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(54) **ANTHRANYL DERIVATIVES HAVING AN ANTICHOLECYSTOKININ ACTIVITY (ANTI-CCK-1), A PROCESS FOR THEIR PREPARATION, AND PHARMACEUTICAL USE THEREOF**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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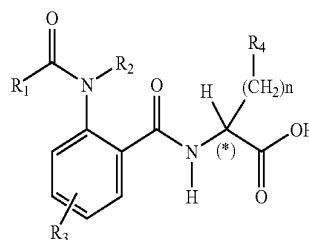
Anthranlyic compounds having anti-CCK activity of general formula (I) in which, n is a whole number lying between 0 and 7; R<sub>1</sub> is chosen independently from the groups (II), in which X<sub>1</sub> is chosen independently from, S, O, NR<sub>2</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> is a group chosen from: H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, F, Cl, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCH<sub>3</sub>, OC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, CN; R<sub>2</sub> is chosen from H or CH<sub>3</sub>; R<sub>3</sub> is chosen from H, CH<sub>3</sub>, F, Cl, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCH<sub>3</sub>; R<sub>4</sub> is chosen from the groups: H, —S—(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-R<sub>5</sub>, —SO<sub>2</sub>—(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-R<sub>5</sub> (n different from 0), a branched alkyl group, a cyclo alkyl, a cyclo alkenyl, the group 1 or 2 adamantane, a phenyl group optionally substituted; R<sub>5</sub> is chosen from the groups: H, linear or branched alkyl, cyclo alkyl, the group 1 or 2 adamantane, a suitably substituted phenyl group.

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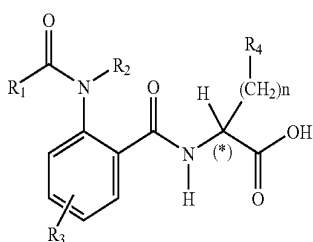
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(I)

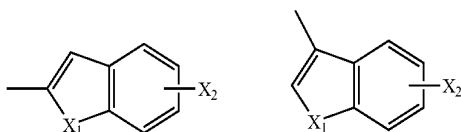
**ANTHRANYL DERIVATIVES HAVING AN  
ANTICHOLECISTOKININ ACTIVITY  
(ANTI-CCK-1), A PROCESS FOR THEIR  
PREPARATION, AND PHARMACEUTICAL USE  
THEREOF**

[0001] The subject of the present invention is new derivatives of anthranilic acid which can be represented by the following general formula (I) and in which:



n is a whole number lying between 0 and 7;

R<sub>1</sub> is chosen independently from the groups:



in which X<sub>1</sub> is chosen independently from S, O, NR<sub>2</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> is a group chosen independently from: H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> linear or branched alkyl, F, Cl, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCH<sub>3</sub>, OC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, CN;

R<sub>2</sub> is chosen independently from H or CH<sub>3</sub>;

R<sub>3</sub> is chosen independently from H, CH<sub>3</sub>, F, Cl, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCH<sub>3</sub>;

R<sub>4</sub> is chosen independently from the groups: H, —S—(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-R<sub>5</sub>, —SO<sub>2</sub>—(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-R<sub>5</sub> (n different from 0) in which m is a whole number lying between 0 and 2, a branched alkyl group formed by 3 to 6 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl formed by 3 to 10 carbon atoms, a cycloalkenyl formed by 4 to 6 carbon atoms, the group 1 or 2adamantyl, a simple, mono- or bi-substituted phenyl group, in which the substituents can be chosen independently from halogens, a linear alkyl group formed by 1 to 3 carbon atoms, a branched alkyl group formed by 3 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkoxylic group formed by 1 to 3 carbon atoms, —NO<sub>2</sub>, —CF<sub>3</sub>, —CN;

[0002] R<sub>5</sub> is chosen from groups: H, a linear alkyl group formed by 1 to 3 carbon atoms, a branched alkyl group formed by 3 to 6 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl formed by 3 up to 10 carbon atoms, a group 1 or 2—adamantly, a simple, mono- or bi-substituted phenyl group in which the substituents can be chosen independently from other halogens, a linear alkyl group formed by 1 to 3 carbon atoms, a branched alkyl group formed by 3 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkoxylic group formed by 1 to 3 carbon atoms, —NO<sub>2</sub>, —CF<sub>3</sub>, —CN.

[0003] The stereochemistry of the chiral centre, indicated with an asterisk (\*) in the formula (I) can be R(Rectus), racemic [R(Rectus), S (Sinister)] or S (Sinister).

[0004] Preferably, n is between 1 and 2; R<sub>1</sub> is preferably chosen between the groups 2-indolyl, 2-indolyl substituted independently with the fluoro group in position 5 or with the methyl group in position 1; R<sub>3</sub> is preferably chosen from the groups H, CH<sub>3</sub>, F, Cl; R is preferably chosen from the phenyl group or mono substituted with the methyl groups, methoxy and CF<sub>3</sub> groups, whilst the stereochemistry of the compound claimed on the chiral centre indicated with an asterisk in the formula (I) is preferably in the racemic form (R, S) or R(Rectus).

[0005] Further preferred sub classes are defined in the following claims and their combinations.

[0006] The compounds of the present invention are shown to be potent antagonists for the receptors CCK-1(CCK-A) of cholecystokinin (CCK). It is therefore thought that they can be used with advantage in the therapy of various pathologies of man tied to lack of balance of CCK or other related bioactive polypeptides, and to their peripheral levels in the gastrointestinal tract, and at the level of the central nervous system (CNS) or other organs and systems in which such bioactive peptides perform a physiological or pathological role. Thus, for example, one can recognise in advance an advantageous use of these compounds for the treatment, at the gastrointestinal level, of pathologies relating to the motility of organs such as gall bladder, stomach and intestine. In particular, in the case of biliary colic (cirrhosis) by cholecystitis, in the gastro-esophical reflux (GERD) due to an anomalous functioning of the lower esophical sphincter (LES) as well as in irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). Other pathologies of the digestive apparatus in which the subject compounds can be used with advantage, strictly related to the secretagogue function and to the trophic function that CCK performs through the CCK-1 receptors in organs which are the cradle of the gastro intestinal apparatus, are acute and chronic pancreatitis as well as various tumours in which CCK and other bioactive peptides related to it act as growth factors. Alongside the pathologies which involve the gastro intestinal apparatus are multiple actions which involve CNS and in which the CCK-producing system seems to perform an important role. Anorexia, anxiety, panic, depression, schizophrenia, distress associated with tumours etc, are some of the physio pathological situations of wide social impact in which it is considered that a compound on the subject of the invention can be used with advantage. Until now, receptor antagonists of CCK-1 have been assigned to numerous chemical classes. Among these are indicated benzodiazepam derivatives such as, for example devazopide (L-364,718) (Mol. Pharmacol. 30 (212), 1986) and FK480 (J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther. 268 (571) (1994), numbing derivatives such for example SR 27897 (Eur. J. Pharmacol. 232 (13), 1993) and T-0632 (Eur. J. Pharmacol. 304 (147), 1996) derivatives of glutamic acid such as lorglumide and loxylglumide (gastrin and cholecystokinin, Bali and Martinez (Eds.), Elsevier (45), 1987), derivatives of aspartic acid such as 2-NAP (Br. J. Pharmacol. 108 (734), 1993), quinazolinone having mixed CCK-1 and CCK-2 antagonist activity [U.S. Pat. No. 5,756,502 (1998)].

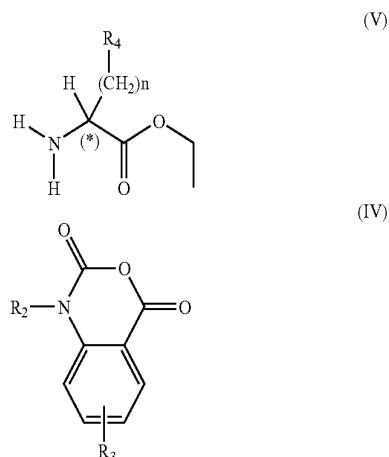
[0007] All these studies demonstrate that there is a strong therapeutic demand to find new pharmaceuticals having anti-CCK-1 activity which are potent, selective and well tolerated. Recently derivatives of anthranilic acid have been described [TO 95-000554 (1995)] which however are antagonist products of the receptor subtype 2 (B) of CCK, whilst anti CCK-1 derivatives of anthranilic acid were not known until now.

[0008] Pharmaceutical forms of the compounds forming the subject of the invention can be prepared according to conventional techniques such as, for example, as tablets, capsules, suspensions, solutions and suppositories, patches or as solid preparations for oral use having modified release and can be administered orally, parenterally, nasally, rectally and transdermally.

[0009] The active ingredients are administered to the patient typically in the region of 0.1 to 10 mg/kg of bodyweight per dose. For parenteral administration it is preferable to use a hydrosoluble salt of the subject compound as the sodium salt or another non toxic and pharmaceutically acceptable salt. Substances commonly utilised in the pharmaceutical field as excipients such as diluents, binders, aromatisers, separating agents, colourants, humectants, sweeteners, natural or synthetic polymers etc. can be used as inactive ingredients.

[0010] The method used for the preparation of compounds forming the subject of the invention comprises the following steps:

[0011] a) Reacting in stoichiometric ratio the chloride of the methyl ester of suitable amino acids of formula (V) in which  $n$  and  $R_4$  have the previously indicated significance and have the chiral centre in the desired configuration with the isatoic anhydride of the formula (IV) suitably substituted with  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  in which  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  have the above indicated



significance, in the presence of a tertiary amine such as, for example, triethylamine, in an inert solvent and at a temperature lying between  $+10^\circ$  and the boiling temperature of the solvent, to give the N-anthranyl-amino acid ethyl esters of formula (III) (see diagram 1, phase I).

[0012] b) Reacting the anthranilic derivatives of formula (III), in which  $n$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  have the above indicated significance, with an equivalent quantity of acyl chloride of formula  $R_1\text{—COCl}$ , in which  $R_1$  has the above indicated significance, preferably in pyridine and at a temperature lying between  $0^\circ$  and  $+30^\circ$  and recovering from the reaction mixture the acyl-derivatives of formula (II) (see diagram 1, phase II).

[0013] c) Hydrolysing the esters of formula (II), in which  $n$ ,  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  have the above indicated significance, in an inner solvent (such as, for example, tetrahydrofuran), with an aqueous solution of a strong inorganic base (such as lithium hydroxide), for a time period lying between 4 and 48

hours. After evaporation of the solvent, acidification and recovery of the reaction mass and with the conventional methods the derivatives of the anthranilic acid of formula (I) in which  $n$ ,  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  have the above indicated significance and with the chiral centre in the desired configuration (see diagram 1, phase III).

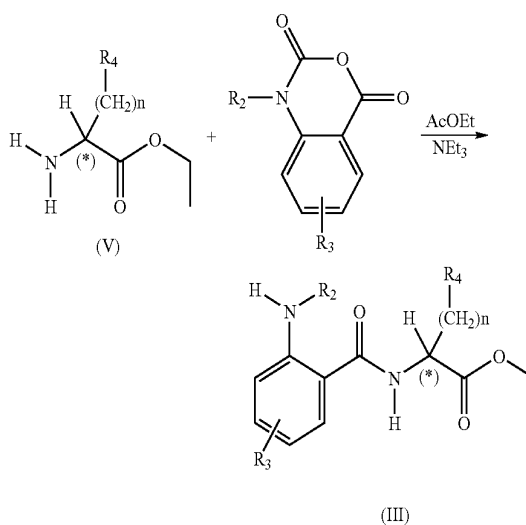
[0014] The ethyl esters of the starting amino acids of formula (V), the amino acids from which they derive as well as the suitably substituted isatoic anhydrides of formula (IV) are commercially available and have been prepared with conventional methods described in the literature.

[0015] The acyl chlorides of formula  $R_1\text{—COCl}$ , in which  $R_1$  has the previously indicated significance, have been prepared according to conventional methods, (preferably using phosphorous pentachloride) in an inert solvent at a temperature lying between  $-10^\circ$  and  $+20^\circ$ .

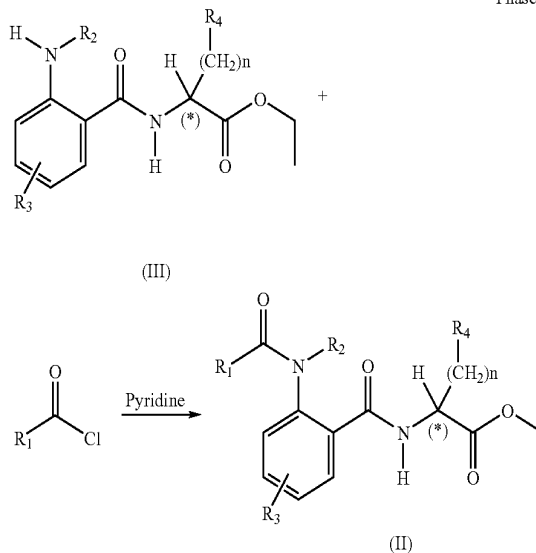
[0016] The series of operations of the process according to the above invention are illustrated overall in the following (diagram 1):

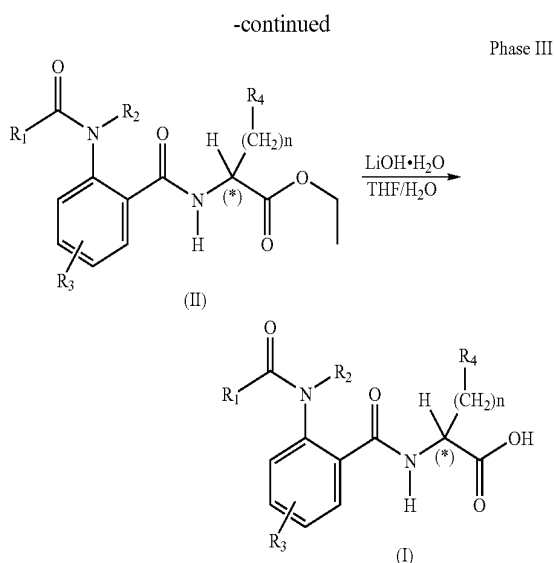
Diagram 1

Phase I



Phase II





[0017] The following examples are given better to illustrate the invention.

#### EXAMPLE 1

Preparation of: ethyl ester of 2(R,S)-(2-amino benzoylamine)-3-phenyl propionic acid (General Formula III)

[0018] To 22.9 g (0.1 moles) of the hydrochlorate of DL-phenylalanine ethyl ester, suspended in 500 ml of ethyl acetate, were added 13.9 ml of triethylamine (0.1 moles) and, under agitation, 16.3 g (0.1 moles) of isatoic anhydride. After heating to reflux for 4 hours the reaction mixture was cooled to ambient temperature and filtered. The filter was washed with NaOH 1N and then with water. The organic phase was dehydrated and evaporated and the oily residue rendered friable by 40-600 petroleum ether. The raw product is crystallised by ethyl acetate/hexane 1:1 (v/v). After cooling the white solid formed is filtered and dried at 60°C, obtaining 25.0 g (0.08 moles) of product with yield of 80% (C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)

[0019] F.p. 85° C. TLC (AcOEt/Hexane 1:1)—R<sub>f</sub>: 0.63. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.24 (t, 3H, —CH<sub>3</sub>); 3.21 (m, 2H, —CH<sub>2</sub>—CH<); 4.18 (q, 2H, —CH<sub>2</sub>—O—); 4.97 (m, 1H, >CH—); 5.45 (s, 2H, —NH<sub>2</sub>); 6.52 (d, 1H, —NH—); 6.61-7.28 (m, 9H, aromatics).

[0020] All the compounds of formula III are synthesised when using the same procedure (see diagram 1-phase I).

#### EXAMPLE 2

Preparation of: ethyl ester of 2(R,S)-{2-[(1H-indol-2-carbonyl) amino]-benzoyl-amino}-3-phenyl-propionic acid (General Formula II)

[0021] To a suspension of 16.1 g (0.1 moles) of the indol-2-carboxylic acid in 250 ml of dichloromethane at 0° C. was added in small portions and under agitation 31.2 g (0.15 moles) of phosphorous pentachloride. This was left to react at ambient temperature for 3 hours, dichloromethane was added and the solvent evaporated under vacuum. The chloride of the acid thus formed, dissolved in 50 ml of

dichloromethane, was added under agitation to a solution of 31.2 g (0.1 moles) of the ethyl ester of 2(R,S)-(2-amino-benzoylamino)-3-phenyl-propionic acid in 100 ml of pyridine at a temperature of 0° C. At the end of the addition the reaction mass was held at 0° C. for a further hour and then at ambient temperature for about 12 hours. 250 ml of dichloromethane was added and the organic phase washed with 400 ml of HCl 1N and then with NaOH 0.1N and finally with the saturated solution of NaCl. After drying, the solvent was evaporated and the raw product purified by treatment with hot methanol. After cooling the solid was filtered and dried at 60° C. in an oven, obtaining 35.5 g (0.078 moles) of product with a yield of 78% (C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>)

[0022] F.p. 210-211° C. TLC (AcOEt/Hexane 1:1)—R<sub>f</sub>: 0.69. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 1.17 (t, 3H, —CH<sub>3</sub>); 3.20 (m, 2H, —CH<sub>2</sub>—CH<); 4.11 (q, 2H, —CH<sub>2</sub>—O—); 4.79 (m, 1H, —CH<); 6.98 (s, 1H, indol); 7.06-7.82 (m, 12H, aromatics); 8.64 (d, 1H, aromatic); 9.30 (d, 1H, —NH—CH<); 11.95 (s, 1H, —NH— indol); 12.15 (s, 1H, —NH—).

[0023] All the compounds of Formula (II) were synthesised using the same procedure (see Diagram 1-Phase II).

#### EXAMPLE 3

Preparation of: 2(R,S)-{2-[(H-indol-2-carbonyl)-amino]-benzoylamino}-3-phenyl-propionic acid.  
[compound 1 (General Formula I)-Table 1]

[0024] To a suspension of 45.5 g (0.1 moles) of the ethyl ester of 2(R,S)-{2-[(1H-indol-2-carbonyl) amino]-benzoylamino}-3-phenyl-propionic acid in 1 litre of an H<sub>2</sub>O/THF 1:1 mixture were added 4.6 g (0.11 moles) of hydrated lithium hydroxide and left under agitation under ambient temperature for 24 hours. The process continues with the evaporation of the organic solvent and the products obtained by precipitation at 0° C. followed by acidification with dilute HCl. The raw product is crystallised by methanol, obtaining 36.3 g (0.085 moles) with yield of 85% (C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>)

[0025] F.p. 268-269° C. TLC (AcOEt/MeOH 2:1)—R<sub>f</sub>: 0.61. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 3.27 (m, 2H, —CH<sub>2</sub>—CH<); 4.79 (m, 1H, >CH—); 6.97 (s, 1H, H indol); 7.06-7.87 (m, 12H, aromatics); 8.64 (d, 1H, H aromatic); 9.21 (d, 1H, —NH—); 11.93 (s, 1H, —NH— indol); 12.28 (s, 1H, —NH—).

#### EXAMPLE 4

Preparation of: 2(R)-{2-[(1H-indol-2-carbonyl)-amino]-benzoylamino}-3-phenyl-propionic acid:  
[compound 2 (General Formula I)-Table 1]

[0026] The procedure was as described in Examples 1, 2 and 3, starting from chloride of D-phenyl alanine ethyl ester.

[0027] Yield: 43%. Formula: C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. F.p. 271-272° C. TLC (AcOEt/MeOH 2:1)—R<sub>f</sub>: 0.61. Rotatory power: [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>=+13.6 (c=0.59, DMF). Optical purity: e.e [HPLC chiral]=98.7%.

[0028] Chiral HPLC analytic conditions: CSP-TE-SP-100 column of 250 mm; internal diameter 4 mm; Detector: UV at 254 nm; Eluent: MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O 85/15 (v/v)+20 mM NH<sub>4</sub>OAc; Flow: 1.00 ml/min; Temperature: 23° C.; Retention time: 5.6 min. against 4.0 min. of the S enantiomer.

## EXAMPLE 5

Preparation of: 2(S)-{2-[(1H-indol-2-carbonyl)amino]-benzoylamino}-3-phenyl-propionic acid.  
[Compound 3 (General Formula I)-Table 1]

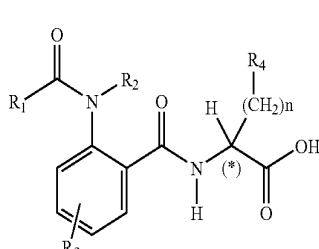
[0029] Proceed as described in Example 4, starting from hydrochloride of L-phenyl alanine ethyl ester.

[0030] Yield: 50%. Formula:  $C_{25}H_{21}N_3O_4$ . F.p. 270-271° C. TLC (AcOEt/MeOH 2:1)—Rf: 0.61 Rotatory Power:  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -15.8$  (c=0.57, DMF). Optical purity: e.e [HPLC chiral]>99.5%.

[0031] Chiral HPLC analetic conditions: CSP-TE-SP-100, of 250 mm; internal diamter 4 mm; Detector: UV at 254 mm; Eluent MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O: 85/15 (v/v)+20 mM NH<sub>4</sub>OAc; Flow: 1.00 ml/min; Temperature: 23° C.; Retention time: 4.0 min against 5.6 min of the R enantiomer.

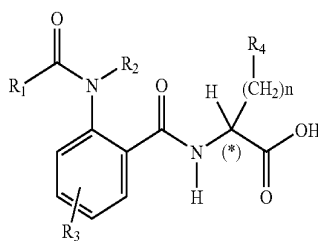
[0032] All the compounds of formula (I) were synthesised by using the same procedure (see diagram 1). In the following Table 1 are reported some of the compounds thus obtained with some chemical-physical characteristics identified and the solvent of crystallisation, without by this omitting in any way the spirit and scope of the invention itself.

TABLE 1

COMPOUNDS OF GENERAL FORMULA (I)										
COM- POUND	R1	R2	R3	STE- REO (Note 1)	n	R4	SOLVENT OF CRYSTALLI- SATION	FORMULA	FUSION POINT (C) °	TLC (Rf) (Note 2)
 <p>(I)</p>										
1	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	Phenyl	MeOH	$C_{25}H_{21}N_3O_4$	268–269	0.61*
2	2-Indolyl	H	H	R	1	Phenyl	MeOH	$C_{25}H_{21}N_3O_4$	271–272	0.61*
3	2-Indolyl	H	H	S	1	Phenyl	MeOH	$C_{25}H_{21}N_3O_4$	270–271	0.61*
4	2-Indolyl	H	5-chloro	R, S	1	Phenyl	EtOH 99%	$C_{25}H_{20}ClN_3O_4$	268–269	0.59*
5	1-Methyl-2-indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	Phenyl	EtOH 75%	$C_{26}H_{23}N_3O_4$	186–188	0.50*
6	5-Fluoro-2-indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	Phenyl	EtOH 99%	$C_{25}H_{20}FN_3O_4$	284–286	0.42*
7	6-Fluoro-2-indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	Phenyl	EtOH 99%	$C_{25}H_{20}FN_3O_4$	280 dec	0.66*
8	7-Fluoro-2-indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	Phenyl	EtOH 99%	$C_{25}H_{20}FN_3O_4$	265 dec	0.66*
9	2-Benzofuryl	H	H	R, S	1	Phenyl	MeOH	$C_{25}H_{20}N_3O_5$	256–257	0.25**
10	2-Benzothienyl	H	H	R, S	1	Phenyl	MeOH	$C_{25}H_{20}N_3O_4S$	207–209	0.33**
11	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	2-Methyl-phenyl	MeOH	$C_{26}H_{23}N_3O_4$	278–279	0.46*
12	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	4-Methyl-phenyl	MeOH	$C_{26}H_{23}N_3O_4$	273–274	0.40*
13	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	2-Chloro-phenyl	MeOH	$C_{25}H_{20}ClN_3O_4$	281–282	0.58*
14	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	3-Chloro-phenyl	MeOH	$C_{25}H_{20}ClN_3O_4$	248–249	0.52*

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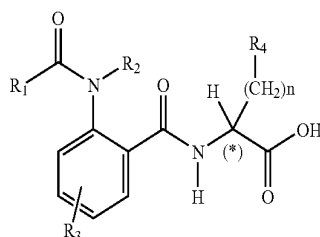


15	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	2,6-dichloro-phenyl	MeOH	$C_{25}H_{19}Cl_2N_3O_4$	287–288	0.53*
16	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	3-Methoxy-phenyl	MeOH	$C_{26}H_{23}N_3O_5$	239–240	0.48*
17	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	2-Nitro-phenyl	MeOH	$C_{25}H_{20}N_4O_6$	253–254	0.41*
18	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	4-Nitro-phenyl	MeOH	$C_{25}H_{20}N_4O_6$	243–244	0.49*
19	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	4-Fluoro-phenyl	MeOH	$C_{25}H_{20}FN_3O_4$	263–264	0.54*
20	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	2	Phenyl	MeOH	$C_{26}H_{23}N_3O_4$	259–260	0.48*
21	2-Indolyl	H	H	Ra	2	Phenyl	AcOEt	$C_{26}H_{23}N_3O_4$	267–268	0.48*
22	2-Indolyl	H	H	Sb	2	Phenyl	AcOEt	$C_{26}H_{23}N_3O_4$	267–268	0.48*
23	5-Fluoro-2-indolyl	H	H	R, S	2	Phenyl	EtOH 99%	$C_{26}H_{22}FN_3O_4$	272–274	0.70*
24	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	3	Phenyl	MeOH	$C_{27}H_{25}N_3O_4$	256–257	0.54*

TABLE 1-continued

COMPOUNDS OF GENERAL FORMULA (I)										
COM- POUND	R1	R2	R3	STE- REO (Note 1)	n	R4	SOLVENT OF CRYSTALLI- SATION	FORMULA	FUSION POINT (C) °	TLC (Rf) (Note 2)
25	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	2	2-Methyl-phenyl	EtOH 99%	C27H25N3O4	257–258	0.51*
26	5-Fluoro-2-indolyl	H	H	R, S	2	2-Methyl-phenyl	EtOH 96%	C27H24FN3O4	262–263	0.71*
27	1-Methyl-2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	2	2-Methyl-phenyl	EtOH 75%	C28H27N3O4	158–160	0.65*
28	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	2	2-Nitro-phenyl	EtOH 99%	C26H22N4O6	263–264	0.44*

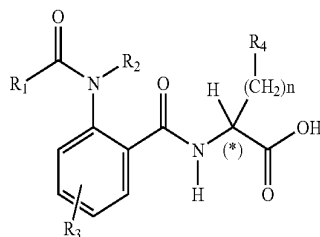
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(I)

29	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	2	4-Nitro-phenyl	EtOH 99%	C26H22N4O6	265 dec	0.43*
30	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	2	2-Methoxy-phenyl	EtOH 99%	C27H25N3O5	238–239	0.67*
31	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	2	3-Methoxy-phenyl	EtOH 99%	C27H25N3O5	233–235	0.61*
32	5-Fluoro-2-indolyl	H	H	R, S	2	2-Methoxy-phenyl	EtOH 96%	C27H24FN3O5	252 dec	0.73*
33	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	0	Phenyl	MeOH	C24H19N3O4	265–266	0.34**
34	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	0	Methyl	MeOH	C19H17N3O4	274–276	0.34*
35	1-Methyl-2-indolyl	H	H	R, S	0	Ethyl	MeOH	C21H21N3O4	220–221	0.40*
36	1-Methyl-2-indolyl	H	H	R, S	0	Propyl	MeOH	C22H23N3O4	223–224	0.65*
37	1-Methyl-2-indolyl	H	H	R, S	0	Butyl	MeOH	C23H25N3O4	192–193	0.70*
38	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	0	Pentyl	EtOH 96%	C23H25N3O4	241–243	0.76*
39	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	0	Hexyl	EtOH 96%	C24H27N3O4	258–260	0.56*
40	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	0	Heptyl	MeOH	C25H29N3O4	242–243	0.64*
41	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	0	Isopropyl	EtOH 99%	C21H21N3O4	276–277	0.58*
42	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	Isopropyl	MeOH	C22H23N3O4	257–259	0.51**

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(I)

43	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	2	Isopropyl	AcOEt	C23H25N3O4	252–253	0.73*
44	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	3	Isopropyl	AcOEt	C24H27N3O4	247–248	0.83*
45	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	4	Isopropyl	AcOEt	C25H29N3O4	240 dec	0.78*
46	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	0	2-Ethyl-butyl	MeOH	C24H27N3O4	218–219	0.68*
47	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	2-Ethyl-butyl	EtOH 99%	C25H29N3O4	217–218	0.77*
48	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	Cyclohexyl	MeOH	C25H27N3O4	222–223	0.58*
49	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	2	Cyclohexyl	EtOH 95%	C26H29N3O4	268–269	0.63*
50	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	3	Cyclohexyl	AcOEt	C27H31N3O4	241–242	0.86*
51	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	2	Methylsulfanyl	MeOH	C21H21N3O4S	250–251	0.38*
52	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	Phenylsulfanyl	MeOH	C25H21N3O4S	252–253	0.56*
53	2-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	1-Adamantylsulfanyl	EtOH 95%	C29H31N3O4S	261–263	0.49*
54	2-Indolyl	Methyl	H	R, S	1	Phenyl	AcOEt	C26H23N3O4S	191–193	0.26*
55	3-Indolyl	H	H	R, S	1	Phenyl	MeOH	C25H21N3O4	223–224	0.40*

(a) Enantiomer R [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = +35.4° (C = 0.65; DMF); (b) Enantiomer S [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -34.8° (C = 0.65; DMF)

Note 1

Configuration of the carbon labeled (\*) in the general formula (I);

Note 2

\*Eluent, AcOEt/MeOH 2:1 (v/v); \*\*Eluent, AcOEt/MeOH 3:1 (v/v).

# DESCRIPTION OF THE PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

## 1. Anti Cholecystokinin Activity (Anti CCK-1) In Vitro

[0033] To evaluate the capacity of the compounds forming the subject of the invention to interact with the CCK-1 receptors, binding tests were performed on isolated rat pancreatic acini, using as marked binder the [<sup>125</sup>I]-BH-CCK-8 sulphate, according to the procedure described by Makovec F. [J. Med. Chem. 35, (1992), 28]. The pancreatic acini obtained from the outbred male rat pancreas of the Sprague Dawley strain, were incubated in the presence of radioactive tracers and the compound studied for 30 minutes at 37° C. After having discarded the supernatant, the radioactivity associated with the pellet was determined with a liquid scintillator. The specific binding was determined as the difference between the binding in the absence and in the presence of CCK-8, 1.10<sup>-6</sup>M. The results obtained are shown in Table 2, in which IC<sub>50</sub> is reported, that is to say the concentration (expressed in micromoles/litre) of the antagonist capable of displacing by 50% the [<sup>125</sup>I]-BH-CCK-8 from the receptor. The values of IC<sub>50</sub> reported were calculated with the progression method of a set of at least 3 experiences for each compound studied.

[0034] From the data plotted in Table 2 it can be seen that many of the compounds forming the subject of the invention, such as for example compounds 21, 23, 25, 26, 30 and 32 are potent inhibitors of the binding of [<sup>125</sup>I]-BH-CCK-8 to the CCK-1 receptors of the pancreatic acini of rat, exhibiting an infinity at nanomolar level.

## 2. Anti Cholesystokinin Activity (Anti CCK-2) In Vitro

[0035] Whereby to verify the hypothesis that the compound forming the subject of the invention would be specific CCK-1 antagonist, it was tested for some of the more active compounds, what CCK-1 antagonists also exhibited possible infinity for the central receptors of the CCK of CCK-2 type. For this purpose binding tests were performed on cerebral cortex of male albino guinea pigs outbred from the Hartley strain, using as marked binder the [<sup>125</sup>I]-BH-CCK-8 sulphate, according to the procedure described by Makovec F. [J. Med. Chem. 35, (1992),28].

TABLE 2

Inhibition of binding of [ <sup>125</sup> I]-BH-CCK-8 to isolated rat pancreatic acini	
Compound IC <sub>50</sub>	(micromoles/litres)
1	0.24
2	0.11
3	7.13
4	0.41
5	0.17
6	0.06
7	0.16
8	0.09
9	0.52
10	0.78
11	0.16
12	0.37
13	0.27
14	0.28
15	1.41
16	0.24
17	0.16
18	0.43

TABLE 2-continued

Inhibition of binding of [ <sup>125</sup> I]-BH-CCK-8 to isolated rat pancreatic acini	
Compound IC <sub>50</sub>	(micromoles/litres)
19	0.18
20	0.014
21	0.009
22	0.19
23	0.007
24	0.09
25	0.007
26	0.009
27	0.03
28	0.12
29	0.12
30	0.008
31	0.01
32	0.009
33	0.26
34	1.96
35	3.08
36	0.21
37	0.17
38	0.01
39	0.02
40	0.24
41	0.20
42	0.06
43	0.08
44	0.04
45	0.14
46	0.03
47	0.02
48	0.02
49	0.04
50	0.17
51	0.04
52	0.62
53	0.03
54	0.11
55	1.95

[0036] The incubation of the cerebral membranes together with the radioactive tracers and the compounds under study was effected on multi-well plates for 120 minutes at 25° C. Each well contained membrane corresponding to about 0.5 mg of proteins/ml and 25 pM of marked binder in a total volume of 250 micro litres. The specific binding was determined as the difference between the binding in the absence and in the presence of CCK-8, 1.10<sup>-6</sup>M. At the end of the incubation a rapid filtration of the plate was performed under vacuum and the radioactivity of the individual filters extracted from the wells was measured with a γ-emission counter. The results obtained are shown in Table 3, in which the tested compounds are indicated, the IC<sub>50</sub> calculated with the regression method on a set of at least 3 tests for each compound studied and an index derived from the ratio of the affinity obtained for the two types of receptor CCK-2 and CCK-1.

TABLE 3

Inhibition of the binding of [ $^{125}$ I]-BH-CCK-8 to the cortical membrane of guinea pigs:		
Compound	IC <sub>50</sub> (micromoles/litre)	Ratio IC <sub>50</sub> CCK-2 IC <sub>50</sub> CCK-1(*)
6	10.6	176.6
20	2.22	158.6
21	3.8	422.2
23	10.8	1542.9
25	>30	>4286
26	5.15	572.2
30	3.5	437.5
31	3.4	340
32	5.68	631.1
38	>30	>3000
39	>30	>1500
41	27.4	137
46	2.67	89
47	14.8	740
48	1.22	61

Note (\*): Data drawn from Table 2

[0037] From the results shown in Table 3 it emerges that the compounds in question bind the central receptor CCK-2 weakly, their affinity being on average for this receptor from 100 to 1000 times less than that shown for the receptors of CCK-1 type. By comparing these values of affinity with those obtained for the CCK-1 receptors previously indicated in Table 2 it can be affirmed that the compounds in question are potent binders specific for receptor CCK-1.

[0038] To verify the hypothesis that the subject compounds would be CCK-1 specific antagonists and not agonists, several tests were made of the more active compounds illustrated in Table 2 of the CCK-1 antagonist activity on a functional model. A guinea pig gall bladder stimulated in vitro by CCK-8 according to the method described by Makovec et al. was used as an experimental model. [Arzneim. Forsch. Drug Res. 35 (7), 1048 (1985)]. The results thus obtained are illustrated in the following Table 4 in which the values of IC<sub>50</sub> (moles/litre) are reported.

[0039] The IC<sub>50</sub> reported in Table 4 represent for each compound the average of at least two separate experiments, each with 6-8 concentrations.

TABLE 4

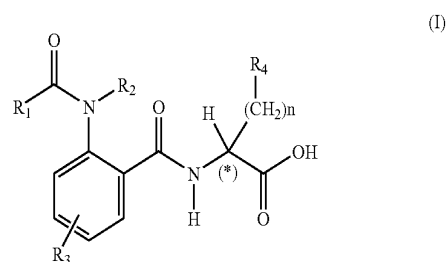
Inhibition of the in vitro induced contraction of guinea pig gall bladder by CCK-8 (5 ng/ml)	
Compound	IC <sub>50</sub> (moles/litre)
20	$3.5 \times 10^{-8}$
21	$2.0 \times 10^{-8}$
23	$1.5 \times 10^{-8}$
25	$0.8 \times 10^{-8}$
26	$4.3 \times 10^{-8}$
30	$3.0 \times 10^{-8}$

[0040] From the data reported in the Table it is shown how some of the compounds forming the subject of the invention are provided with a potent antagonist activity against CCK even in a functional model.

[0041] Moreover, none of the products tested presented appreciable agonist properties up to the maximum tested concentration ( $1 \times 10^{-5}$  M).

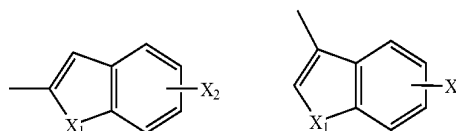
What is claimed is:

1. Compounds which can be represented by the below indicated general formula (I) and in which:



n is a whole number lying between 0 and 7;

R<sub>1</sub> is chosen independently from the groups:



in which X<sub>1</sub> is chosen independently from S, O, NR<sub>2</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> is a group chosen independently from: H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> linear or branched alkyl, F, Cl, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCH<sub>3</sub>, OC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, CN;

R<sub>2</sub> is chosen independently from H or CH<sub>3</sub>;

R<sub>3</sub> is chosen independently from H, CH<sub>3</sub>, F, Cl, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCH<sub>3</sub>;

R<sub>4</sub> is chosen independently from the groups: H, —S—(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-R<sub>5</sub>, —SO<sub>2</sub>—(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-R<sub>5</sub> (n different from 0) in which m is a whole number lying between 0 and 2, a branched alkyl group formed by 3-6 carbon atoms, a cyclo alkyl formed by 3-10 carbon atoms, a cyclo alkanyl formed by 4-6 carbon atoms, the group 1 or 2-adamantyl, a simple or mono- or bi-substituted phenyl group, in which the substituents can be chosen independently from halogens, a linear alkyl group formed by 1-3 carbon atoms, a branched alkyl group formed by 3-6 carbon atoms, an alkoxylic group formed by 1-3 carbon atoms, —NO<sub>2</sub>, —CF<sub>3</sub>, —CN;

R<sub>5</sub> is chosen from the groups: H, a linear alkyl group formed by 1-3 carbon atoms, a branched alkyl group formed by 3-6 carbon atoms, a cyclo alkyl formed by 3 up to 10 carbon atoms, the group 1 or 2-adamantyl, a simple or mono- or bi-substituted phenyl group in



which the substituents can be chosen independently from halogens, a linear alkyl group from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, a branched alkyl group formed by 3-6 carbon atoms, an alkoxylic group formed by 1-3 carbon atoms,  $-\text{NO}_2$ ,  $-\text{CF}_3$ ,  $-\text{CN}$ , and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts; the stereo chemical chiral centre, indicated with an asterisk (\*) in formula (I) can be R (Rectus), racemic [R (Rectus), S (Sinister)] or S (Sinister).

2. Compounds according to claim 1 of general formula (I), simple or as salts, in which  $\text{R}_1$  is the group 2-indolyl simple or independently substituted in position 1 with the methyl group or in position 5 with the fluoro group.

3. Compound according to claim 1, in which  $\text{R}_2$  and  $\text{R}_3$  are H.

4. Compound according to claim 1, in which n is 1 or 2 and  $\text{R}_4$  is the simple phenyl group or phenyl group substituted with the methyl, fluoro or methoxy groups.

5. Compound according to claim 1, in which the stereochemistry of the chiral centre marked with an asterisk (\*) in (I) is R (Rectus) or RS (raceme).

6. Compounds according to claim 1 of general formula (I), simple or as salts, in which  $\text{R}_1$  is the group 2-indolyl, either simple or independently substituted in position 1 with the methyl group or in position 5 with the fluoro group,  $\text{R}_2$  and  $\text{R}_3$  are H, n is 1 or 2,  $\text{R}_4$  is the simple phenyl group or the phenyl group substituted with the methyl, fluoro or methoxy groups and the stereochemistry of the chiral centre marked with an asterisk (\*) in (I) is R (Rectus), or RS (raceme).

7. Pharmaceutical preparation including as active substance at least one of the compounds according to any of claims 1 or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof.

8. Pharmaceutical preparations according to claim 7 for use in the therapy of pathological forms of the gastrointestinal apparatus such as pancreatitis, biliocholic, gastroesophageal reflux (GERD), irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), non ulcerous dyspepsia.

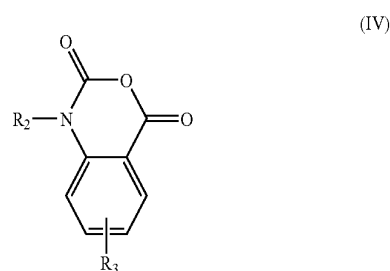
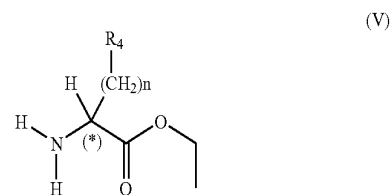
9. Pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 7 for use in therapy of the tumoral infections supported by CCK and other bioactive polypeptides correlated to it.

10. Pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 7 for the treatment of pathological situations of SNC related to lack of balance of the neuronal physiological levels of CCK or of other bioactive polypeptides correlated to it, such as, for example, anxiety, panic attacks, psychoses, depression, anorexia, etc, or other causes related to the mechanism of the action of the compounds according to claim 1.

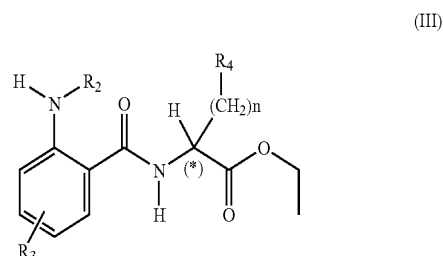
11. Pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 7, further including pharmaceutically acceptable inactive ingredients chosen from the group which consists of carriers, binders, aromatisers, separators, preservatives, humectants and mixtures of these, or ingredients which facilitate the transdermic absorption or which permit the controlled release over time of the active substance.

12. Process for the preparation of a derivative of the general formula (I) in which  $\text{R}_1$ ,  $\text{R}_2$ ,  $\text{R}_3$  and  $\text{R}_4$  and n are as defined in claim 1 and in which the substituents on the chiral centre marked with an asterisk (\*) have the configuration R, S or (R,S) (raceme), which comprise the operations of:

a) Reacting in stoichiometric ratio the hydrochloride of the ethyl ester of the amino acids of formula (V) in which n and  $\text{R}_4$  have the above indicated definition and have the chiral centre in the desired configuration, with the isatoic anhydride of formula (IV) suitably substituted with  $\text{R}_2$  and  $\text{R}_3$  in which  $\text{R}_2$  and  $\text{R}_3$  have the above indicated definition, in the presence of a tertiary amine such as, for example, triethylamine, in an inert solvent and at a temperature lying

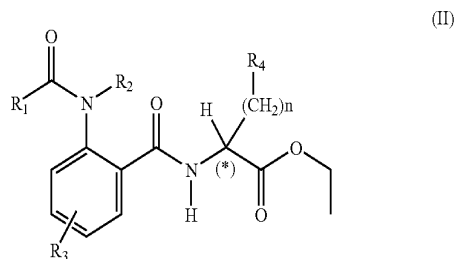


between  $+10^\circ \text{C}$ . and the boiling temperature of the solvent, to give the N-anthranoyl-amino acid ethyl esters of formula (III).



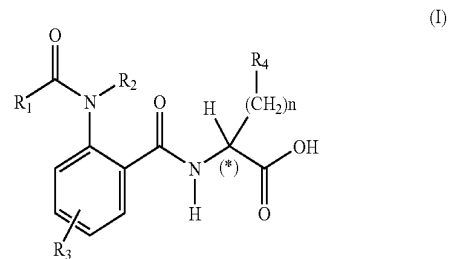
b) Reacting the anthranilic derivatives of formula (III), in which n,  $\text{R}_2$ ,  $\text{R}_3$  and  $\text{R}_4$  have the above indicated definition, with an equivalent quantity of an acyl chloride of formula  $\text{R}_1-\text{COCl}$ , in which  $\text{R}_1$  has the above indicated definition, preferably in pyridine and at a

temperature lying between 0° C. and +30° C. and recovering from the reaction mixture the acyl derivatives of formula (II).



c) Hydrolising the esters of formula (II), in which n, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> have the above indicated definition, in an inert solvent (such as tetrahydrofuran for example) with an aqueous solution of a strong inorganic base (such as lithium hydroxide) for a period of time lying between 4 and 48 hours. After evaporation of the

solvent and acidification, recovering from the reaction mass the derivatives of the anthranilic acid of formula (I).



in which n, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> have the above indicated definition and with the chiral centre in the desired configuration. The final compounds of formula (I) are isolated as such or as pharmaceutically acceptable salts and purified by conventional methods.

\* \* \* \* \*