamido)acetate (Step 4.1). t_R: 0.93 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 278 / 280 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.38 (EtOAc/MeOH 9:1); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*6) δ ppm 1.05 - 1.34 (m, 5 H) 2.81 (br. s., 1 H) 5.06 (s, 1 H) 7.33 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2 H) 7.47 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H) 9.34 (br. s., 1 H).

Step 4.3: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-(2-methoxyethyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



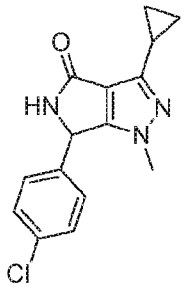
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 1 using 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(cyclopropanecarbonyl)pyrrolidine-2,4-dione (Step 4.2) and (2-methoxyethyl)hydrazine. t_R: 0.87 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 332 / 334 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ ppm 0.96 (dd, *J*=8.4, 2.2 Hz, 2 H) 1.06 - 1.21 (m, 2 H) 1.90 - 1.99 (m, 1 H) 3.21 (s, 3 H) 3.42 (dt, *J*=9.7, 3.5 Hz, 1 H) 3.52 (td, *J*=9.6, 2.6 Hz, 1 H) 3.61 (ddd, *J*=14.1, 9.5, 3.8 Hz, 1 H) 3.86 (dt, *J*=14.1, 3.2 Hz, 1 H) 5.46 (s, 1 H) 5.68 (s, 1 H) 7.14 - 7.19 (m, 2 H) 7.24 - 7.34 (m, 2 H).

Example 5: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



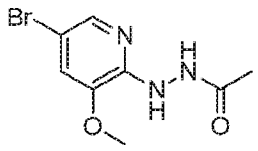
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 4 using 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Step 5.1) and 6-bromo-8-methoxy-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine (Step 5.3). t_R: 0.86 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 449 / 451 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.31 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 10:1); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 0.94 - 1.17 (m, 4 H) 1.93 - 2.08 (m, 1 H) 2.60 (s, 3 H) 3.48 (m, 3 H) 3.92 (m, 3 H) 6.66 (s, 1 H) 6.87 (s, 1 H) 7.42 (s, 4 H) 8.12 (s, 1 H).

Step 5.1: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



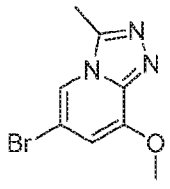
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 1 using 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(cyclopropanecarbonyl)pyrrolidine-2,4-dione (Step 4.2) and methylhydrazine. t_R: 0.85 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 288 / 290 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ ppm 0.96 (dd, *J*=8.4, 2.5 Hz, 2 H) 1.11 (ddd, *J*=17.0, 5.1, 2.3 Hz, 3 H) 1.90 - 2.00 (m, 1 H) 3.40 (s, 3 H) 5.37 (s, 1 H) 5.65 (s, 1 H) 7.14 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2 H) 7.30 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2 H).

Step 5.2: N'-(5-bromo-3-methoxypyridin-2-yl)acetohydrazide



To a suspension of 5-bromo-2-hydrazinyl-3-methoxypyridine (505 mg, 2.3 mmol) in dioxane (5 mL) was added Ac_2O (0.28 mL, 3.0 mmol) at 0-10 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 0.5 h at RT. The reaction mixture was poured onto ice-water and the product was extracted with EtOAc. Combined extracts were washed with a small amount of brine, dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated to afford the title product (505 mg, 84% yield) as a yellow solid. t_R: 0.56 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 260 / 263 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.34 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 10:1); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 1.87 (s, 3 H) 3.85 (s, 3 H) 7.32 (d, *J*=1.8 Hz, 1 H) 7.71 (d, *J*=1.8 Hz, 1 H) 8.04 (d, *J*=2.3 Hz, 1 H) 9.65 (d, *J*=2.2 Hz, 1 H).

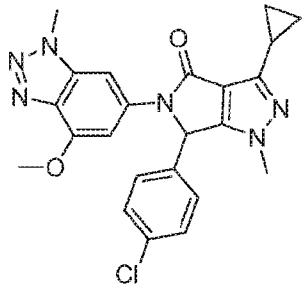
Step 5.3: 6-bromo-8-methoxy-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine



To a suspension of N'-(5-bromo-3-methoxypyridin-2-yl)acetohydrazide (550 mg, 1.672 mmol) and DIPEA (0.22 mL, 1.254 mmol) in ACN (5 mL) was added under Ar slowly $POCl_3$ (0.30 mL,

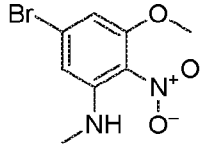
3.2 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated for 5 h at 90 °C. The reaction mixture was slowly added to H_2O at 40 °C and after careful neutralization with $NaHCO_3$ to pH 6.5 extracted with EtOAc. Combined extracts were washed with a small amount of brine, dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated to afford the title product (340 mg, 82% yield) as a yellow solid after trituration with Et_2O. t_R: 0.57 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 242 / 244 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.39 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 10:1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 2.66 (s, 3 H) 4.00 (s, 3 H) 6.85 (s, 1 H) 8.35 (s, 1 H).

Example 6: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



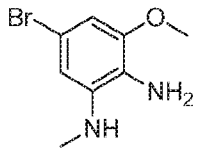
To a suspension of 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Step 5.1) (120 mg, 0.417 mmol), 6-bromo-4-methoxy-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]-triazole (Step 6.3) (151 mg, 0.626 mmol) and Cs_2CO_3 (272 mg, 0.834 mmol) in dioxane was added under Ar Xantphos (48.3 mg, 0.083 mmol) and $Pd_2(dba)_3$ (38.2 mg, 0.042 mmol) and the reaction mixture was heated for 16 h at 100 °C. The reaction mixture was filtered over Celite and the filtrate concentrated. The resulting residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 and washed with H_2O, dried over Na2SO4, filtered and concentrated. The crude product was purified by SFC (Silica (250 x 30mm, 5 μm), gradient: 19-24% B in 6 min, A: $scCO_2$, B: MeOH; flow: 100 mL/min) to afford the title product (121 mg, 64% yield) after trituration in Et_2O as a white solid. t_R: 1.03 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 449 / 451 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 0.97 - 1.18 (m, 4 H) 1.99 - 2.06 (m, 1 H) 3.48 (s, 3 H) 3.97 (s, 3 H) 4.15 - 4.19 (m, 3 H) 6.80 (s, 1 H) 7.01 (d, J=1.2 Hz, 1 H) 7.40 (d, J=8.3 Hz, 2 H) 7.44 (d, J=8.1 Hz, 2 H) 7.50 (d, J=1.4 Hz, 1 H).

Step 6.1: 5-bromo-3-methoxy-N-methyl-2-nitroaniline



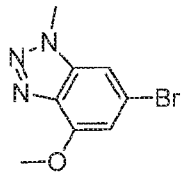
To a solution of 5-bromo-1-fluoro-3-methoxy-2-nitrobenzene (5.5 g, 22.00 mmol) in THF (44 mL) was added a 2M solution of methylamine in THF (44.0 mL, 88 mmol) and the reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 2 h. The formed precipitate of the cold reaction mixture was filtered off and the filtrate was concentrated to provide the title product (5.6 g, 98% yield) as an orange solid.

Step 6.2: 5-bromo-3-methoxy-N1-methylbenzene-1,2-diamine



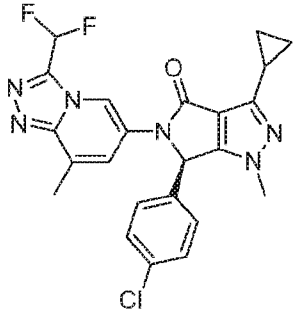
A solution of 5-bromo-3-methoxy-N-methyl-2-nitroaniline (8.84 g, 33.9 mmol) in THF/MeOH 1:1 (400 mL) was hydrogenated over Raney-nickel (1.0 g) for 21 h at RT and 1000 mbar H_2. The reaction mixture was filtered over Celite and the filtrate was concentrated to provide the title product (7.92 g, 99% yield) as brown oil. t_R: 0.90 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 231 / 233 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1).

Step 6.3: 6-bromo-4-methoxy-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazole



To a solution of 5-bromo-3-methoxy-N1-methylbenzene-1,2-diamine (7.8 g, 33.8 mmol) in 8N HCl (42.2 mL, 338 mmol) was added dropwise a solution of $NaNO_2$ (2.56 g, 37.1 mmol) in H_2O (25 mL) at 0 °C. After the addition, the reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0 °C and 30 min at RT. The reaction mixture was added to brine and the product was extracted with EtOAc. Combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na_2SO_4, filtered and concentrated. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 97:3 to 60:40) to provide the title product (4.0 g, 49% yield) as a dark yellow solid. t_R: 0.35 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 243 / 245 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 4.04 (s, 3 H) 4.25 (s, 3 H) 6.99 (d, *J*=1.1 Hz, 1 H) 7.75 (d, *J*=1.3 Hz, 1 H).

Example 7: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo-[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one

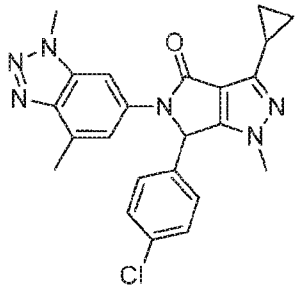


The title compound was obtained enantiomerically pure (>99% ee) after chiral preparative chromatography (system: Mg II preparative SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 30 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/isopropanol 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 50 mL/min) of the racemic mixture 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Example 3).

(S)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, t_R: 2.23 min (system: Thar analytical SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 4.6 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/isopropanol (0.05% DEA) 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 2.4 mL/min; detection UV: 220 nm).

(R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, t_R: 3.19 min (system: Thar analytical SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 4.6 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/isopropanol (0.05% DEA) 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 2.4 mL/min; detection UV: 220 nm).

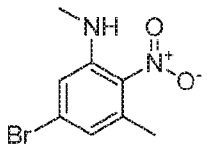
Example 8: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 4 using 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Step 5.1) and 6-bromo-1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazole (Step 8.1). t_R: 1.07 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 433 / 435 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.50 (EtOAc/MeOH 9:1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ

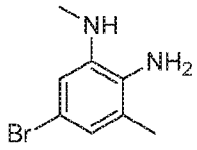
ppm 0.97 - 1.12 (m, 4 H) 2.01 (m, 1 H) 2.59 (s, 3 H) 3.46 (s, 3 H) 4.20 (s, 3 H) 6.73 (s, 1 H) 7.33 – 7.44 (m, 4 H) 7.74 (s, 1 H).

Step 8.1: 5-bromo-N,3-dimethyl-2-nitroaniline



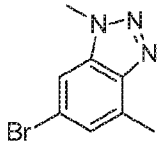
A solution of 5-bromo-1-fluoro-3-methyl-2-nitrobenzene (500 mg, 2.14 mmol) and methylamine 2M in THF (5 mL, 10.0 mmol) was heated in the microwave for 30 min at 100 °C. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the title product (520 mg, 99% yield) as yellow solid. t_R: 1.19 min (LC-MS 2); ESI-MS: no ionisation (LC-MS 2).

Step 8.2: 5-bromo-N1,3-dimethylbenzene-1,2-diamine



To a solution of 5-bromo-N,3-dimethyl-2-nitroaniline (Step 8.1) (2.7 g, 11.02 mmol) in THF (100 mL) and MeOH (100 mL) was added Raney Nickel (189 mg, 2.203 mmol) and the resulting mixture was stirred under hydrogen atmosphere at RT for 16 h. The reaction was filtered through a pad of Celite and the resulting filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the title product (2.5 g, 96% yield) as off-white solid. t_R: 0.94 min (LC-MS 2); ESI-MS: 215 / 217 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 2).

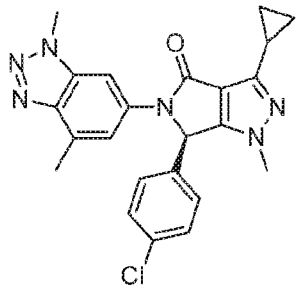
Step 8.3: 6-bromo-1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazole



To a solution of 5-bromo-N^1,3-dimethylbenzene-1,2-diamine (Step 8.2) (2.5 g, 11.62 mmol) in HCl conc (15 mL, 494 mmol) was slowly added a solution of $NaNO_2$ (0.962 g, 13.95 mmol) in water (25 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at RT, then basified with aq.

NaOH. The precipitated solid was filtrated off, washed with water and dried under reduced pressure to afford the title product (2.5 g, 86% yield) as beige solid. t_R: 0.93 min (LC-MS 2); ESI-MS: 226 / 228 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 2).

Example 9: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one

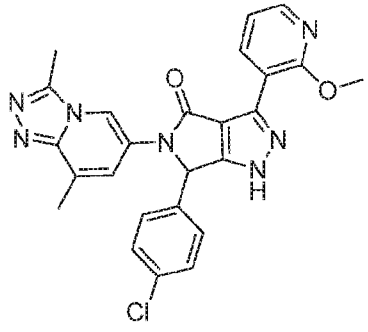


The title compound was obtained enantiomerically pure (>99% ee) after chiral preparative chromatography (system: Mg II preparative SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 30 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/isopropanol 50:50 (isocratic), flow: 40 mL/min) of the racemic mixture of 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Example 8).

(S)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, t_R: 3.01 min (system: Thar analytical SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 4.6 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/isopropanol (0.05% DEA) 50:50 (isocratic), flow: 2 mL/min; detection UV: 220 nm).

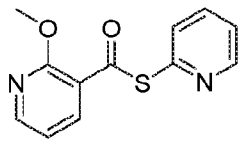
(R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, t_R: 5.65 min (system: Thar analytical SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 4.6 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/isopropanol (0.05% DEA) 50:50 (isocratic), flow: 2 mL/min; detection UV: 220 nm).

Example 10: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



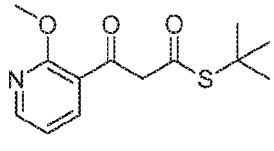
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 1 using 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxynicotinoyl)pyrrolidine-2,4-dione (Step 10.4) and hydrazine. t_R: 0.96 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 486 / 488 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.50 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 10:1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 2.46 (s, 3 H) 2.64 (s, 3 H) 4.07 (m, 3 H) 6.68 (s, 1 H) 7.26 (dd, *J*=7.6, 4.9 Hz, 1 H) 7.32 - 7.47 (m, 5 H) 8.29 (dd, *J*= 4.9, 1.9 Hz, 1H) 8.51 (s, 1 H) 9.03 (dd, *J*=7.5, 1.9 Hz, 1 H).

Step 10.1: S-pyridin-2-yl 2-methoxypyridine-3-carbothioate



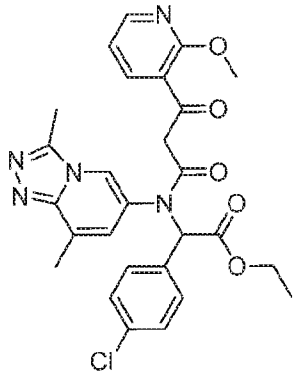
To a solution of 2-methoxynicotinic acid (0.766 g, 5 mmol) and 1,2-di(pyridin-2-yl)disulfane (1.124 g in THF (20 mL) was added under argon PPh_3 (1.337 g, 5 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the title product was obtained after silica gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 80:20 to 50:50) (0.902 g, 72% yield) as a white solid. t_R: 0.795 min (UPLC 1); t_R: 0.87 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 247 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.36 (hexane/EtOAc 1:1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ ppm 8.61 (ddd, *J*=4.9, 1.9, 0.9 Hz, 1 H), 8.29 (dd, *J*=4.9, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 8.12 (dd, *J*=7.6, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.76 – 7.62 (m, 2 H), 7.26 (ddd, *J*=7.4, 4.8, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.95 (dd, *J*=7.6, 4.9 Hz, 1 H), 4.05 (s, 3 H).

Step 10.2: S-tert-butyl 3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-3-oxopropanethioate



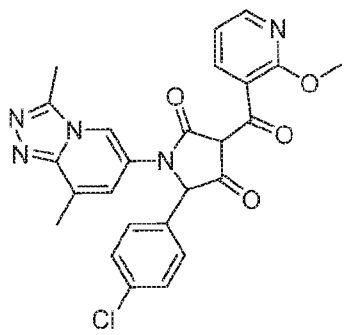
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Step 1.5 using S-pyridin-2-yl 2-methoxypyridine-3-carbothioate (Step 10.1) and S-tert-butyl ethanethioate. t_R: 1.14 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 268 $[M-H]^+$ (LC-MS 1).

Step 10.3: ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(N-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-3-oxopropanamido)acetate



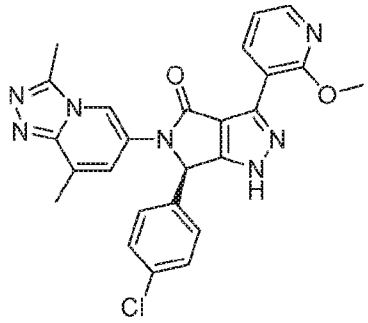
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Step 1.2 using ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)amino)acetate (Step 1.1) and S-tert-butyl 3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-3-oxopropanethioate (Step 10.2). t_R: 1.00 min and 1.21 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 534 / 536 $[M-H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.45 (EtOAc/MeOH 9:1).

Step 10.4: 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxy-nicotinoyl)pyrrolidine-2,4-dione



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Step 1.3 using ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(N-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-3-oxopropanamido)acetate (Step 10.3). t_R: 0.65 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 490 / 492 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1).

Example 11: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one

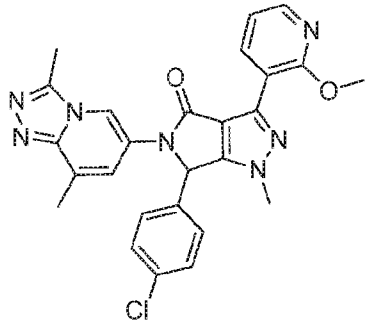


The title compound was obtained enantiomerically pure (>99% ee) after chiral preparative chromatography (system: Mg II preparative SFC; column: ChiralCel OD-H 30 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/EtOH 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 50 mL/min) of the racemic mixture of 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Example 10).

(S)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, t_R: 2.88 min (system: Thar analytical SFC; column: ChiralCel OD-3 4.6 x 150 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/EtOH (0.05% DEA) 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 2.4 mL/min; detection UV: 220 nm).

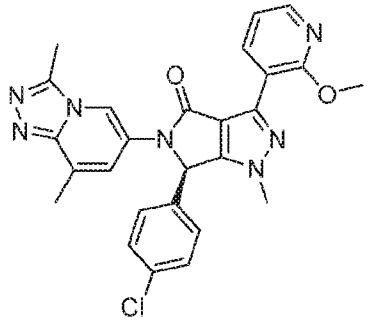
(R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, t_R: 3.54 min (system: Thar analytical SFC; column: ChiralCel OD-3 4.6 x 150 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/EtOH (0.05% DEA) 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 2.4 mL/min; detection UV: 220 nm).

Example 12: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 1 using 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxynicotinoyl)-pyrrolidine-2,4-dione (Step 10.4) and methyl hydrazine. t_R: 0.92 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 500 / 502 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.37 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 10:1); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 2.46 (s, 3 H) 2.63 (s, 3 H) 3.63 (s, 3 H) 3.94 (m, 3 H) 6.73 (s, 1 H) 7.14 (dd, *J*=7.4, 4.9 Hz, 1 H) 7.34 (d, *J*=1.7 Hz, 1 H) 7.51 – 7.36 (m, 4 H) 8,26 (dd, *J*=5.0, 1.9 Hz, 1 H) 8.32 (dd, *J*=7.5, 1.9 Hz, 1 H) 8.42 (s, 1 H).

Example 13: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one

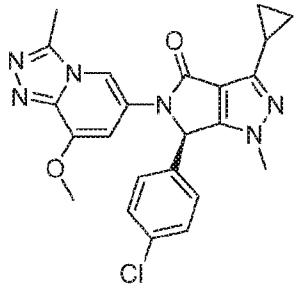


The title compound was obtained enantiomerically pure (>99% ee) after chiral preparative chromatography (system: Mg II preparative SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 30 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/isopropanol 50:50 (isocratic), flow: 40 mL/min) of the racemic mixture of 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Example 12).

(S)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, t_R: 2.90 min (system: Thar analytical SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 4.6 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/isopropanol (0.05% DEA) 50:50 (isocratic), flow: 2 mL/min; detection UV: 220 nm).

(R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, t_R: 5.51 min (system: Thar analytical SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 4.6 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/isopropanol (0.05% DEA) 50:50 (isocratic), flow: 2 mL/min; detection UV: 220 nm).

Example 14: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(8-methoxy-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one

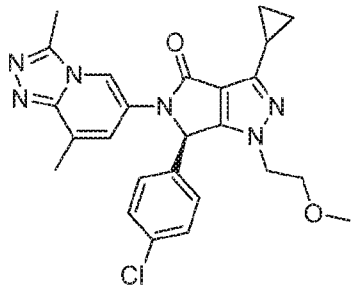


The title compound was obtained enantiomerically pure (>99% ee) after chiral preparative chromatography (system: Mg II preparative SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 30 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/MeOH 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 50 mL/min) of the racemic mixture of 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(8-methoxy-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Example 5).

(S)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(8-methoxy-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, t_R: 2.37 min (system: Thar analytical SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 4.6 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/MeOH (0.05% DEA) 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 2.4 mL/min; detection UV: 220 nm).

(R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(8-methoxy-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, t_R: 3.71 min (system: Thar analytical SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 4.6 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/MeOH (0.05% DEA) 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 2.4 mL/min; detection UV: 220 nm).

Example 15: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-(2-methoxyethyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one

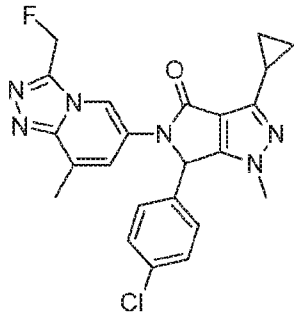


The title compound was obtained enantiomerically pure (>99% ee) after chiral preparative chromatography (system: Mg II preparative SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 30 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/MeOH 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 50 mL/min) of the racemic mixture of 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Example 4).

(S)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-(2-methoxyethyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, t_R: 2.18 min (system: Thar analytical SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 4.6 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/MeOH (0.05% DEA) 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 2.4 mL/min; detection UV: 220 nm).

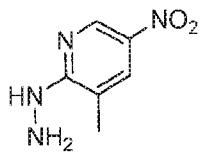
(R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-(2-methoxyethyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, t_R: 3.74 min (system: Thar analytical SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 4.6 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/MeOH (0.05% DEA) 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 2.4 mL/min; detection UV: 220 nm).

Example 16: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



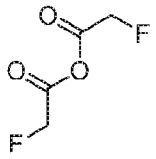
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 4 using 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Step 5.1) and 6-bromo-3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine (Step 16.5). t_R: 0.98 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 451 / 453 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.42 (EtOAc/MeOH 9:1); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 8.68 (s, 1 H), 7.50 (s, 1 H), 7.42 (s, 4 H), 6.66 (s, 1 H), 6.03 – 5.85 (m, 2 H), 3.47 (s, 3 H), 2.51 (s, 3 H), 2.05 – 2.00 (m, 1 H), 1.15 – 1.09 (m, 1 H), 1.09 – 0.96 (m, 3 H).

Step 16.1: 2-hydrazinyl-3-methyl-5-nitropyridine



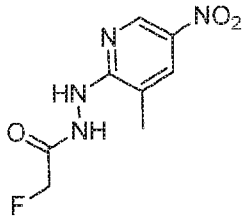
Hydrazine hydrate (12.7 mL, 0.26 mol) was added to a solution of 2-chloro-3-methyl-5-nitro-pyridine (15 g, 87 mmol) in EtOH (150 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at 60 °C. Cooling in an ice bath led to crystalline product, which was filtered off and washed with H_2O and Et_2O to provide the title compound (14.6 g, 95) as a yellow solid. t_R: 0.42 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 169 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1)

Step 16.2: 2-fluoroacetic acid anhydride



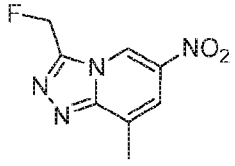
N,*N*'-Dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (14.5 g, 70.5 mmol) was added to a solution of 2-fluoroacetic acid (5 g, 64 mmol) in THF (64 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at 25 °C. The precipitate was filtered off and the filtrate was used directly for Step 16.3.

Step 16.3: 2-fluoro-N'-(3-methyl-5-nitropyridin-2-yl)acetohydrazide



2-Hydrazinyl-3-methyl-5-nitropyridine (5 g, 29.7 mmol) was added to a solution of 2-fluoroacetic anhydride in THF (65.4 mL, ≈ 32 mmol, Step 16.2). The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min and then partially concentrated. Dilution of the residue with H_2O (250 mL) led to precipitation of the product, which was filtered off and washed with H_2O and a small amount of Et_2O. t_R: 0.49 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 229 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); contains ≈ 40% 1,3-dicyclohexylurea.

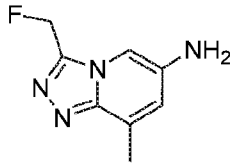
Step 16.4: 3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-6-nitro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine



To a solution of 2-fluoro-N'-(3-methyl-5-nitropyridin-2-yl)acetohydrazide (9.1 g, 23.9 mmol, Step 16.3) in ACN (150 mL) was added DIPEA (3.13 mL, 18 mmol), followed by dropwise addition of $POCl_3$ (3.35 mL, 35.9 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at RT and 16 h at 70 °C, cooled to RT and concentrated, then poured into a small amount of warm water and stirred for 30 min. After neutralization with $NaHCO_3$ to pH 4, the product was extracted with EtOAc/MeOH 9:1. The organic layers were washed with brine, dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated. Purification by silica gel column chromatography [hexane/(EtOAc/MeOH 9:1) 90:10 to 0:100] gave the title product (4.32 g, 77%) as a yellow solid. t_R: 0.59 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 211

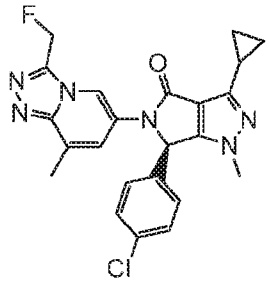
$[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1).

Step 16.5: 3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-amine



A mixture of 3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-6-nitro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine (4.3 g, 20.46 mmol) and Pd/C 10% (1.3 g) in MeOH (50 mL) was hydrogenated at 55 °C for 6 h. The catalyst was filtered off and the filtrate was concentrated. Purification by silica gel column chromatography [hexane/(EtOAc/MeOH 9:1) 50:50 to 0:100] gave the title compound (1.15 g, 31%) as a bown oil. t_R: 0.40 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 181 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 7.48 (s, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1 H), 5.86 (d, *J*=49 Hz, 2 H), 5.26 (s, 2 H), 2.49 (s, 3 H).

Example 17: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo-[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one

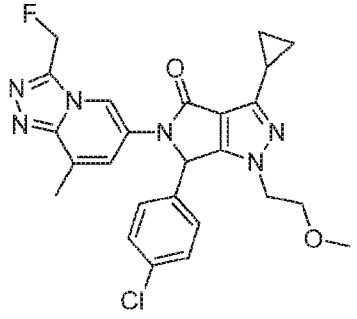


The title compound was obtained enantiomerically pure (>97% ee) after chiral preparative chromatography (system: Thar SFC200; column: Chiralpak AD-H 50 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/MeOH 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 150 g/min) of the racemic mixture of 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Example 16).

(R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, Rt: 1.70 min (system: Thar/Waters SFC Investigator MS; column: Chiralpak AD-H 4.6 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/EtOH 65:35 (isocratic), flow: 4 mL/min; detection UV: 254 nm).

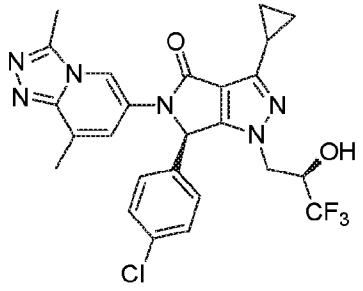
(R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, Rt: 3.52 min (system: Thar/Waters SFC Investigator MS; column: Chiralpak AD-H 4.6 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/EtOH 65:35 (isocratic), flow: 4 mL/min; detection UV: 254 nm).

Example 18: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridin-6-yl)-1-(2-methoxyethyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 4 using 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-(2-methoxyethyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Step 4.3) and 3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-amine (Step 16.5). t_R: 0.99 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 495 / 497 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d6*) δ ppm 0.92 - 1.21 (m, 4 H) 1.94 - 2.10 (m, 1 H) 2.51 (s, 3 H) 3.12 (s, 3 H) 3.45 (t, *J*=5.3 Hz, 2 H) 3.64 - 3.79 (m, 1 H) 3.87 - 4.03 (m, 1 H) 5.92 (dq, *J*=49.3, 12.0 Hz, 2 H) 6.58 (s, 1 H) 7.35 - 7.44 (m, 4 H) 7.52 (s, 1 H) 8.69 (s, 1 H).

Example 19: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-((R)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxypropyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



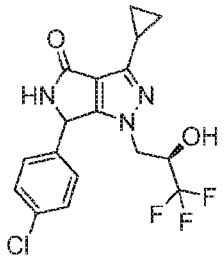
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 4 using 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-((R)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxypropyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]-pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Step 19.1) and 6-bromo-3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine to provide after separation by SFC (propyl-pyridyl-urea (250 x 30 mm, 5 μm), 20-25% B in 6 min, A: $scCO_2$, B: MeOH; flow: 100 mL/min) the (2R,6R)- and (2R,6S)-diastereoisomers.
(S)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-((R)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxypropyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (peak 1).
t_R: 1.00 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 531 / 533 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 0.99 - 1.11 (m, 3 H) 1.15 - 1.22 (m, 1 H) 2.05 (s, 1 H) 2.44 (s, 3 H) 2.63 (s, 3 H) 3.41 - 3.51

(m, 1 H) 4.15 - 4.31 (m, 2 H) 6.60 (s, 1 H) 7.01 (d, *J*=6.5 Hz, 1 H) 7.37 (s, 1 H) 7.42 (s, 4 H) 8.42 (s, 1 H).

(R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-((R)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxypropyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (peak 2).

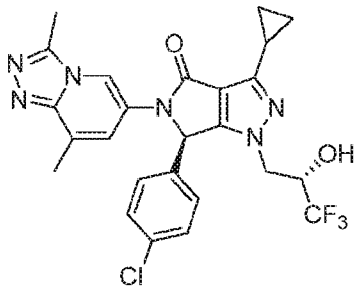
t_R: 0.94 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 495 / 497 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 0.97 - 1.19 (m, 4 H) 1.97 - 2.09 (m, 1 H) 2.44 (s, 3 H) 2.63 (s, 3 H) 3.73 - 3.81 (m, 1 H) 3.94 - 4.04 (m, 1 H) 4.32 - 4.45 (m, 1 H) 6.61 (s, 1 H) 6.68 (d, *J*=6.9 Hz, 1 H) 7.30 (s, 1 H) 7.39 (s, 4 H) 8.38 (s, 1 H).

Step 19.1: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-((R)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxypropyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 1 using 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(cyclopropanecarbonyl)pyrrolidine-2,4-dione (Step 4.2) and (R)-1,1,1-trifluoro-3-hydrazinylpropan-2-ol. t_R: 0.92 min and 0.98 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 386 / 388 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1).

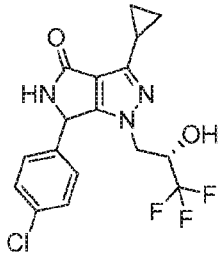
Example 20: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-((S)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxypropyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 4 using 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-((S)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxypropyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]-pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Step 20.1) and 6-bromo-3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine to provide after separation by SFC (propyl-pyridyl-urea (250 x 30 mm, 5 μm), 20-25% B in 6 min, A: $scCO_2$, B: MeOH; flow: 100 mL/min) the (2R,6R)- and (2R,6S)-diastereoisomers.

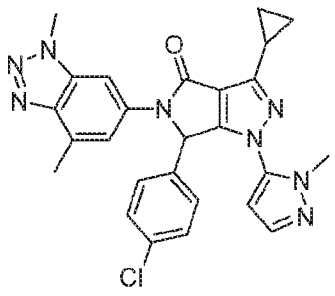
(R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-((S)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxypropyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (peak 1).
t_R: 1.00 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 531 / 533 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 0.99 - 1.21 (m, 4 H) 1.95 - 2.06 (m, 1 H) 2.44 (s, 3 H) 2.57 (s, 3 H) 3.68 (dd, *J*=14.1, 9.8 Hz, 1 H) 4.24 (d, *J*=13.8 Hz, 1 H) 4.53 (br. s., 1 H) 6.18 (s, 1 H) 6.86 (s, 1 H) 7.28 - 7.32 (m, 2 H) 7.33 - 7.40 (m, 2 H) 7.62 (br. s., 1 H) 8.36 (s, 1 H).
(S)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-((S)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxypropyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (peak 2).
t_R: 0.94 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 495 / 497 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 1.03 - 1.19 (m, 3 H) 1.23 - 1.31 (m, 1 H) 2.08 (s, 1 H) 2.57 (s, 3 H) 2.65 (s, 3 H) 4.03 (d, *J*=5.0 Hz, 2 H) 4.38 - 4.50 (m, 1 H) 5.16 - 5.26 (m, 1 H) 5.99 (s, 1 H) 6.93 (s, 1 H) 7.22 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2 H) 7.37 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2 H) 8.04 (s, 1 H).

Step 20.1: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-((R)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxypropyl)-5,6-dihydro-pyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 1 using 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(cyclopropanecarbonyl)pyrrolidine-2,4-dione (Step 4.2) and (S)-1,1,1-trifluoro-3-hydrazinylpropan-2-ol. t_R: 0.92 min and 0.97 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 386 / 388 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1).

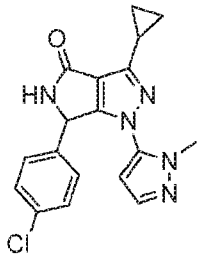
Example 21: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 4 using 6-

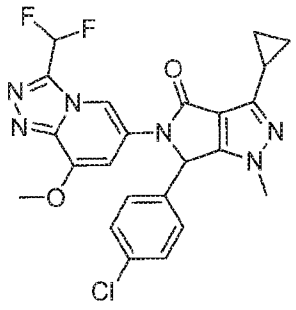
(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Step 21.1) and 6-bromo-1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]-triazole (Step 8.3). t_R: 1.10 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 499 / 501 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 1.33 – 1.05 (m, 4 H) 2.21 – 2.09 (m, 1 H) 2.60 (s, 3 H) 3.32 (s, 3 H) 4.21 (s, 3 H) 6.14 (d, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1 H) 6.83 (s, 1 H) 7.33 – 7.16 (m, 4 H) 7.41 (s, 1 H) 7.48 (d, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1 H) 7.77 (s, 1 H).

Step 21.1: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 1 using 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(cyclopropanecarbonyl)pyrrolidine-2,4-dione (Step 4.2) and 5-hydrazinyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole. t_R: 0.89 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 354 / 356 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 0.87 - 1.30 (m, 4 H) 1.95 - 2.22 (m, 1 H) 3.46 (s, 3 H) 5.70 (s, 1 H) 6.21 (d, *J*=2.1 Hz, 1 H) 7.10 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2 H) 7.35 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2 H) 7.41 (d, *J*=2.1 Hz, 1 H) 8.57 (s, 1 H).

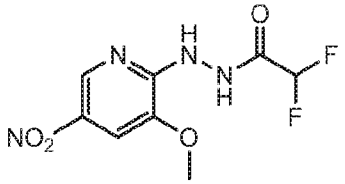
Example 22: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]triazolo-[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 1 using 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(cyclopropanecarbonyl)-1-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)pyrrolidine-2,4-dione (Step 22.8) and methyl hydrazine. t_R: 1.03 min (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.38 (EtOAc/MeOH 9:1); ESI-MS: 485 / 487 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-

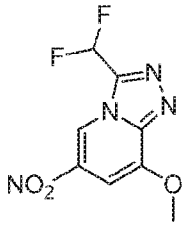
d_6) δ ppm 1.17 – 0.95 (m, 4 H) 2.07 – 1.99 (m, 1 H) 3.47 (s, 3 H) 3.98 (s, 3 H) 6.76 (s, 1 H) 7.14 (s, 1 H) 7.50 – 7.39 (m, 4 H) 7.69 (t, *J*=51.4 Hz, 1 H) 8.41 (s, 1 H).

Step 22.1: 2,2-difluoro-N'-(3-methoxy-5-nitropyridin-2-yl)acetohydrazide



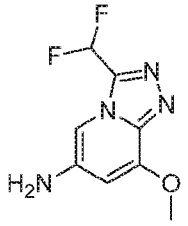
To a suspension of 2-hydrazinyl-3-methoxy-5-nitropyridine (2.5 g, 13.3 mmol in dioxane (25 mL) was added dropwise 2,2-difluoroacetic anhydride (1.75 mL, 14.0 mmol) at RT. After stirring the reaction mixture for 0.5 h at RT, the suspension was added to ice-water (100 mL). The precipitated product was filtered off, washed with water and dried at 50 °C under reduced pressure for 20 h to provide the title product (3.45 g, 97%) as a yellow solid. t_R: 0.56 min (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.34 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 10:1); ESI-MS: 263 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 3.99 (s, 3 H), 6.45 (t, *J*=52.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.79 (d, *J*=2.2 Hz, 1 H), 8.65 (d, *J*=2.2 Hz, 1 H), 9.64 (s, 1 H), 11.02 (s, 1 H).

Step 22.2: 3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-6-nitro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine



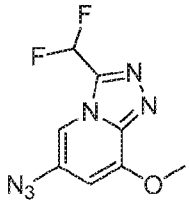
To a suspension of 2,2-difluoro-N'-(3-methoxy-5-nitropyridin-2-yl)acetohydrazide (3.45 g, 13.16 mmol) and DIPEA (1.72 mL, 9.9 mmol) in ACN (20 mL) was added under Ar slowly $POCl_3$ (1.85 mL, 19.75 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated for 15 h at 90 °C. The reaction mixture was slowly added to H_2O at 40 °C and after careful neutralization with $NaHCO_3$ to pH 6.5 extracted with CH_2Cl_2. Combined extracts were washed with a small amount of brine, dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated. Purification by silica gel column chromatography [hexane/ (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 9:1) 75:25 to 0:100] gave the title product (2.29 g, 69%) as a yellow solid. t_R: 0.64 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 245 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 4.16 (s, 3 H) 7.50 (s, 1 H) 7.89 (t, *J*=51.5 Hz, 1 H) 9.38 (s, 1 H).

Step 22.3: 3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-amine



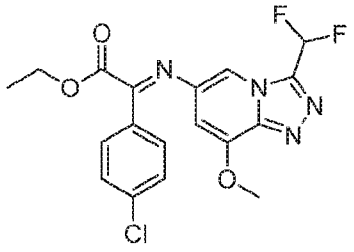
A solution of 3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-6-nitro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine (2.2 g, 8.3 mmol) in MeOH (75 mL) was hydrogenated over 10% Pd/C (0.86 g) for 4 h at 50 °C and 1000 mbar H_2. The reaction mixture was filtered over Celite and the filtrate was concentrated. The solidified crude product was triturated in CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 9:1, the solid filtered off, washed with CH_2Cl_2 and dried to give the title product (1.44 g, 75% yield) as a beige solid. t_R: 0.44 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 215 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 3.96 (s, 3 H) 5.43 (s, 2 H) 6.56 (s, 1 H) 7.35 (s, 1 H) 7.61 (t, J=51.5 Hz, 1 H).

Step 22.4: 6-azido-3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine



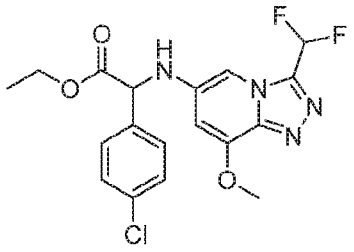
To a suspension of 3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-amine (1.42 g, 6.63 mmol) in ACN (10 mL) was added at 0 °C trimethylsilyl azide (2.65 mL, 19.9 mmol. After 10 min stirring at 0-5 °C a solution of tert-butylnitrite (4.73 mL, 39.8 mmol) in ACN (20 mL) over a period of 30 min. The reaction mixture was stirred for 20 h at RT, concentrated, and the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography [hexane/(CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 9:1) 50:50 to 0:100] to provide the title product (2.29 g, 69%) as a yellow solid. t_R: 0.70 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 241 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 4.07 (s, 3 H) 6.83 (s, 1 H) 7.73 (t, J=51.6 Hz, 1 H) 8.15 (s, 1 H).

Step 22.5: (E)-ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridin-6-yl)imino)acetate



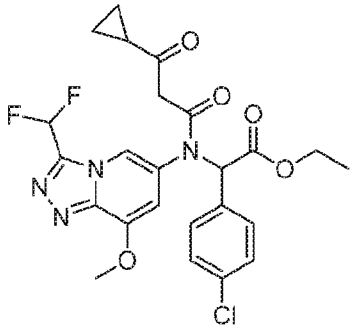
To a solution of 6-azido-3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine (500 mg, 2.082 mmol) and ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoacetate (465 mg, 2.186 mmol) in THF (12 mL) was added in portions triphenylphosphine (655 mg, 2.498 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at rt, 24 h at 70 °C and 12 h at 90 °C. The reaction mixture was added to sat. $NaHCO_3$ solution and the product was extracted with EtOAc. Combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated to provide after silica gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 75:25 to 0:100) the title product (518 mg, 58%) as a yellow solid. R_f = 0.55 (EtOAc); t_R: 1.13 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 409 / 411 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 0.98 (t, *J*=7.1 Hz, 3 H), 4.05 (s, 3 H), 4.24 (q, *J*=7.1 Hz, 2 H), 6.85 (s, 1 H), 7.69 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.73 (t, *J*=51.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.74 (s, 1 H), 7.92 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2 H).

Step 22.6: ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)amino)acetate



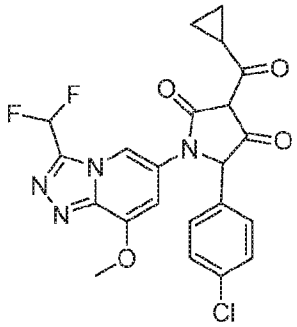
To a solution of (E)-ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)imino)acetate (510 mg, 1.25 mmol) in toluene (8 mL), isopropanol (4.6 mL) and H_2O (0.1 mL) was added under argon $[Ru(CO)_2(Ph_4C_4CO)]_2$ (28 mg, 0.025 mmol, *Can. J. Chem*, 2005, *83*, 909)) and the reaction mixture was heated at 110 °C for 45 min in the microwave. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 75:25 to 0:100) the give title product (461 mg, 88%) as a light yellow solid. R_f = 0.35 (EtOAc); t_R: 1.07 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 411 / 413 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 1.16 (t, *J*=7.1 Hz, 3 H), 3.96 (s, 3 H), 3.99 – 4.26 (m, 2 H), 5.34 (d, *J*=7.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.83 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.89 (s, 1 H), 7.13 (s, 1 H), 7.49 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.56 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2 H) 7.57 (t, *J*=52.4 Hz, 1 H).

Step 22.7: ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)amino)acetate



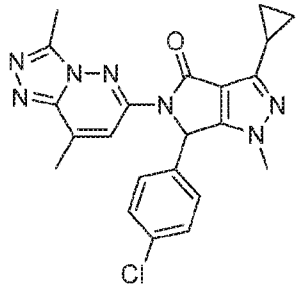
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Step 1.2 using ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)amino)-acetate (Step 21.6) and S-*tert*-butyl 3-cyclopropyl-3-oxopropanethioate (Step 1.5). t_R: 1.04 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 521 / 523 $[M-H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); R_f = 0.34 (EtOAc).

Step 22.8: 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(cyclopropanecarbonyl)-1-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]-triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)pyrrolidine-2,4-dione



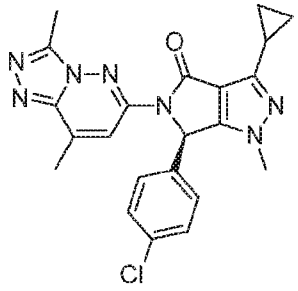
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Step 1.3 using 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(cyclopropanecarbonyl)-1-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridin-6-yl)pyrrolidine-2,4-dione (Step 21.7). R_f = 0.13 (CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 10:1); t_R: 0.88 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 475 / 477 $[M-H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 1.06 – 1.19 (m, 4 H), 3.13 – 3.21 (m, 1 H), 3.93 (s, 3 H), 5.87 (s, 1 H), 7.16 (s, 1 H), 7.65 (t, *J*=51.0 Hz, 1 H), 8.63 (s, 1 H).

Example 23: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 6 using 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Step 5.1) and 6-chloro-3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazine (CAS Reg. 23069-72-9). R_f = 0.24 (EtOAc/MeOH 9:1); t_R: 1.06 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 434 / 436 $[M-H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 0.98 – 1.16 (m, 4 H), 1.99 – 2.09 (m, 1 H), 2.55 (s, 3 H), 2.57 (s, 3 H), 3.46 (s, 3 H), 6.71 (s, 1 H), 7.40 – 7.54 (m, 4 H), 8.16 (s, 1 H).

Example 24: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one

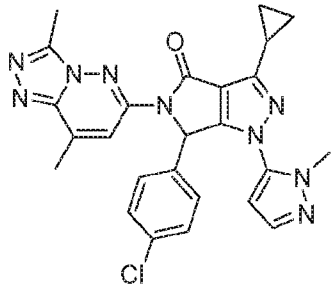


The title compound was obtained enantiomerically pure (>99% ee) after chiral preparative chromatography (system: Mg II preparative SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 30 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/MeOH 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 50 mL/min) of the racemic mixture of 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Example 22).

(S)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, t_R: 2.75 min (system: Thar analytical SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 4.6 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/MeOH (0.05% DEA) 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 2.4 mL/min; detection UV: 220 nm).

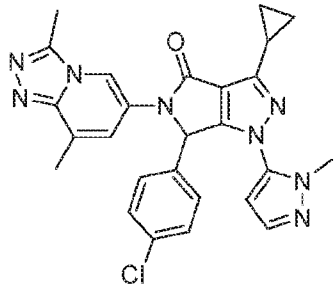
(R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one, t_R: 5.06 min (system: Thar analytical SFC; column: ChiralPak AD-H 4.6 x 250 mm; mobile phase: $scCO_2$/MeOH (0.05% DEA) 60:40 (isocratic), flow: 2.4 mL/min; detection UV: 220 nm).

Example 25: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazin-6-yl)-1-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



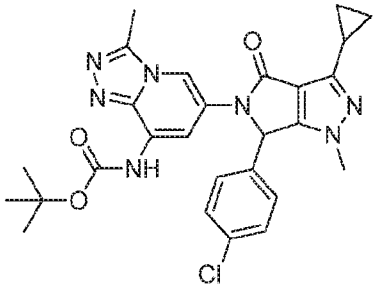
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 6 using 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Step 21.1) and 6-chloro-3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazine (CAS Reg. 23069-72-9). t_R: 1.07 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 500 / 502 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 1.09 – 1.32 (m, 4 H), 2.17 (tt, *J*=8.4, 5.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.52 (s, 3 H), 2.58 (s, 3 H), 3.47 (s, 3 H), 6.13 (d, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.76 (s, 1 H), 7.32 (s, 4 H), 7.44 (d, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1 H), 8.15 (d, *J*=1.5 Hz, 1 H).

Example 26: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



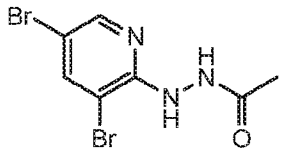
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 4 using 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Step 21.1) and 6-bromo-3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine. t_R: 0.93 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 499 / 501 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 1.03 - 1.30 (m, 4 H) 2.14 (d, *J*=4.7 Hz, 1 H) 2.45 (s, 3 H) 2.62 (s, 3 H) 3.48 (s, 3 H) 6.10 (s, 1 H) 6.71 (s, 1 H) 7.23 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2 H) 7.31 (d, *J*=8.1 Hz, 2 H) 7.34 (br. s., 1 H) 7.47 (s, 1 H) 8.37 (s, 1 H).

Example 27: tert-butyl (6-(6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-4-oxopyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-5(1H,4H,6H)-yl)-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-8-yl)carbamate



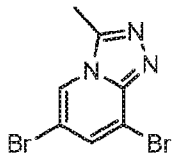
The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 6 using 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Step 5.1) and tert-butyl (6-bromo-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-8-yl)carbamate (Step 27.3). t_R: 1.15 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 534 / 536 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 0.95 - 1.05 (m, 4 H) 1.49 (s, 9 H) 2.02 (m, 1 H) 2.62 (s, 3 H) 3.46 (s, 3 H) 6.58 (s, 1 H) 7.40 (m, 4 H) 7.78 (s, 1 H) 8.21(s, 1 H) 9.18 (s, 1 H).

Step 27.1: N'-(3,5-dibromopyridin-2-yl)acetohydrazide



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 5 (Step 5.2) using 3,5-dibromo-2-hydrazinylpyridine (CAS reg. 1289024-95-8) and acetic acid anhydride. t_R: 0.65 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 308 / 310 / 312 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 1.89 (s, 3 H), 8.12 (d, J=2.1 Hz, 1 H), 8.18 (d, J=2.1 Hz, 1 H), 8.36 (s, 1 H), 9.78 (s, 1 H).

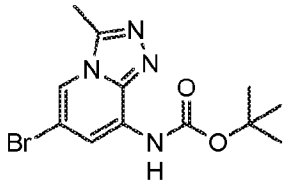
Step 27.2: 6,8-dibromo-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine



To a suspension of N'-(3,5-dibromopyridin-2-yl)acetohydrazide (1.5 g, 4.86 mmol) in dioxane (15 mL) was added acetic acid (6.95 mL, 121 mmol) and the reaction mixture was heated in a

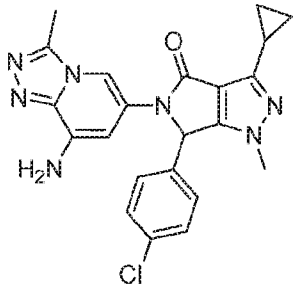
sealed tube at 120 °C for 48 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography [hexane/(CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 9:1) 50:50 to 0:100] to provide the title product (1.26 g, 88%) as a colorless solid. t_R: 0.63 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 290 (292 / 294 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 2.69 (s, 3 H), 7.94 (d, *J*=1.4 Hz, 1 H), 8.83 (d, *J*=1.4 Hz, 1 H).

Step 27.3: tert-butyl (6-bromo-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-8-yl)carbamate



To a suspension of 6,8-dibromo-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine (1.0 g, 3.40 mmol, Step 27.2), tert-butyl carbamate (0.598 g, 5.10 mmol) and Cs_2CO_3 (2.217 g, 6.81 mmol) in dioxane (15 mL) was added under Ar Xantphos (0.295 g, 0.510 mmol) and $Pd_2(dba)_3CHCl_3$ (0.176 g, 0.170 mmol) and the reaction mixture was heated for 8 h at 100 °C. The reaction mixture was added to brine and the product was extracted with EtOAc/THF 5:1. Combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography [hexane/(CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 9:1) 80:20 to 0:100] to provide the title product (0.6 g, 53%) as a colorless solid. t_R: 0.97 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 327 / 329 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 1.50 (s, 9 H), 2.67 (s, 3 H), 7.72 (d, *J*=1.5 Hz, 1 H), 8.42 (d, *J*=1.5 Hz, 1 H), 9.46 (s, 1 H).

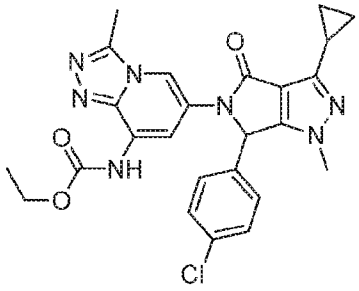
Example 28: 5-(8-amino-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one



To a solution of tert-butyl (6-(6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-4-oxopyrrolo[3,4-c]-pyrazol-5(1H,4H,6H)-yl)-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-8-yl)carbamate ((59 mg, 0.108 mmol, Example 27) in CH_2Cl_2 (2 mL) was added TFA (0.334 mL, 4.33 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 3.5 h at RT. The reaction mixture was added to sat. $NaHCO_3$ solution and the product was extracted with EtOAc. Combined extracts were washed with brine, dried

over $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography [hexane/(CH_2Cl_2/MeOH 9:1) 80:20 to 0:100] to provide the title product (24 mg, 49%) as a light yellow solid. t_R: 0.87 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 434 / 436 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 0.95 - 1.15 (m, 4 H) 2.00 (m, 1 H) 2.56 (s, 3 H) 3.46 (s, 3 H) 6.06 (s, 1 H) 6.34 (d, *J*=1.6 Hz, 1 H) 6.47 (s, 1 H) 7.32 – 7.46 (m, 4 H) 7.75 (s, 1 H).

Example 29: ethyl (6-(6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-4-oxopyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-5-(1H,4H,6H)-yl)-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-8-yl)carbamate



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the procedure described in Example 6 using 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one (Step 5.1), ethyl (6-bromo-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-8-yl)carbamate (Step 29.1) and K_3PO_4 as base. t_R: 0.97 min (LC-MS 1); ESI-MS: 506 / 508 $[M+H]^+$ (LC-MS 1), 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ ppm 0.96 – 1.16 (m, 4 H), 1.26 (t, *J*=7.1 Hz, 3 H), 1.97 – 2.05 (m, 1 H), 2.64 (s, 3 H), 3.48 (s, 3 H), 4.18 (q, *J*=7.1 Hz, 2 H), 6.60 (s, 1 H), 7.37 – 7.44 (m, 4 H), 7.82 (s, 1 H), 8.27 (d, *J*=1.8 Hz, 1 H), 9.74 (s, 1 H).

ASSAYS

The activity of a compound according to the present invention can be assessed by the following methods.

TR-FRET in-vitro binding assays for BRD2, BRD3, and BRD4:

All assays were performed in 384 well microtiter plates. Each assay plate contained 8-point serial dilutions for 40 test compounds, plus 16 high- and 16 low controls. Liquid handling and incubation steps were done on an Innovadyne Nanodrop Express equipped with a robotic arm (Thermo CatX, Perkin Elmer/Caliper Twister II) and an incubator (Liconic STX40, Thermo Cytomat 2C450). The assay plates were prepared by addition of 50nl per well of compound solution in 90% DMSO HummingBird nanodispenser (Zinsser Analytic). The assay was started by stepwise addition of 4.5µl per well of bromo domain protein (50mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 0.005% Tween20, 0.1% BSA, 50mM NaCl, 45nM His-Brd2(60-472) or 45nM His-Brd3(20-477) or 45nM His-Brd4(44-477) all proteins produced in-house) and 4.5µl per well of peptide solution (50mM

HEPES, pH 7.5, 0.005% Tween20, 0.1% BSA, 50mM NaCl, 60nM acetyl-histone H4 (AcK 5, 8, 12, 16) (Biosyntan GmbH)). Reactions were incubated at 30°C for 35 minutes. Subsequently 4.5µl per well detection mix (50mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 0.005% Tween20, 0.1% BSA, 50mM NaCl, 3nM Eu-labeled anti-His6 antibody, 21nM streptavidin-allophycocyanin) were added. After 35minutes incubation at 30°C, plates were measured in a Perkin Elmer EnVision multilabel reader. Concentrations causing 50% inhibition (IC50 values) were determined from percent inhibition values at different compound concentrations by non-linear regression analysis.

AlphaScreen in-vitro binding assay for CREBBP

In order to assess bromodomain selectivity, we set up a binding assay using the bromodomain encoded by the CREBBP gene. Compounds were tested in the CREBBP assay with a similar protocol, however using AlphaScreen (Amplified Luminescent Proximity Homogeneous Assay, Perkin Elmer) as detection readout instead of TR-FRET. The assay was started by stepwise addition of 4.5µl per well of bromo domain protein (50mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 0.005% Tween20, 0.02% BSA, 150mM NaCl, 324nM His-CREBBP(1081-1197) (custom production at Viva Biotech Ltd.)) and 4.5µl per well of peptide solution (50mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 0.005% Tween20, 0.02% BSA, 150mM NaCl, 120nM acetyl-histone H4 (AcK 5, 8, 12) (Biosyntan GmbH)). Reactions were incubated at 30°C for 35 minutes. Subsequently 4.5µl per well detection mix (50mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 0.005% Tween20, 0.02% BSA, 150mM NaCl, 45µg/ml Ni-chelate acceptor beads, 45µg/ml streptavidin-donor beads) (Perkin Elmer)) were added. After 60 minutes incubation at room temperature, plates were measured in a Perkin Elmer EnVision multilabel reader. IC50 values were determined from percent inhibition values at different compound concentrations by non-linear regression analysis.

For further bromodomain selectivity profiling, additional panel assays were performed using analog protocols with minor modifications specific for the individual assay, using either TR-FRET or AlphaScreen for detection.

Preparation of compound dilutions

Test compounds were dissolved in DMSO (10 mM) and transferred into 1.4mL flat bottom or V-shaped Matrix tubes carrying a unique 2D matrix. The stock solutions were stored at +2°C if not used immediately. For the test procedure the vials were defrosted and identified by a scanner whereby a working sheet was generated that guided the subsequent working steps. Compound dilutions were made in 96 well plates. This format enabled the assay of maximally 40 individual test compounds at 8 concentrations (single points) including 4 reference compounds, if desired (known BET inhibitors from the prior art, for this and other assays of the type disclosed herein). The dilution protocol included the production of “pre-dilution plates”, “master plates” and “assay plates”.

Pre-dilution plates: 96 polypropylene well plates were used as pre-dilution plates. A total of 4 pre-dilution plates were prepared including 10 test compounds each on the plate positions A1-A10, one standard compound at A11 and one DMSO control at A12. All dilution steps were done on a HamiltonSTAR robot.

Master plates: 30µL of individual compound dilutions including standard compound and controls of the 4 "pre-dilution plates" were transferred into a 384 "master plate" including the following concentrations 10000, 3003, 1000, 300, 100, 30, 10 and 3µM, respectively in 90 % of DMSO.

Assay plates: Identical "assay plates" were then prepared by pipetting 50nL each of compound dilutions of the "master plates" into 384-well "assay plates" by means of a HummingBird 384-channel dispenser. These plates were used directly for the assay which was performed in a total volume of 13.55µL. This led to a final compound concentration of 37, 11, 3.7, 1.1, 0.37, 0.11, 0.037 and 0.011µM and a final DMSO concentration of 0.37 % in the assay.

Cell growth inhibition assay

The human leukemia cell lines MV-4-11, THP-1 and K-562 were employed to characterize the effect of BET inhibitors on cellular proliferation and viability. Cells were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) and cultured at 37°C in a humidified 5% CO_2 incubator in the following media: MV-4-11: DMEM high glucose (Animed # 1-26F01-I), 10% FCS (Animed # 2-01F26-I), 4 mM L-Glutamine (Animed # 5-10K50), 1 mM Sodium Pyruvate (Animed # G03625P), 1x Penicillin-Streptomycin (Animed # F12478P); K-562: Iscove's MEM (Animed # 1-28F16-I), 10% FCS (Animed # 2-01F26-I), 4 mM L-Glutamine (Animed # 5-10K50), 1x Penicillin-Streptomycin (Animed # F12478P); THP-1: RPMI-1640 (Animed # 1-41F01-I), 10% FCS (Animed # 2-01F26-I), 2 mM L-Glutamine (Animed # 5-10K50), 10 mM HEPES (Animed # 5-31F100), 1 mM Sodium Pyruvate (Animed # G03625P), 1x Penicillin-Streptomycin (Animed # F12478P). The AML lines MV-4-11 and THP-1 are very sensitive to BET inhibitors and show massive cell death upon BET inhibition (Zuber et al., Nature, 478 (2011), 524-8). Compound-mediated suppression of cell proliferation/viability was assessed by quantification of cellular ATP levels using the CellTiter-Glo (CTG) reagent (Promega). Briefly, cells were seeded in 20 µl fresh medium into 384-well plates, followed by addition of 5 µl medium containing compound dilutions at 5-fold their final intended concentration. Dose-response effects were assessed by 3-fold serial dilutions of the test compound, starting at 10 µM. Following incubation of the cells for 4 days at 37 °C and 5 % CO_2, the effect of inhibitors on cell viability was quantified following addition of 20 µl CTG and luminescence quantification (integration time: 100ms) as per vendor manual, using a correspondingly equipped Tecan M200 multi-mode platereader (TECAN, Switzerland). For data analysis, the assay background value determined in wells containing medium, but no cells, was subtracted from all data points. To enable differentiation of cytotoxic from cytostatic compounds, the number of viable cells is assessed relative to that observed at

the time of compound addition using a separate cell plate (day 0) . The effect of a particular test compound concentration on cell proliferation/viability is expressed as percentage of the background- and day 0-corrected luminescence reading obtained for cells treated with vehicle only (DMSO, 0.1% final concentration), which is set as 100%, whereas that luminescence reading for wells containing medium is set as -100% . Compound concentrations leading to half-maximal (IC50) and total growth inhibition (TGI) were determined using standard four parameter curve fitting.

Nut-foci formation assay

HCC2494 NUT midline carcinoma cells (expressing BRD4-NUT- fusion) were obtained from the University of Texas Southwestern and cultured in RPMI-1640 medium containing 10% Foetal Calf Serum at 37°C in a humidified 5% CO_2 incubator.
Compound-mediated inhibition of BRD4 activity was monitored by quantification of the number and intensity of nuclear BRD4-NUT foci using automated immunofluorescence microscopy. Briefly, 5000 cells in 20 µl fresh medium were seeded into Poly-D-Lysine-precoated 384-well plates and incubated overnight at 37 °C and 5 % CO_2, followed by addition of 5 µl medium containing compound dilutions at 5-fold their final intended concentration. Dose-response effects were assessed by 3-fold serial dilutions of the test compound, starting at 10 µM. Following incubation of the cells for 24 hours at 37 °C and 5 % CO_2, the cells were fixed by incubation with 3.7 % formaldehyde for 10 min, followed by immunofluorescence staining using rabbit anti-NUT (Cell Signaling Technologies, Cat#3625) as primary, and AlexaFluor488-labeled goat anti-rabbit (Invitrogen, Cat#A11008) as secondary antibody (latter complemented with 1 µg/mL Hoechst33342 as DNA dye). Assay plates were imaged using the appropriate filter sets on the Cellomics VTi automated fluorescence microscopy platform (ThermoFisher Scientific) and the population average of the number of NUT-foci per nucleus is quantified using the Cellomics Spot Detection BioApplication image analysis algorithm (ThermoFisher Scientific). The effect of a particular test compound concentration on NUT-foci number and intensity is expressed as percentage of the value obtained for cells treated with vehicle only (DMSO, 0.1% final concentration), which was set as 100. Compound concentrations leading to half-maximal (IC50) inhibition of the aforementioned readout parameters were determined using standard four parameter curve
fitting.

Using the biochemical and cellular assays as described in this application compounds of the invention exhibit inhibitory efficacy in accordance to Tables 1 and 2, provided infra.

Table 1: Biochemical IC50 values

	IC50 (μM)			
Example	BRD4	BRD2	BRD3	CREBBP
1	0.024	0.029	0.031	11.4
2	< 0.011	0.011	0.012	6
3	< 0.011	0.013	< 0.011	> 37
4	< 0.011	0.017	< 0.011	7.3
5	0.028	0.054	0.044	> 37
6	0.022	0.038	0.025	21.6
7	< 0.011	0.013	0.012	> 37
8	0.018	0.028	0.02	4.8
9	0.014	0.021	0.014	3.2
10	0.03	0.048	0.045	> 37
11	0.042	0.046	0.037	> 37
12	0.032	0.042	0.031	12.2
13	0.024	0.034	0.022	5.4
14	0.03	0.057	0.055	27.5
15	0.018	0.02	0.016	6.1
16	0.015	0.016	0.013	> 37
17	< 0.011	0.011	< 0.011	9.8
18	0.025	0.033	0.024	> 37
19	0.023	0.029	0.025	9.4
20	0.015	0.013	0.012	7.9
21	0.017	0.031	0.023	6.6
22	0.13	0.21	0.23	> 37
23				
24	< 0.011	< 0.011	< 0.011	19.2
25	0.025	0.032	0.024	> 37
26				
27	0.036	0.047	0.065	8.1
28	0.021	0.041	0.034	3.7
29	0.023	0.023	0.022	

Table 2: Cellular IC50 values*

Example	MV-4-11	MV-4-11	THP-1 GI50	THP-1 TGI	K-562 GI50	K-562 TGI	HCS Brd4-

	GI50 (μM)	TGI (μM)	(μM)	(μM)	(μM)	(μM)	NUT IC50 (μM)
1	0.00542	0.0107	0.0096	0.0204	0.0519	> 10	0.0162
2	0.00431	0.011215	0.00637	0.01495	0.0292	> 10	0.004715
3	0.00949	0.02345	0.01245	0.02945	0.0735	> 10	0.008265
4	0.009355	0.0208	0.0119	0.02795	0.0568	> 10	0.009035
5	0.06495	0.104	0.08145	0.1475	0.373	> 10	0.036
6	0.04455	0.09025	0.06305	0.1181	0.2035	> 10	0.05475
7	0.002445	0.006275	0.00565	0.0148	0.0463	> 10	0.00214
8	0.00471	0.00953	0.007295	0.0176	0.02475	> 10	
9	0.00257	0.005745	0.00441	0.01076	0.014345	> 10	
10	0.03455	0.0643	0.0604	0.13685	0.13545	> 10	
11	0.00955	0.0174	0.02825	0.0428	0.09835	> 10	
12	0.0175	0.0378	0.04045	0.09735	0.10565	> 10	
13	0.01425	0.0298	0.02845	0.06465	0.0965	> 10	
14	0.0201	0.03955	0.0514	0.1185	0.1525	> 10	
15	0.00241	0.00579	0.00642	0.0139	0.0265	> 10	
16	0.00607	0.0113	0.0187	0.0516	0.122	> 10	0.0121
17	0.00428	0.009765	0.009685	0.0247	0.0631	> 10	
18	0.00673	0.01325	0.0192	0.04645	0.139	> 10	0.00365
19	0.00523	0.0113	0.0147	0.0366	0.0584	> 10	
20	0.00647	0.0161	0.0209	0.0447	0.096	> 10	
21	0.01355	0.02725	0.0223	0.04445	0.0788	> 10	
22	0.2665	0.574	0.814	1.33	1.18	> 10	

23							
24	0.0006435	0.00157	0.001875	0.00491	0.010405	> 10	
25	0.00665	0.0159	0.0201	0.0444	0.0916	> 10	
26							
27	0.011075	0.0226	0.0228	0.04465	0.164	> 10	0.0224
28	0.001565	0.003515	0.00283	0.00904	0.009655	> 10	
29	0.00113	0.00197	0.00259	0.00762	0.0236	> 10	0.0022

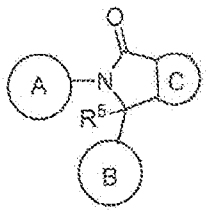
*Values from either single determination or n≥2 independent determinations

Throughout this specification and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", and variations such as "comprises" and "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

The reference in this specification to any prior publication (or information derived from it), or to any matter which is known, is not, and should not be taken as an acknowledgment or admission or any form of suggestion that that prior publication (or information derived from it) or known matter forms part of the common general knowledge in the field of endeavour to which this specification relates.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

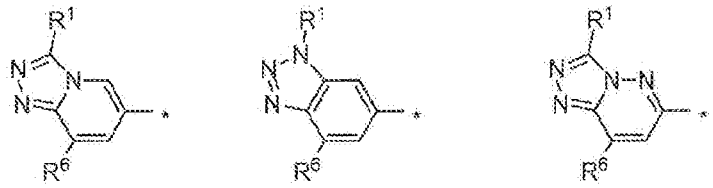
1. A compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof,



(I)

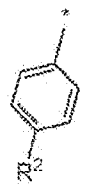
wherein

A is selected from



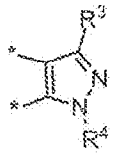
and ;

B is



;

C is

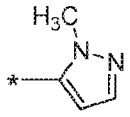


;

R^1 is methyl, optionally substituted with one or two fluoro;

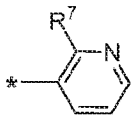
R^2 is selected from chloro and fluoro;

R^3 is selected from $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl and cyclopropyl; and R^4 is selected from $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, optionally substituted by –OH or -O-$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl; halo$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl substituted by –OH; or



or

R^3 is



; and R^4 is selected from H; $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl optionally substituted by -OH or -O-$(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl; and cyclopropyl;

R^5 is H;

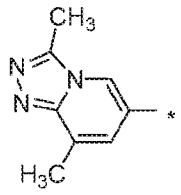
R^6 is selected from methyl, methoxy, $–NH_2$ and $–NH$-C(O)-$(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl

R^7 is methoxy;

and * indicates the point of attachment to the remainder of the molecule.

2. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 is selected from methyl and difluoromethyl.

3. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein A is selected from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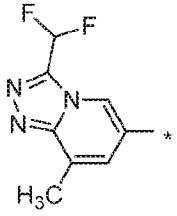
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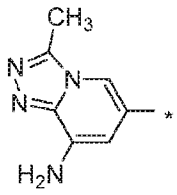
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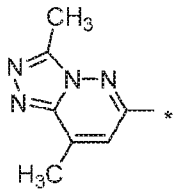
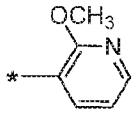

;

4. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to any preceding Claim, wherein R^3 is selected from methyl, ethyl and cyclopropyl.

5. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to any preceding Claim, wherein R^4 is methyl or $–CH_2CH_2OCH_3$.

6. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to Claim 1, Claim 2 or Claim 3, wherein R^3 is



and

R^4 is H.

7. A compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof, according to Claim 1, which is selected from:

Example 1: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 2: (*R*)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 3: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 4: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

6Example 5: -(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 6: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one

Example 7: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo-[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 8: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 9: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 10: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 11: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 12: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 13: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-3-(2-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 14: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(8-methoxy-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 15: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-(2-methoxyethyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 16: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 17: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo-[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 18: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(fluoromethyl)-8-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridin-6-yl)-1-(2-methoxyethyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 19: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-((R)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxypropyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 20: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-((S)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxypropyl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 21: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(1,4-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazol-6-yl)-1-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 22: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3-(difluoromethyl)-8-methoxy-[1,2,4]triazolo-[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 23: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one;

Example 24: (R)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazin-6-yl)-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 25: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-b]pyridazin-6-yl)-1-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 26: 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,8-dimethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-1-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ;

Example 27: tert-butyl (6-(6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-4-oxopyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-5(1H,4H,6H)-yl)-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-8-yl)carbamate ;

Example 28: 5-(8-amino-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one ; and

Example 29: ethyl (6-(6-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-1-methyl-4-oxopyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-5-(1H,4H,6H)-yl)-3-methyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-8-yl)carbamate .

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

9. A combination comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and one or more therapeutically active agents.

10. A method of modulating BET protein activity in a subject, wherein the method comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. A method of treating cancer, comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a medicament.

13. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of cancer.

14. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer.