



(11) (21) (C) **2,183,954**
(86) 1995/02/01
(87) 1995/09/14
(45) 2000/07/18

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(51) Int.Cl.⁶ A61K 31/445

(30) 1994/03/09 (08/209,084) US

(54) **TRAITEMENT DE TROUBLES OBSESSIVO-COMPULSIFS A
L'AIDE D'ANTAGONISTES DE 5-HT₂**

(54) **TREATMENT OF OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDERS
WITH 5-HT₂ ANTAGONISTS**

(57) The present invention is directed to 5-HT₂ antagonists and their use as agents in the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorders (OCD). The invention is particularly directed to the compound (+)- α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol which is a member of a class of 5-HT₂ antagonists known as N-aralkyl piperidinemethanol derivatives which are potent and selective inhibitors of the binding of serotonin at the 5-HT₂ receptor site.





INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

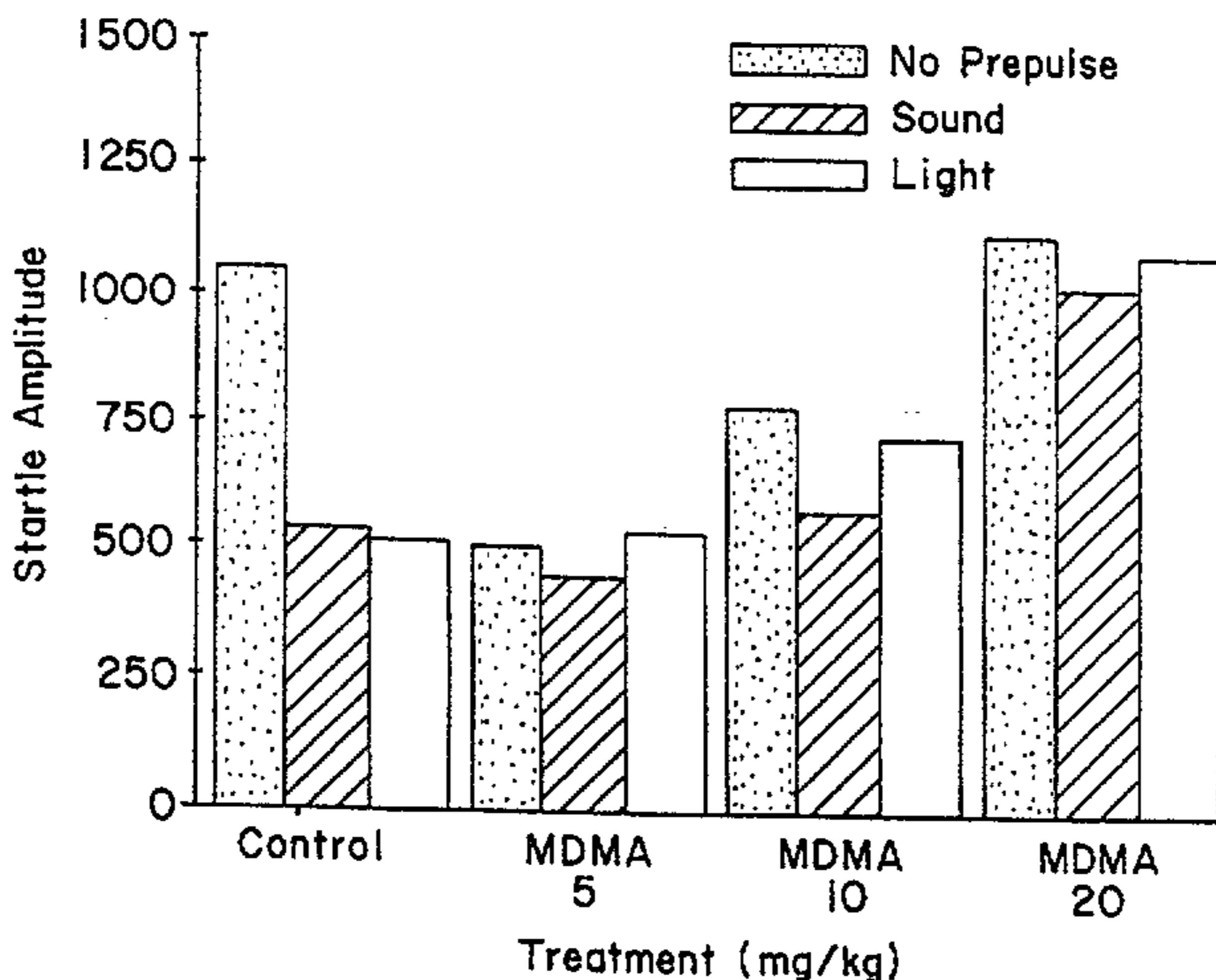
(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : A61K 31/445	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 95/24194
		(43) International Publication Date: 14 September 1995 (14.09.95)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US95/01306

(22) International Filing Date: 1 February 1995 (01.02.95)

(30) Priority Data:
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45215-6300 (US).(81) Designated States: AM, AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH,
CN, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, JP, KE, KG, KP,
KR, KZ, LK, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MN, MW, NL, NO,
NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SI, SK, TJ, TT, UA, UZ,
VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB,
GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ,
CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG),
ARIPO patent (KE, MW, SD, SZ).**2183954**

Published

With international search report.(54) Title: TREATMENT OF OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDERS WITH 5-HT₂ ANTAGONISTS

(57) Abstract

The present invention is directed to 5-HT₂ antagonists and their use as agents in the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorders (OCD). The invention is particularly directed to the compound (+)- α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol which is a member of a class of 5-HT₂ antagonists known as N-alkyl piperidinemethanol derivatives which are potent and selective inhibitors of the binding of serotonin at the 5-HT₂ receptor site.

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10 TREATMENT OF OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDERS WITH N-ARALKYL
PIPERIDINE DERIVATIVES

The present invention is directed to the use of N-aralkyl piperidine derivatives, which are 5-HT₂ antagonists, as agents in the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorders (OCD).

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

20 Clinical studies of 5-HT subtype-selective agonists or antagonists have suggested a role of 5-HT in the etiology and treatment of such different neuropsychiatric disorders as the anxiety disorders, depression, alcoholism, schizophrenia, migraine, sexual dysfunctions and Alzheimer's disease (see Murphy, D., *Neuropsychiatric Disorders and the Multiple Human Brain Serotonin Receptor Subtypes and Subsystems*, Neuropsychopharmacology, 3, No.5/6, pp. 457-471 (1990). Pharmacological and clinical data suggest that 5-HT and in particular 5-HT₂ receptors may play a role in schizophrenic symptomology and in the mechanism of action of some antipsychotic drugs.

A phenomenon known as prepulse inhibition (PPI) is known to be disrupted in individuals with schizophrenia. PPI is a measure of "sensory gating" or "sensory filtering" in animals and man and disrupted PPI may represent a fundamental deficit in the ability of these individuals to gate sensory information. Studies have shown that the

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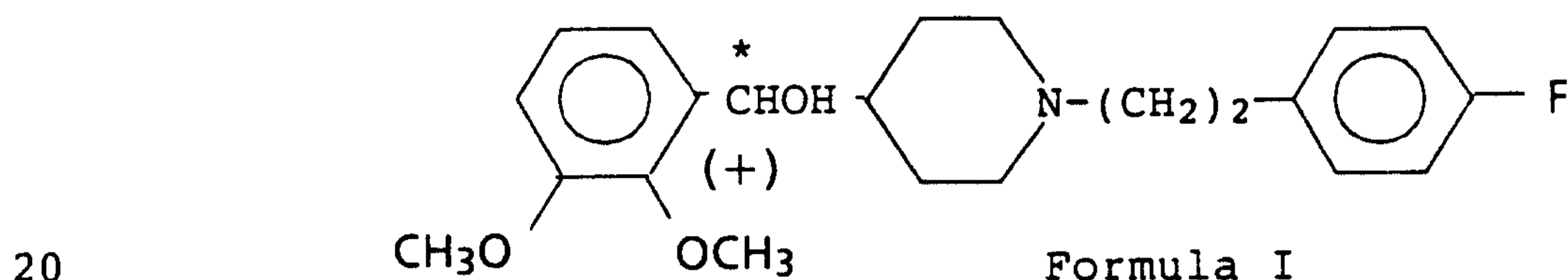
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amplitude of the startle reflex is inhibited when the
startling stimulus is preceded 30-500 msec by a weak
"prepulse". This "prepulse inhibition" (PPI) is a measure
5 of sensorimotor gating that is impaired in disorders
characterized by deficient gating of irrelevant sensory
information (schizophrenia) or motor activity (Huntington's
Disease). Substantial evidence indicates that PPI is
modulated by neural circuitry linking the limbic cortex,
10 striatum and pallidum.

It has recently been demonstrated that patients with
obsessive-compulsive disorders (OCD) also fail to inhibit or
"gate" intrusive, distressing thoughts or images. Since OCD
15 is characterized by deficient "cognitive gating" and by
aberrant metabolic activity in circuitry linking the orbital
cortex and striatum, it has been predicted that OCD patients
might exhibit deficient PPI. Indeed, in a study of eleven
OCD patients and 13 normal controls, it was demonstrated
20 that OCD patients exhibited less PPI than control subjects.
Swerdlow, N.R., Benbow, C.H., Zisook, S., Geyer, M.A., and
Brafk, D.L., *Impaired Sensorimotor Gating in Obsessive Compulsive
Disorder (OCD)*, abstract from the Abstracts of Panels and
Posters, p. 155, American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
25 31st Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, December 14-18,
1992. These findings suggest that the inability to "gate"
intrusive thoughts and images in OCD is accompanied by
quantifiable deficits in sensorimotor gating and suggests
PPI might be a useful measure for understanding the
30 pathophysiology of OCD. Currently, serotonin-selective
reuptake inhibitors (SSRI) are used to treat the symptoms of
OCD. However, we are not aware of any data, other than such
data as is presented herein, that indicates that SSRIs
reverse the deficits in PPI in OCD.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

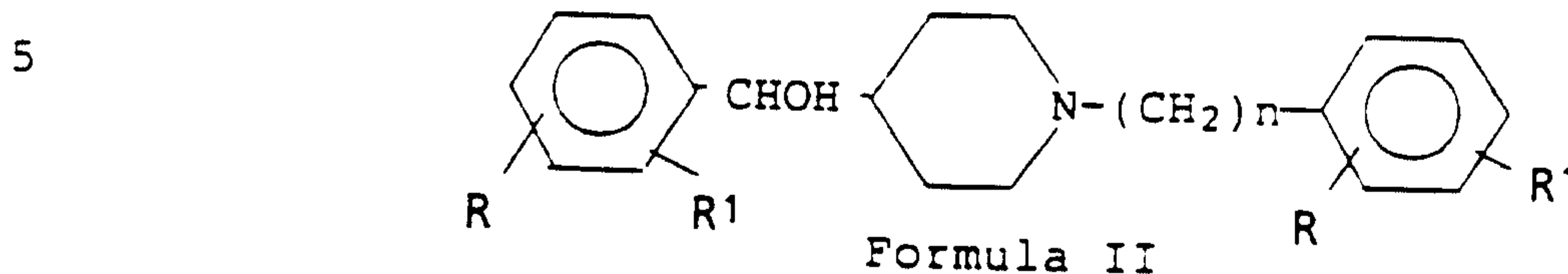
We have found that pharmacological agents that increase
 5 serotonergic activity (i.e. 5-HT releasing agents such as
 fenfluramine) disrupt sound-induced PPI in rats. This
 suggests a model for studying the restoration of PPI in
 subjects where PPI has been disrupted by such agents. We now
 show that the (+)-isomer of α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-
 10 fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol, a serotonin 5-HT₂
 antagonist which possesses superior *in vivo* potency, is active
 in a model of sensory-motor gating (prepulse inhibition)
 disrupted by 5-HT₂ receptor activation and restores sound-
 induced PPI that is disrupted by fenfluramine. This compound
 15 can be described by the following formula I:



This is the first known instance that we are aware of
 where it has been demonstrated that a 5-HT₂ antagonist can
 restore disrupted prepulse inhibition. We have also shown
 that (+)- α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-
 25 fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol specifically
 restores sound-disrupted prepulse inhibition and not light-
 disrupted prepulse inhibition which may have further
 implications for the treatment of OCD. This activity
 demonstrates that the 5-HT₂ antagonist α -(2,3-
 30 dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidine-
 methanol would be useful in the treatment of OCD disorders
 and suggests that N-alkyl piperidine derivatives in
 general would be useful for this purpose.

35 The compound, α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-
 fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol, belongs to a class
 of compounds known as N-alkyl piperidinemethanol
 derivatives which are potent and selective inhibitors of the

binding of serotonin at the 5-HT₂ receptor site. These compounds are represented by formula II:



wherein n is 2, 3 or 4 and each R and R₁ independently
 10 represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, or amino, their optical isomers and mixtures thereof and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. These N-aralkyl piperidinemethanol derivatives as well as the processes for their preparation are described in
 15 detail in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,783,471, 4,912,117, and 5,169,096.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 Figures 1a-1d demonstrate that (+)- α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol (MDL) reverses deficits in sensorimotor gating (prepulse inhibition) produced by 5-HT₂ receptor activation.

25 Figure 1a shows the 5-HT/DA releaser MDMA (3,4-methylendioxyamphetamine) blocks prepulse inhibition in rats, using either a sound or light prepulse.

30 Figure 1b shows that MDL, but not haloperidol, reduces the MDMA blockade of sound prepulse inhibition.

Figure 1c shows that MDL, but not haloperidol, reduces the MDMA blockade of light prepulse inhibition.

35 Figure 1d shows that MDL, but not haloperidol, reduces the blockade of sound prepulse inhibition by fenfluramine, a more selective 5-HT releaser.

Figure 1e shows that MDL, but not haloperidol, reduces the blockade of light prepulse inhibition by fenfluramine, a more selective 5-HT releaser.

Figure 1f shows that MDL, but not haloperidol, reduces the blockade of sound prepulse inhibition by DOI (1,4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl-2-aminopropane), a 5-HT₂ agonist.

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Figure 1g shows that MDL, but not haloperidol, reduces the blockade of light prepulse inhibition by DOI (1,4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl-2-aminopropane), a 5-HT₂ agonist.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The compound (+)- α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol is a potent and selective antagonist of 5-HT₂ receptors. The 5-HT₂ antagonist activity of (+)- α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol is demonstrated and described in detail in U.S. Patent No. 5,134,149.

We have now evaluated its activity in a model of sensory-motor gating (prepulse inhibition) disrupted by 5-HT₂ receptor activation. Prepulse inhibition is a phenomenon of sensory gating that is disrupted in schizophrenics and in animals given psychotomimetic agents such as amphetamine and PCP. In rats, prepulse inhibition is disrupted by 5-HT releasing agents or specific 5-HT₂ agonists, and these effects were attenuated by (+)- α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol (MDL), as described below.

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PREPULSE INHIBITION (PPI)

Test Procedure:

5 After an approximate pretreatment time, rats were placed in the startle chambers for a 5-minute acclimation period. This was followed by 10 minutes testing: 10 trials with an auditory prepulse; 10 trials with a visual prepulse and 10 trials with no prepulse, presented in the same pseudorandom
10 order. The intertrial interval of approximately 20 seconds resulted in a session length of about fifteen minutes, including the five minute acclimation period. PPI was operationally defined as a significant decrease of startle amplitude within a group, following prepulses, compared to
15 its own amplitude in the no prepulse condition.

Stimulus Parameters

The startle eliciting stimulus was a 40 msec of white noise at a sound pressure level of 120 dB. The auditory prepulse
20 stimulus was a 20 msec, 78 dB burst of white noise presented 100 msec prior to eliciting stimulus against a constant 64 dB background of white noise. These parameters were selected to be very similar to those used in most of the studies reviewed in Geyer, M. A., Swerdlow, N. R., Mansbach, R. S.,
25 and Braff, D., *Startle models of sensorimotor gating and habituation deficits in schizophrenia*. Brain Research Bulletin, 25, 485-498 (1990).

Cross-modal Prepulse Inhibition

30 Cross-modal prepulse inhibition by a light-stimulus was included to determine if the reported prepulse effects were limited to the single modality of sound. This visual prepulse was created by turning on three incandescent bulbs in the animal chamber (one mounted on the ceiling and one
35 mounted at each end of the test chamber) 75 msec prior to the onset of the startle stimulus. This visual stimulus produced no humanly perceptible or electronically measurable sound, even when the rather loud 65 dB white masking noise

was turned off. The estimated rise time of the light prepulse to a peak of about 175 lux was approximately 25 msec. The resultant interval between peak intensity and
5 startle stimulus corresponds rather well to the 50 msec interstimulus interval (ISI) reported in the literature to be optimal for visual prepulses. Hoffman, H.S., & Ison, J. R., *Reflex modification in the domain of startle: I. Some empirical findings and their implications for how the nervous system processes sensory input.*
10 Psychological Review, 87 (2), 175-189 (1980). The dim, red background illumination in the chambers averaged, 2 lux.

Drugs

MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine), fenfluramine and
15 (+)DOI (1,4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl-2-aminopropane) were dissolved in purified, deionized water and administered intraperitoneally at a dose volume of 1 ml/kg. Equivalent amounts of vehicle (VEH) were used for sham injections. All drugs were given 20 minutes prior to testing.

20

Apparatus

An apparatus consisting of eight separate stabilimeters measured the amplitude of startle reflexes elicited by acoustic stimulation. See Kehne, J, H., McCloskey, T. C.,
25 Taylor, V. L., Black, C. K., Fadayel, G. M. and Schmidt, C. J., *Effects of the Serotonin Releasers 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), 4-Chloroamphetamine (PCA) and Fenfluramine on Acoustic and Tactile Startle Reflexes in Rats*, The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, 260 (1), pp. 78-89 (1992) for a
30 detailed discussion. Movement of the platform against a transducer produced a voltage proportional to displacement and is reported as arbitrary units from 0 to 4,095. Each stabilimeter was housed in a ventilated, sound-attenuating chamber illuminated by dim, red-filtered light.

35

Data Signal Calibration

Output of the transducers was calibrated by use of an audio speaker (Radio Shack #40-1021A woofer) with a weighted cone

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mounted on a jig that was clamped to the platform in the test cage. This delivered a 10 Hz sine wave signal the same frequency as the startle response in the animal. The average output of all chambers was approximately equal. Due to the fact that an equal number of animals in each group was tested in each chamber, exact equalization of outputs was deemed unnecessary.

10 The results from the administration of the drugs in the test procedure described above are summarized in TABLE I presented below. The results of Table I show that MDL attenuates the reduction of prepulse inhibition to sound produced by agents which directly (DOI) or indirectly (MDMA, 15 fenfluramine) stimulate 5-HT₂ receptors. Figures 1a-1g, below, also demonstrate that MDL reverses deficits in sensorimotor gating (prepulse inhibition) produced by 5-HT₂ receptor activation. (The results in Figures 1a-g also demonstrate that haloperidol, a typical antipsychotic, does 20 not reverse such deficits in prepulse inhibition).

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TABLE I
PREPULSE INHIBITION TEST RESULTS

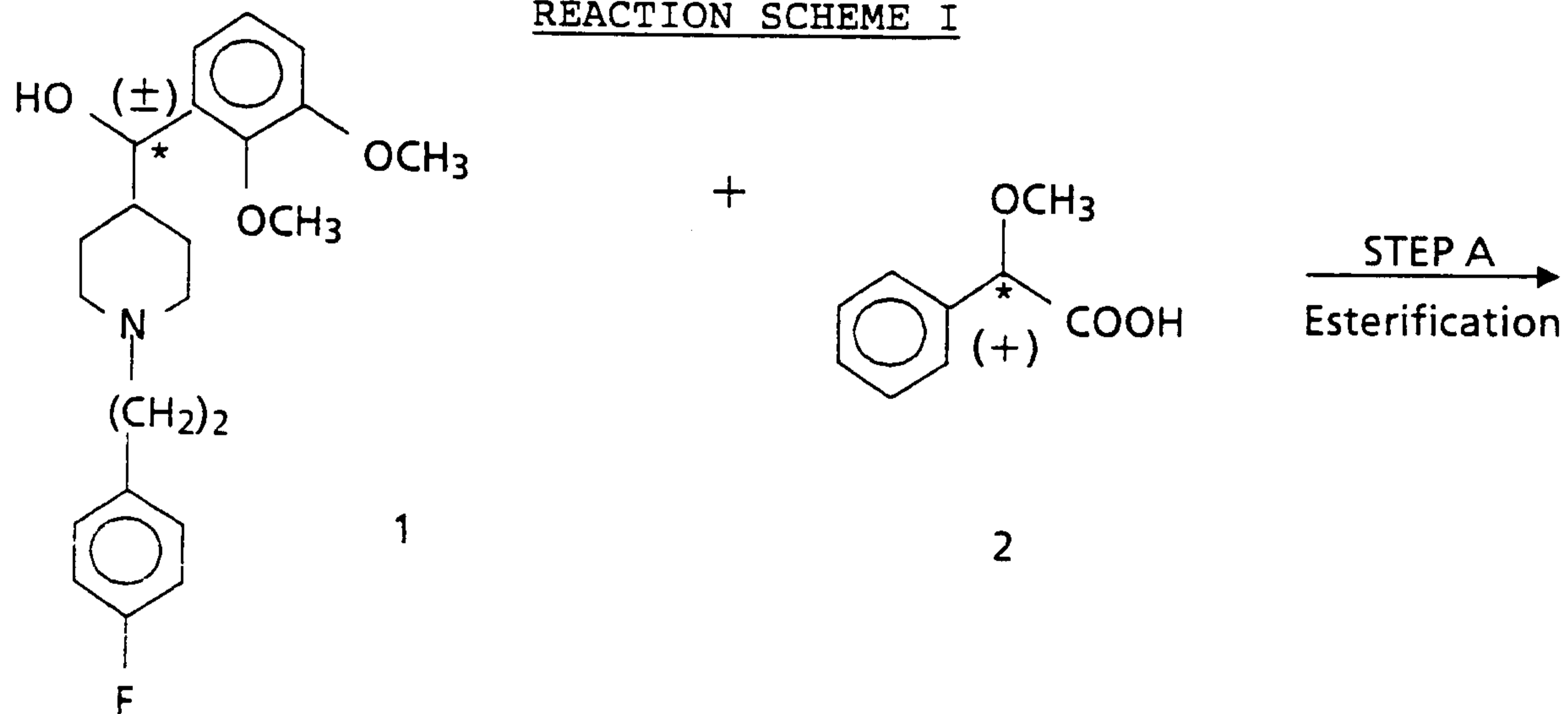
Treatment	No Pre-pulse	Sound	Light	Change Sound	Sem	Change Light	Sem
VEH + VEH	1546	942	743	602	78	803	103
VEH + 20 MDMA	1404	1240	1310	164	60	94	56
2 MDL + VEH	1357	683	704	674	70	653	100
2 MDL + 20MDMA	1018	585	873	433	72	145	66
VEH + VEH	1149	831	819	318	57	330	61
VEH + 5FENFLURAMINE	496	418	426	78	42	70	57
2MDL + VEH	909	431	568	478	47	341	72
2 MDL + 5FENFLURAMINE	831	340	763	491	72	68	44
VEH + VEH	1218	723	737	495	73	481	72
VEH + 2 DOI	887	854	494	33	82	393	68
2 MDL + VEH	1234	557	754	677	73	480	83
2 MDL + 2 DOI	837	372	435	465	114	402	102

The inhibition of prepulse inhibition was also tested using the compound 2,3-dihydro-N-methyl-1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenoxy]-1H-indene-2-methanamine (MDL 2), a selective 5HT uptake blocker.

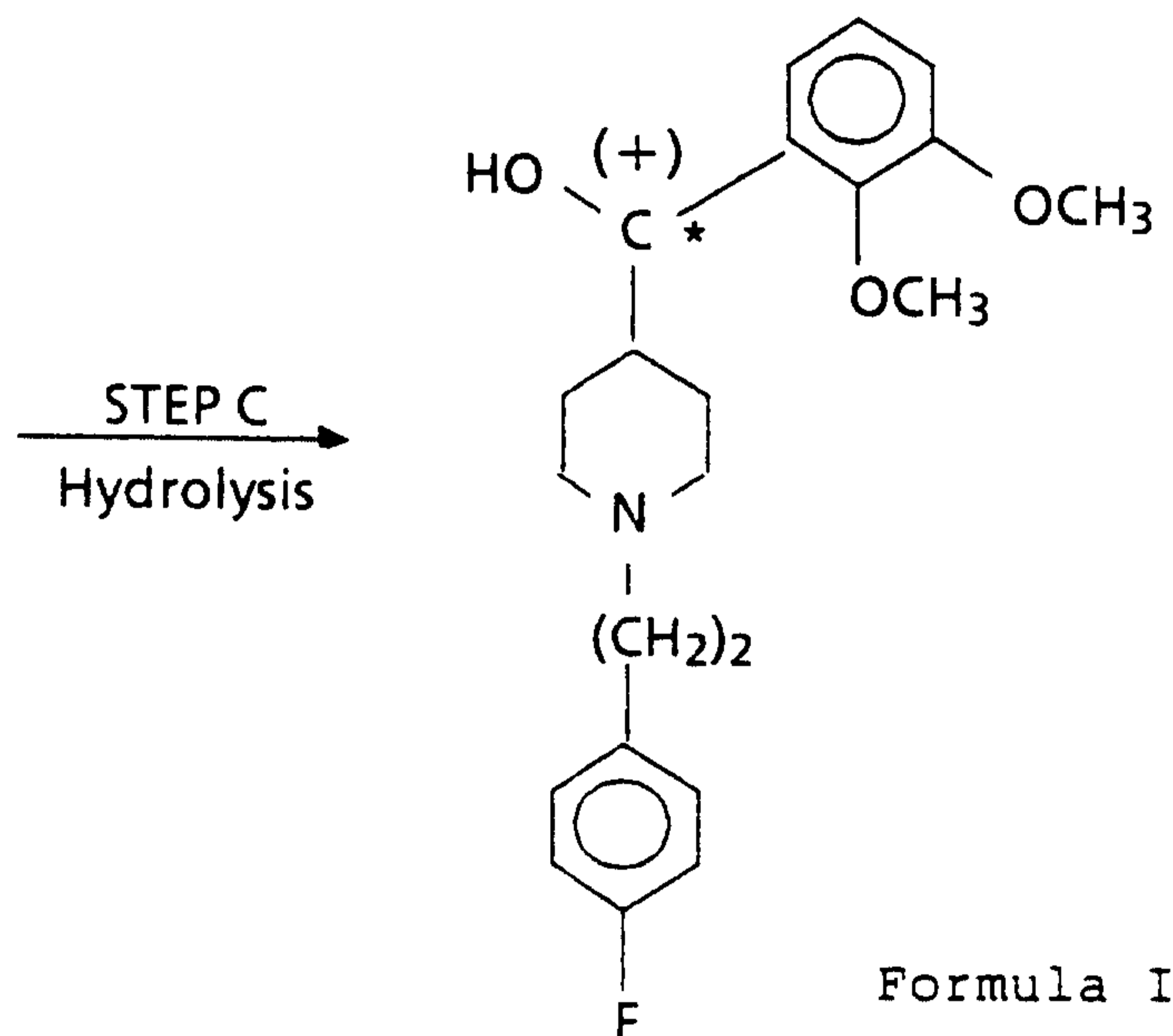
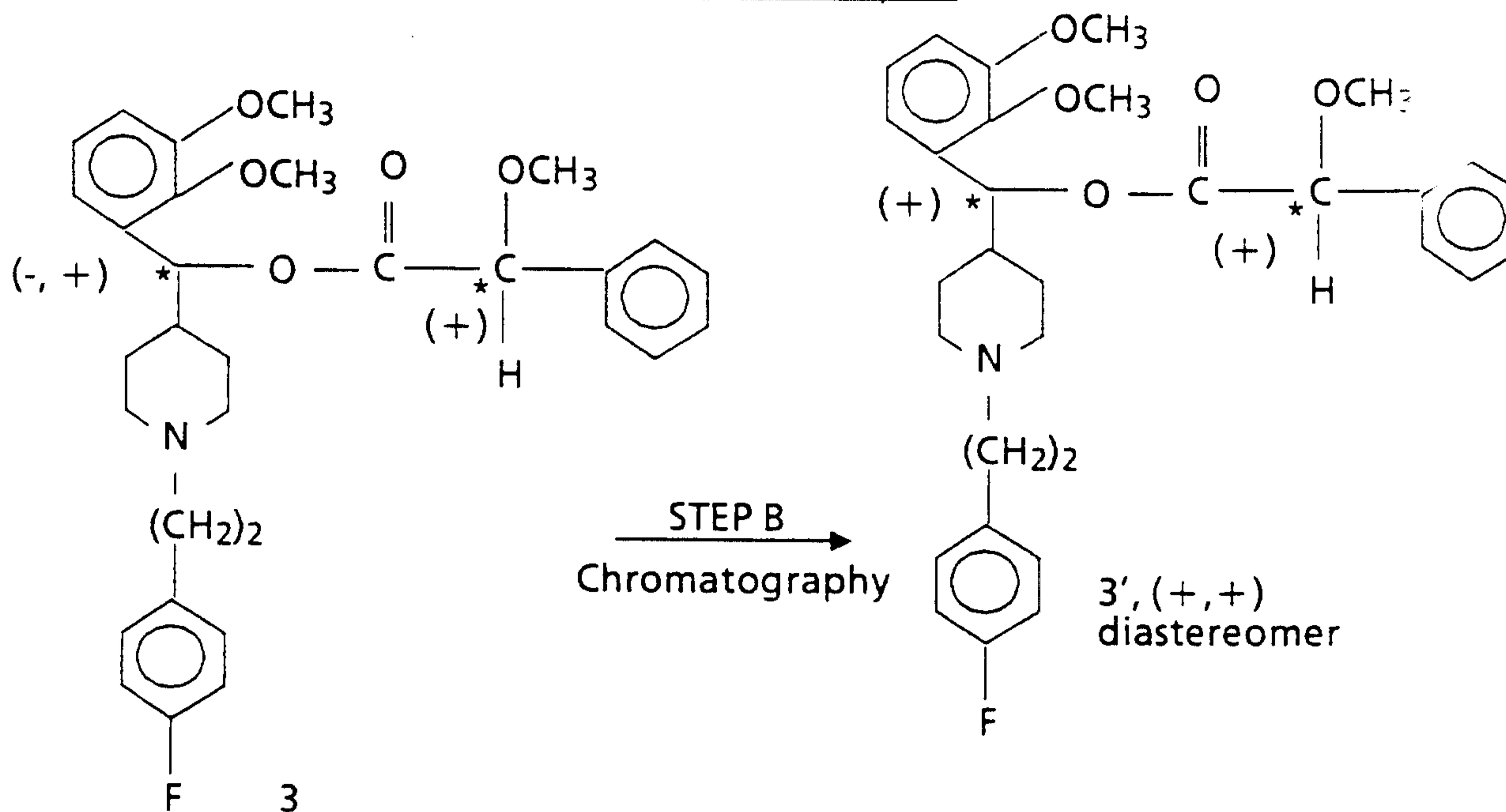
Treatment	No Pre-pulse	Sound	Light	Change Sound	Sem	Change Light	Sem
5 VEH + VEH	1117	576	681	541	57	436	96
VEH + 5FENFLURAMINE	678	559	633	119	55	46	60
5MDL 2 + VEH	1293	819	841	474	62	452	83
10 5MDL 2 + 5FENFLURAMINE	767	385	386	382	64	381	77

The (+)-isomer of α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol can be prepared by methods known in the art as discussed in European Application No. 0 208 235. One suitable method is disclosed below in Reaction Scheme I:

REACTION SCHEME I



REACTION SCHEME I cont.



In Step A of Reaction Scheme I, an esterification
 35 reaction is carried out between racemic α -(2,3-
 dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-
 piperidinemethanol (structure 1) and the (+)-isomer of α -
 methoxyphenylacetic acid (structure 2). This esterification

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produces the diastereomeric mixture identified as structure 3. These diastereomers are subjected to silica gel chromatography which separates the two diastereomers, thereby isolating the (+,+) diastereomer as is depicted in Step B. In Step C, the (+,+) diastereomer is hydrolysed which produces the (+)-isomer of α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol.

The esterification reaction can be carried out using techniques known in the art. Typically approximately equivalent amounts of racemic α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol and the (+)-isomer of α -methoxyphenylacetic acid are contacted in an organic solvent such as methylene chloride, THF, chloroform, toluene and heated to reflux for a period of time ranging from 5 to 24 hours. The esterification is typically carried out in the presence of an equivalent amount of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide and a catalytic amount of 4-dimethylaminopyridine. The resulting diastereomers can be isolated by filtration of the dicyclohexylurea and evaporation of the filtrate.

The diastereomers are then subjected to silica gel chromatography which separates the (+,+) and the (-,+) diastereomers. This chromatographic separation may be carried out as is known in the art. A 1:1 mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate is one suitable eluent.

The resulting (+,+) diastereomer is then subjected to a hydrolysis reaction which produces the (+)-isomer of α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidine-methanol. The hydrolysis is carried out by contacting the diastereomer with an excess of a base such as potassium carbonate in an aqueous alcoholic solution. The hydrolysis is carried out at a temperature of about 15 to 30°C for a period of time ranging from 2 to 24 hours. The resulting (+)-isomer of α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-

fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol may then be recovered by dilution with water and extraction with methylene chloride. It is then purified by
5 recrystallization from a solvent system such as cyclohexane/hexane or ethyl acetate/hexane.

Methods for producing the starting materials of Reaction Scheme I are known in the art. For example, United States
10 Patent No. 4,783,471 teaches how to prepare racemic α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidine-methanol. Examples No. 1 and 2 of this application also teach suitable methods. Alternatively, racemic
 α -(2, 3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]
15 -4-piperidinemethanol can be prepared in the following manner. Initially 4-hydroxypiperidine is subjected to an N-alkylation reaction with p-fluorophenylethyl bromide which produces 4-hydroxy-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-piperidine. This compound is
20 brominated with $\text{Ph}_3\text{P}\cdot\text{Br}_2$, which produces 4-bromo-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl) ethyl] piperidine. This compound is contacted with Mg thereby forming a Grignard Reagent which is then reacted with 2, 3-dimethoxybenzaldehyde which produces the desired product (\pm)- α -(2, 3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-
25 fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol. The (+)-isomer of α -methoxyphenylacetic acid is known in the art.

The dosage range at which (+)- α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol exhibits its
30 ability to block the effects of serotonin at the 5HT₂ receptor can vary depending upon the particular disease or condition being treated and its severity, the patient, other underlying disease states the patient is suffering from, and other medications that may be concurrently administered to
35 the patient. Generally though, with respect to the treatment of OCD, this compound will exhibit its serotonin 5HT₂ antagonist properties at a dosage range of from about 0.001 mg/kg of patient body weight/day to about 100.0 mg/kg

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of patient body weight/day. The compound is typically administered from 1-4 times daily. Alternatively, it can be administered by continuous infusion. The compounds can be administered orally or parenterally to achieve these effects.

As used in this application:

- 10 a) the term "patient" refers to a warm-blooded animal, such as for example rats, mice, dogs, cats, guinea pigs, and primates such as humans;
- 15 b) the term "treat" or "treatment" refers to either relieving or alleviating the patient's disease or condition;
- 20 c) the expression "pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts" is intended to apply to any non-toxic organic or inorganic acid addition salt of the base compounds represented by Formula I or any of its intermediates. Illustrative inorganic acids which form suitable salts include hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric and phosphoric acid and acid metal salts such as sodium monohydrogen orthophosphate and potassium hydrogen sulfate. Illustrative organic acids which form suitable salts include the mono-, di- and tri-carboxylic acids. Illustrative of such acids are, for example, acetic, glycolic, lactic, pyruvic, malonic, succinic, glutaric, fumaric, malic, tartaric, citric, ascorbic, maleic, hydroxymaleic, benzoic, hydroxybenzoic, phenylacetic, cinnamic, salicylic, 2-phenoxybenzoic, p-toluenesulfonic acid and sulfonic acids such as methanesulfonic acid and 2-hydroxyethanesulfonic acid.
- 35 Either the mono- or di-acid salts can be formed, and such salts can exist in either a hydrated or substantially anhydrous form. In general, the acid addition salts of these compounds are soluble in water

and various hydrophilic organic solvents and which in comparison to their free base forms, generally demonstrate higher melting points; and,

5

- d) any reference to (+)- α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol should be construed as encompassing the free base of this compound or an acid addition salt of this compound.

10

EXAMPLE 1

Example 1, Steps A-D, demonstrates the preparation of the starting material (\pm)- α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol according to structure I.

15

A) 1-[2-(4-Fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinecarboxamide

A solution of isonipecotamide (10.9 g, 85.0 mmol), 2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl bromide (15.7 g, 77.3 mmol), and K_2CO_3 (2.3 g, 167 mmol) was prepared in DMF (280 mL) and stirred under argon at 90-95°C overnight. The cooled solution was concentrated to a white oily solid. The solid was partitioned between water and CH_2Cl_2 . The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic layers were washed 2x with water, dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered, and evaporated to a oily solid. The solid was recrystallized from EtOAc to afford 1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinecarboxamide as a white powder, m.p. 177-178°C (decomp.). Anal. Calcd for $C_{14}H_{19}FN_2O$: C, 67.18; H, 7.65; N, 11.19. Found: C, 67.25; H, 7.67; N, 11.13.

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B) 4-Cyano-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidine

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To stirred phosphorus oxychloride (25 mL, 41.12 g, 268 mmol) and sodium chloride (5.1 g, 87.3 mmol) was added 1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinecarboxamide (8.9 g, 35.6 mmol) portionwise. After complete addition, the solution was refluxed for 2 hours. The cooled solution was poured into dilute NH₄OH to destroy the POCl₃. The aqueous solution was cooled to 0°C, then extracted 2x with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and evaporated to afford 8.1 g of an oily solid. The solid was distilled, (b.p. 150°C, 0.1 mm Hg), to afford a clear, colorless oil that solidified. This material was crystallized from hexane to afford 4-cyano-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidine as white needles, m.p. 47-48°C. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₇FN₂: C, 72.39; H, 7.38; N, 12.06. Found: C, 72.62; H, 7.49; N, 12.12.

C) 1-[2-(4-Fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinecarboxaldehyde

To a stirred solution of 4-cyano-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidine (1.00 g, 4.3 mmol) in THF (20 mL) under argon at 0°C was added DIBAL-H (4.6 mL of a 1.0 M solution in THF, 4.6 mmol) via syringe. After stirring overnight at room temperature, 10% aqueous HCl (25 mL) was added and the solution was stirred for 3 hours. The entire mixture was then poured into 10% aqueous NaOH (50 mL), then extracted 2x with ether. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and evaporated to afford a pale yellow oil. The oil was chromatographed on silica gel, eluting with EtOAc. The appropriate fractions were combined and evaporated to afford an oil. This oil was distilled (b.p. 166°C, 0.05 mm Hg) to afford 1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinecarboxaldehyde, obtained as a colorless oil. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₈FNO: C, 71.46; H, 7.71; N, 5.95. Found: C, 71.08, H, 7.81; N, 5.86.

35

D) (±)-α-(2,3-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol

To a stirred solution of veratrole (0.93 g, 6.7 mmol) in THF (20 mL) under argon at 0°C was added n-BuLi (2.7 mL of a 2.5 M solution in hexane, 6.75 mmol). After stirring 2.5 h, 5 the solution was cooled to -78°C and treated with 1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinecarboxaldehyde (1.30 g, 5.5 mmol) in THF (25 mL) via an addition funnel. The cooling bath was removed and the solution was allowed to stir for 2 hours. Water was added, the layers separated, and the 10 aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and chromatographed on silica gel, eluting with acetone. The appropriate fractions were combined and evaporated to afford a white solid. The solid was 15 recrystallized from hexane to afford racemic α-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol as shiny white needles, m.p. 126-127°C. Anal. Calcd for C₂₂H₂₈FNO₃: C, 70.75; H, 7.56; N, 3.75. Found: C, 70.87; H, 7.65; N, 3.68.

20

EXAMPLE 2

Example 2, Steps A-F, demonstrate an alternative manner of preparing (±)-α-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)-ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol according to structure I.

25

A) 1-(1,1-Dimethylethyl)-1,4-piperidinedicarboxylic acid

To isonipecotic acid (107.5 g, 832 mmol) stirred in 1N NaOH (40 g NaOH in 900 mL H₂O) and tert-butanol (1800 mL) was added di-tert-butyl dicarbonate (200 g, 916 mmol) in 30 portions. After stirring overnight, the solution was concentrated and the resulting water layer was acidified with aqueous HCl. This acidic aqueous layer was extracted 3x with ether. The combined organic layers were washed with water, brine, dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and evaporated to a 35 white solid, which was recrystallized from EtOAc/hexane (300 mL/200 mL) to afford 1-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-1,4-piperidinedicarboxylic acid as white needles, m.p. 147-149°C.

B) 4-(N-Methoxy-N-methylcarboxamido)-1-piperidinecarboxylic acid 1,1-dimethylethyl ester

5 To a stirred solution of 1-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-1,4-piperidinedicarboxylic acid (50.0 g, 218 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (500 mL) under N₂ in a 2L flask was added 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (38.9 g, 240 mmol) portionwise. After stirring for 1 hour, N,O-dimethylhydroxylamine hydrochloride
10 (23.4 g, 240 mmol) was added in one portion. After stirring overnight, the solution was washed twice with 1N HCl, twice with saturated NaHCO₃, once with brine, dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and evaporated to an oil. Distillation afforded
15 4-(N-methoxy-N-methylcarboxamido)-1-piperidinecarboxylic acid 1,1-dimethylethyl ester as a clear oil, b.p. 120-140°C, 0.8 mm.

C) 4-(2,3-Dimethoxybenzoyl)-1-piperidinecarboxylic acid 1,1-dimethylethyl ester

20 n-Butyl lithium (14.5 mL of a 2.5 M solution in hexane, 36.3 mmol) was added via syringe to a stirred solution of veratrole (5.00 g, 36.2 mmol) in THF (50 mL, anhydrous) under argon at 0°C. The ice bath was removed and the mixture was allowed to stir for 90 minutes. The mixture was
25 cooled to -78°C and treated with 4-(N-methoxy-N-methylcarboxamido)-1-piperidinecarboxylic acid 1,1-dimethylethyl ester (9.20 g, 33.8 mmol) in THF (50 mL, anhydrous) via syringe. The cooling dry ice-acetone bath was removed and the mixture was
30 allowed to come to room temperature. After stirring for 3 hours, saturated aqueous NH₄Cl was added and the mixture was allowed to stir overnight. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with ether. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄),
35 filtered, and evaporated to afford an amber oil. The oil was chromatographed on silica gel, eluting with 20% EtOAc in hexane. The appropriate fractions were combined and evaporated to an amber oil. The oil was distilled to afford

4-(2,3-dimethoxybenzoyl)-1-piperidinecarboxylic acid 1,1-dimethylethyl ester as a colorless oil. (b.p. 225-250°C, .05 mm). Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₂₇NO₅: C, 65.31; H, 7.79; N, 4.01.
5 Found: C, 65.04; H, 7.92; N, 4.11.

D) 4-(2,3-Dimethoxyphenyl)-4-piperidinylmethanone

4-(2,3-Dimethoxybenzoyl)-1-piperidinecarboxylic acid 1,1-dimethylethyl ester (7.75 g, 22.2 mmol) was dissolved in
10 trifluoroacetic acid (50 mL, 650 mmol) and stirred for 45 minutes. The entire solution was poured into ether (900 mL) and allowed to stand overnight. Filtration yielded 4-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-piperidinylmethanone trifluoroacetate as fine white needles, m.p. 123°C. Anal. Calcd for
15 C₁₄H₁₉NO₃·CF₃CO₂H: C, 52.89; H, 5.55; N, 3.86. Found: C, 52.77; H, 5.62; N, 3.82.

The resulting 4-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-piperidinylmethanone trifluoroacetate was dissolved in water, treated
20 with NaOH (10% aqueous) until basic, and extracted three times with dichloromethane. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and evaporated to afford 4-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-piperidinylmethanone as an oil.

25

E) (2,3-Dimethoxyphenyl)[1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinyl]methanone monohydrochloride

A solution of 4-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-piperidinylmethanone (8.00 g, 32.1 mmol) and 2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl
30 bromide (6.52 g, 32.1 mmol) was prepared in DMF (90 mL), treated with K₂CO₃ (7.0 g, 50.7 mmol), then stirred and heated at 80°C under argon overnight. The cooled solution was poured into a partition of 2/1 EtOAc/toluene and water. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was
35 extracted with 2/1 EtOAc/toluene. The combined organic layers were washed 2x with water, 1x with brine, dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and evaporated to afford 11.0 g of an oil. The oil was chromatographed on silica gel, eluting

with EtOAc. The appropriate fractions were combined, concentrated, dissolved in ethyl acetate and treated with HCl/ethyl acetate. (2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)[1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinyl]-methanone monohydrochloride was obtained as a precipitate, m.p. 225-227°C (decomp). Anal Calcd for $C_{22}H_{26}FNO_3 \cdot HCl$: C, 64.78; H, 6.67; N, 3.43. Found: C, 64.44; H, 6.73; N, 3.41.

10 F) (±)-α-(2,3-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol

To a stirred solution of (2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)[1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinyl]methanone (6.0 g, 16.2 mmol) in MeOH (100 mL) at 0°C was added $NaBH_4$ (1240 mg, 32.8 mmol) in two portions, over a one hour period. After stirring overnight, the solution was concentrated to a solid. The solid was partitioned between water and ether. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with ether. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered, and evaporated to a solid. The solid was chromatographed on silica gel, eluting with acetone. The appropriate fractions were combined and evaporated to afford a white solid. The solid was recrystallized from cyclohexane to afford (±)-α-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)-ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol as white needles, m.p. 126-127°C. Anal. Calcd for $C_{22}H_{28}FNO_3$: C, 70.75; H, 7.56; N, 3.75. Found: C, 70.86; H, 7.72; N, 3.93.

30

EXAMPLE 3

This example demonstrates the preparation of the compound of Formula I.

35 Preparation of (+)-α-(2,3-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol

A) Preparation of diastereomers.

A solution of 3.90 g (10.4 mmol) of (±)-α-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidine-

methanol, 1.74 g (10.4 mmol) of S-(+)- α -methoxyphenylacetic acid, 2.15 g (10.4 mmol) of 1,3-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide and 0.1 g of 4-dimethylaminopyridine in chloroform (75 ml) was
5 refluxed for 17 hours, allowed to cool to room temperature and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated and chromatographed on a silica gel column eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane (1:1) to afford two diastereomers, Rf = 0.1 and 0.2 (TLC EtOAc/hexane, 1:1). Intermediate fractions
10 were rechromatographed to give additional material. Those fractions with Rf = 0.2 were combined to give a single diastereomeric ester, (+,+)-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)[1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinyl]methyl- α -methoxybenzene-acetate.

15

B) Preparation of (+)- α -(2,3-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol

To a stirred solution of 0.97 g (1.9 mmol) of the above mentioned diastereomeric ester, Rf = 0.2, in 25 ml of
20 methanol was added 0.5 g (3.6 mmol) of potassium carbonate and 5.0 ml of water. After stirring 17 hours at room temperature the reaction mixture was diluted with water and extracted twice with methylene chloride. The combined extracts were washed with water, brine and dried over MgSO₄.
25 After filtering, the filtrate was concentrated to an oil and crystallized from 40 ml of cyclohexane/hexane (1:1) to give (+)- α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol,

m.p. 112-113°C, $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +13.9^\circ$.

30

In order to exhibit these therapeutic properties, the compounds need to be administered in a quantity sufficient to restore prepulse inhibition in a patient having OCD. The dosage range at which these compounds exhibit this effect
35 can vary widely depending upon the severity of the patient's disease, the patient, the particular compound being administered, the route of administration, and the presence of other underlying disease states within the patient, etc. Typically the compounds exhibit their therapeutic effect at

a dosage range of from about 0.1 mg/kg/day to about 500 mg/kg/day for any of the diseases or conditions listed above. Repetitive daily administration may be desirable and 5 will vary according to the conditions outlined above.

The compounds of the present invention may be administered by a variety of routes. They are effective if administered orally. The compounds may also be administered 10 parenterally (i.e. subcutaneously, intravenously, intramuscularly, intraperitoneally, or intrathecally).

Pharmaceutical compositions can be manufactured utilizing techniques known in the art. Typically a 15 therapeutic amount of the compound will be admixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

For oral administration, the compounds can be formulated into solid or liquid preparations such as capsules, 20 pills, tablets, lozenges, melts, powders, suspensions, or emulsions. Solid unit dosage forms can be capsules of the ordinary gelatin type containing, for example, surfactants, lubricants and inert fillers such as lactose, sucrose, and cornstarch or they can be sustained release preparations.

25

In another embodiment, the compounds of Formula (I) can be tableted with conventional tablet bases such as lactose, sucrose, and cornstarch, in combination with binders, such as acacia, cornstarch, or gelatin, disintegrating agents 30 such as potato starch or alginic acid, and a lubricant such as stearic acid or magnesium stearate. Liquid preparations are prepared by dissolving the active ingredient in an aqueous or nonaqueous pharmaceutically acceptable solvent which may also contain suspending agents, sweetening 35 agents, flavoring agents, and preservative agents as are known in the art.

For parenteral administration the compounds may be dissolved in a physiologically acceptable pharmaceutical carrier and administered as either a solution or a suspension. Illustrative of suitable pharmaceutical carriers are water, saline, dextrose solutions, fructose solutions, ethanol, or oils of animal, vegetative, or synthetic origin. The pharmaceutical carrier may also contain preservatives, buffers, etc., as are known in the art.

When the compounds are being administered intrathecally, they may also be dissolved in cerebrospinal fluid as is known in the art.

The compounds of this invention can also be administered topically. This can be accomplished by simply preparing a solution of the compound to be administered, preferably using a solvent known to promote transdermal absorption such as ethanol or dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) with or without other excipients. Preferably topical administration will be accomplished using a patch either of the reservoir and porous membrane type or of a solid matrix variety.

Some suitable transdermal devices are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,742,951; 3,797,494; 3,996,934; and 4,031,894. These devices generally contain a backing member which defines one of its face surfaces, an active agent permeable adhesive layer defining the other face surface and at least one reservoir containing the active agent interposed between the face surfaces. Alternatively, the active agent may be contained in a plurality of microcapsules distributed throughout the permeable adhesive layer. In either case, the active agent is delivered continuously from the reservoir or microcapsules through a membrane into the active agent permeable adhesive, which is in contact with the skin or mucosa of the recipient. If the active agent is absorbed through the skin, a controlled and predetermined flow of the active agent is administered to the

recipient. In the case of microcapsules, the encapsulating agent may also function as the membrane.

5 In another device for transdermally administering the compounds in accordance with the present invention, the pharmaceutically active compound is contained in a matrix from which it is delivered in the desired gradual, constant and controlled rate. The matrix is permeable to the
10 release of the compound through diffusion or microporous flow. The release is rate controlling. Such a system, which requires no membrane is described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,921,636. At least two types of release are possible in these systems. Release by diffusion occurs when the matrix
15 is nonporous. The pharmaceutically effective compound dissolves in and diffuses through the matrix itself. Release by microporous flow occurs when the pharmaceutically effective compound is transported through a liquid phase in the pores of the matrix.

20

The compound may be admixed with any inert carrier and utilized in laboratory assays in order to determine the concentration of the compounds within the urine, serum, etc. of the patient as is known in the art.

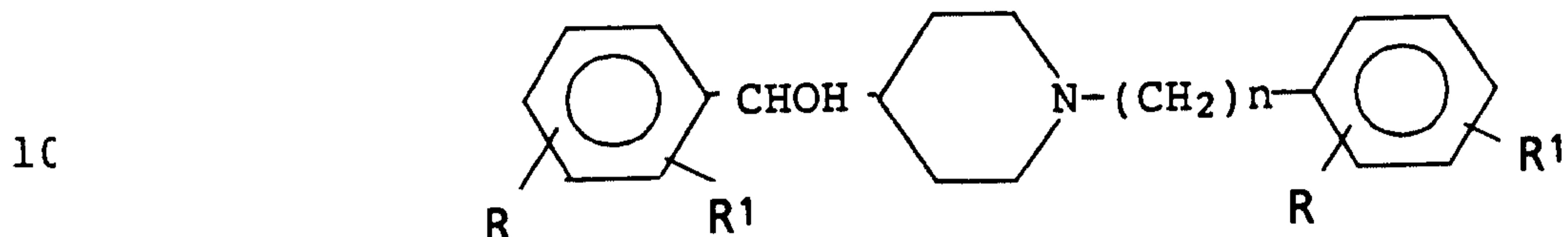
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CLAIMS

- 5 1. Use in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorders of a compound of the formula:



wherein n is 2, 3 or 4 and each R and R¹ independently represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, or amino, their optical isomers and mixtures thereof and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

15

2. Use in the manufacture of a medicament according to claim 1 wherein the compound is (+)- α -(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinemethanol and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.
- 20

25

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35

AMENDED SHEET
IPEA/EP

FIG. 1A

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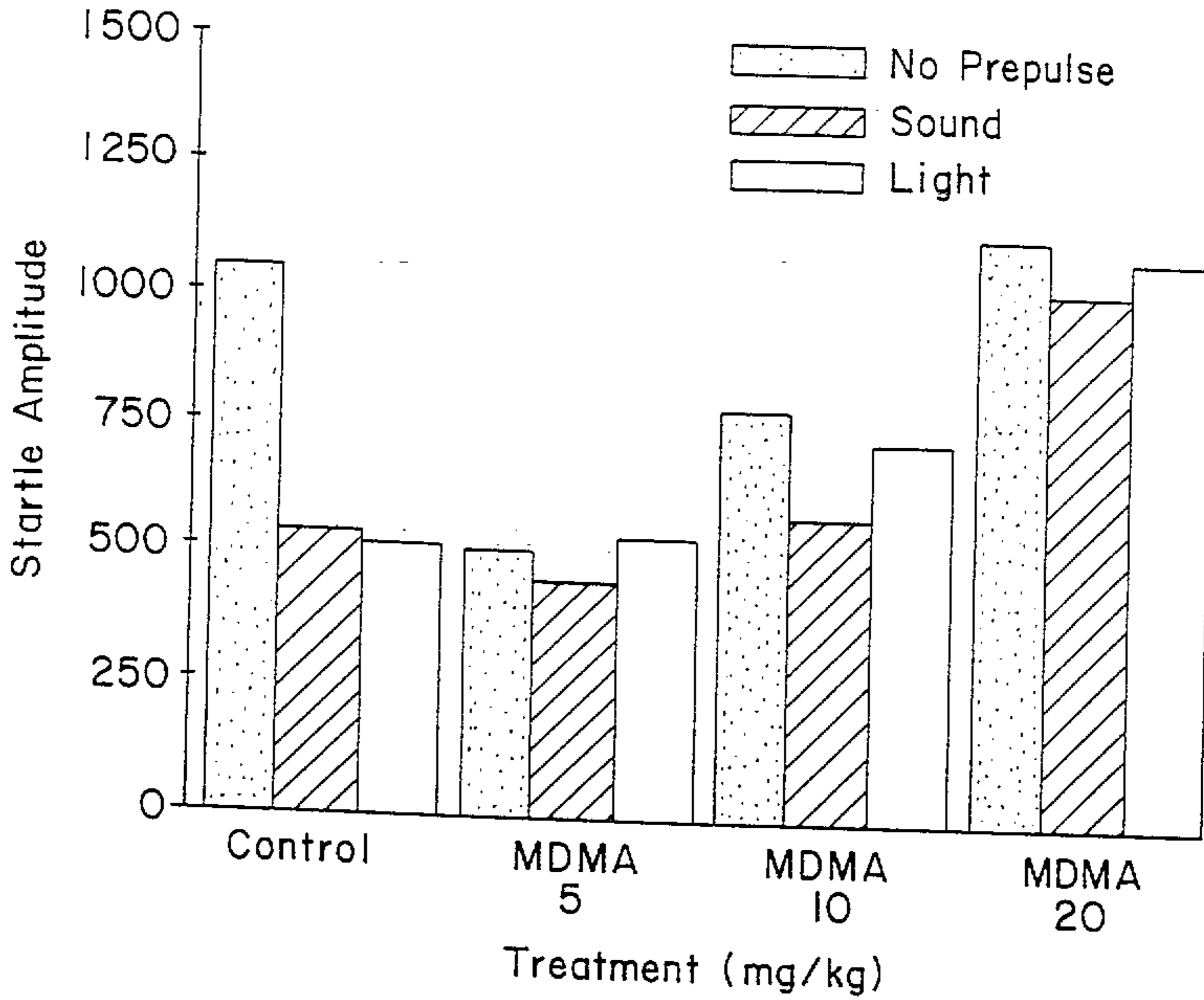
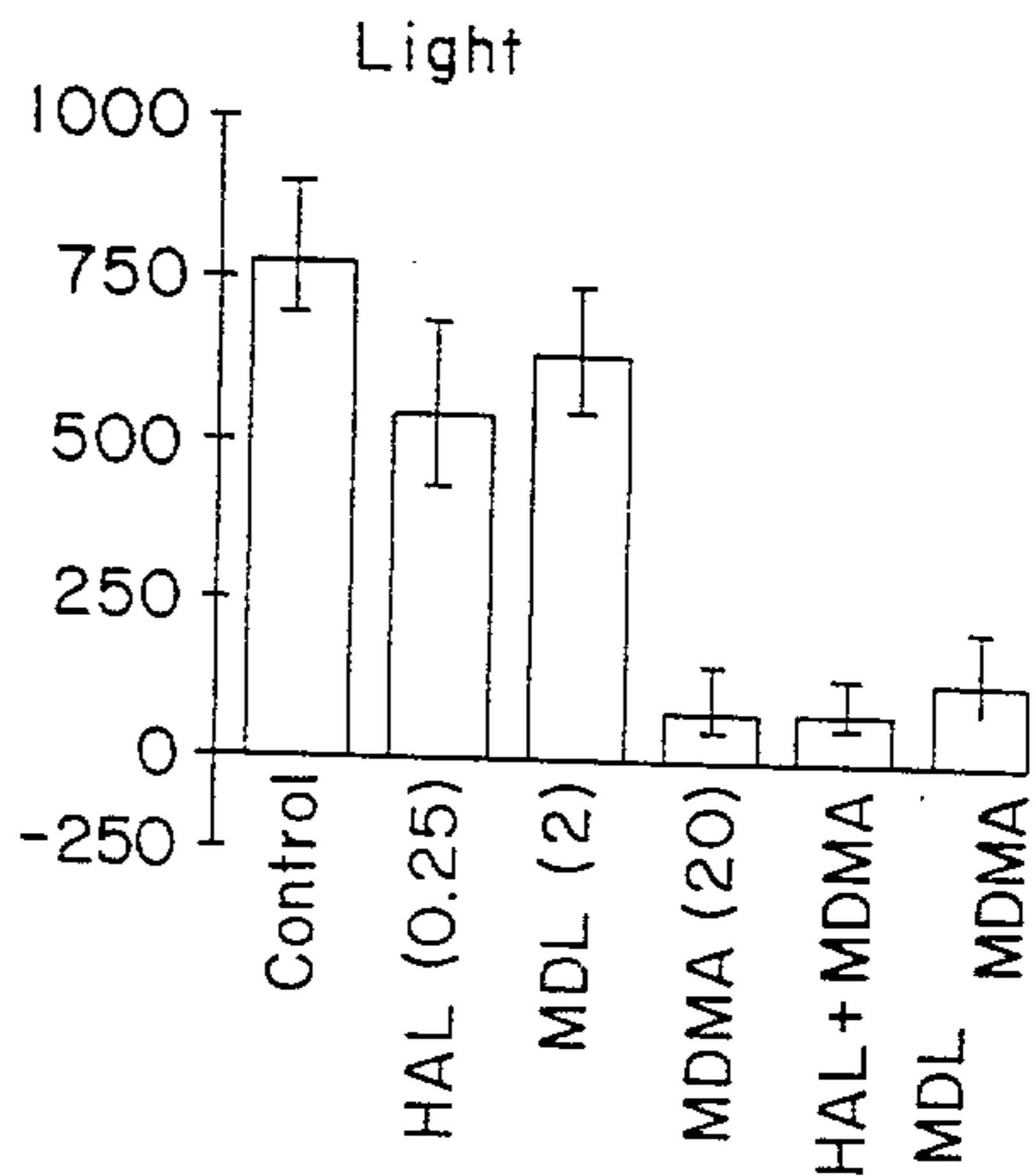
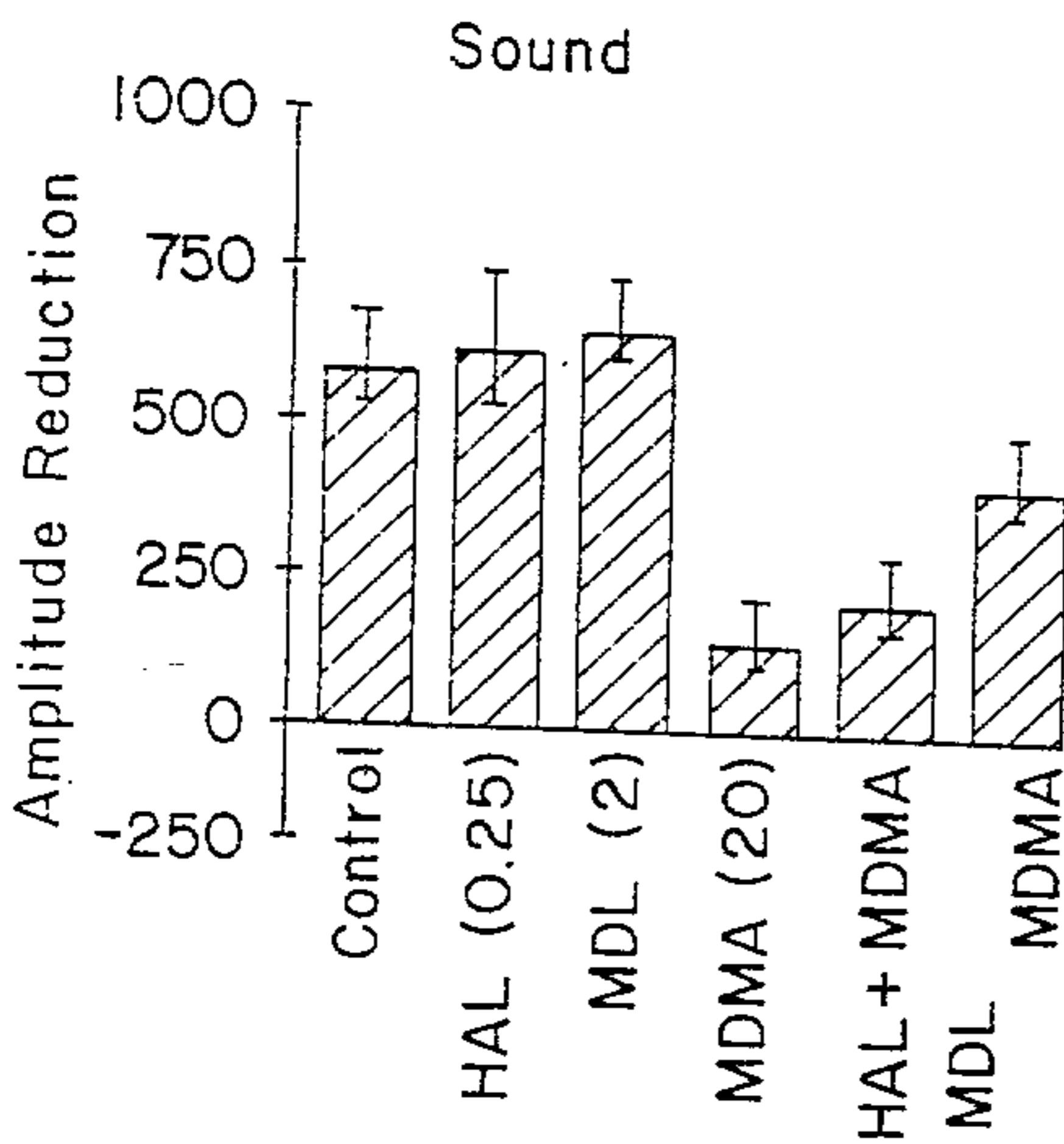


FIG. 1B

FIG. 1C



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FIG. 1D

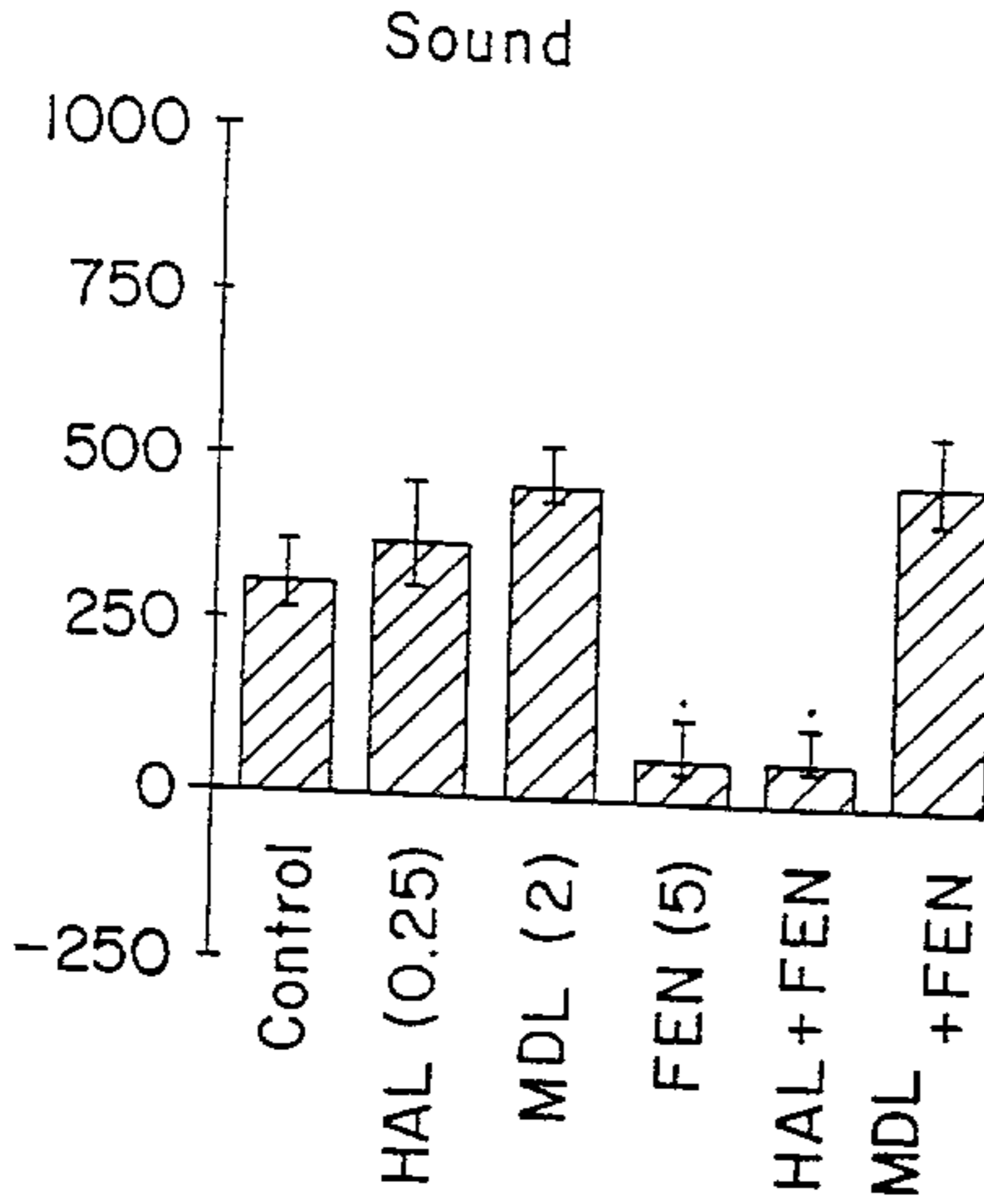


FIG. 1E

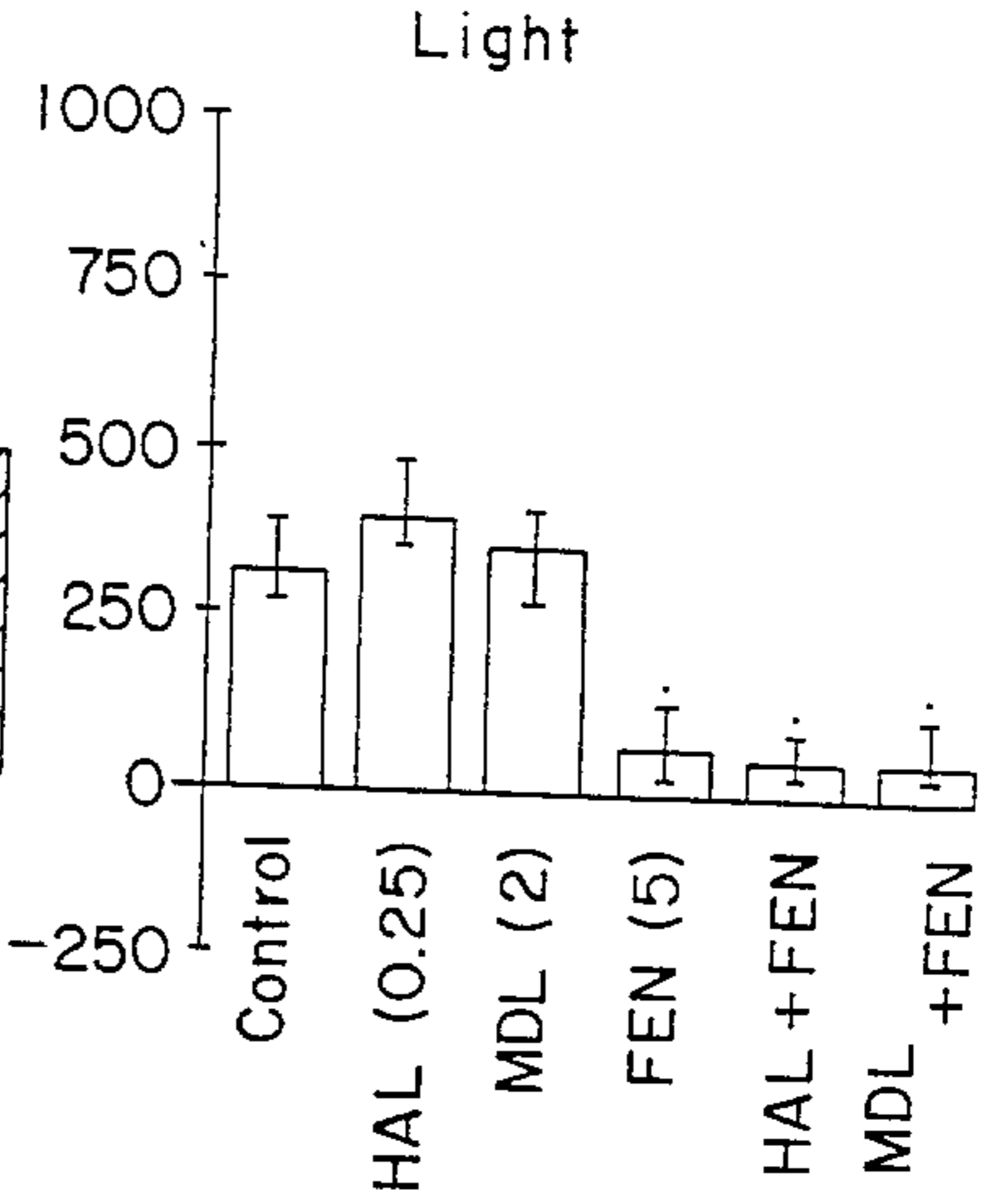


FIG. 1F

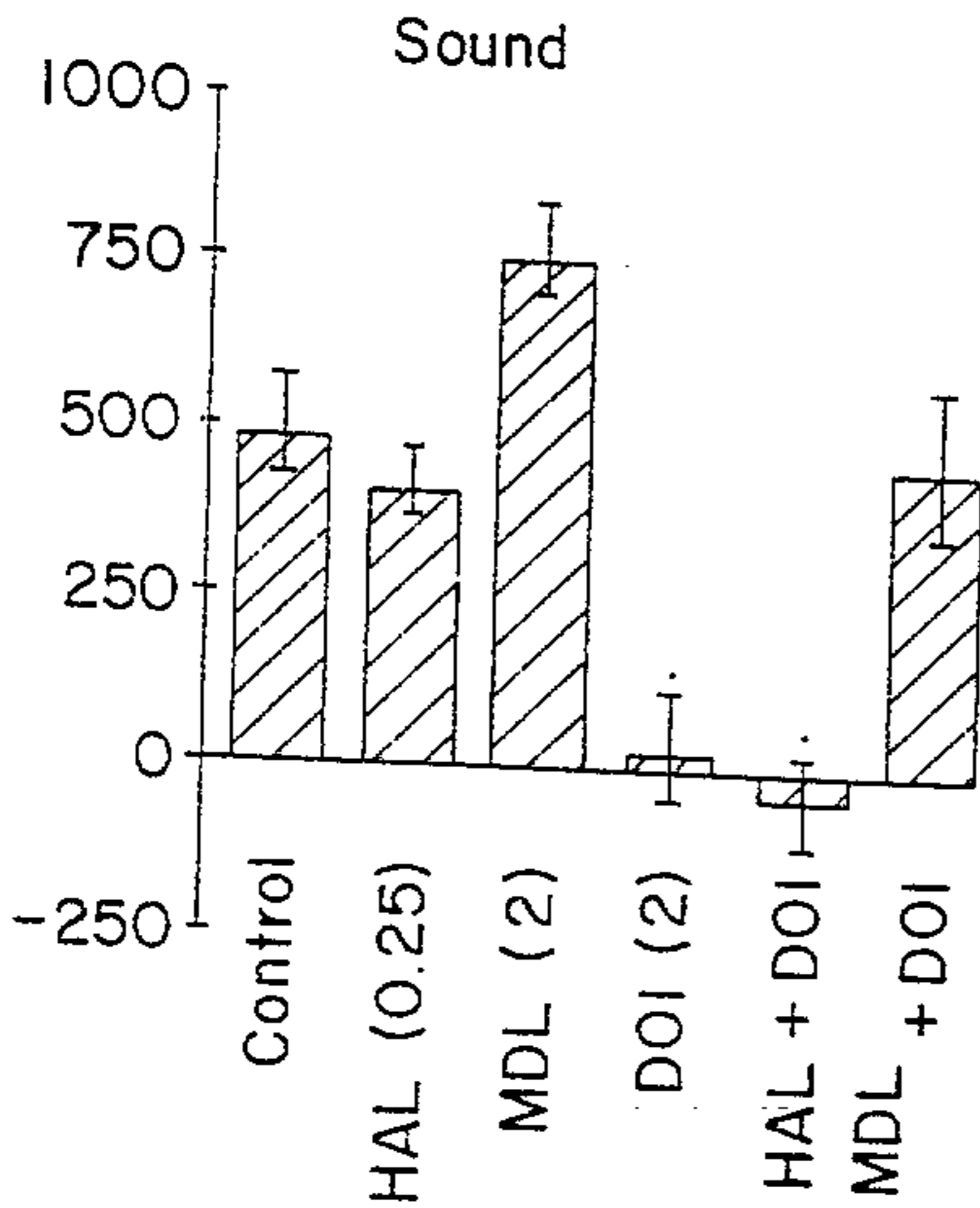


FIG. 1G

