AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (original). A use of a compound of formula I,

wherein

the squiggly bonds represent optional *E* or *Z* geometry;

R¹ and R² independently represent an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, both of which groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from:

- X¹, C₁₋₈ alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocyclic group:-
- (A) which C_{1-8} alkyl group is itself optionally substituted by one or more Z substituents; and
- (B) which C_{1-8} alkyl, aryl and heterocyclic groups may themselves be substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^1 , C_{1-8} alkyl (which latter group may be further substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^1 , C_{1-8} alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group and Z), an aryl group and a heterocyclic group (and which latter two groups may be further substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^1 , C_{1-8} alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocyclic group), in which:-

X¹ represents, on each occasion when used above, halo, cyano,

 $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^1-R^5$, wherein:

A¹ represents a spacer group selected from -C(Z)A²-,

 $-N(R^6)A^3$ -, $-OA^4$ -, -S- or -S(O)_nA⁵-, in which:

 A^2 represents a single bond, -O-, -S-, -N(R^6) A^6 - or -C(Z)-;

 A^3 represents A^6 , $-C(Z)N(R^6)C(Z)N(R^6)$ -, $-C(Z)N(R^6)C(Z)O$ -,

 $-C(Z)N(R^6)S(O)_nN(R^6)-$, -C(Z)S-, $-S(O)_n-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^6)C(Z)N(R^6)-$,

 $-S(O)_nN(R^6)C(Z)O- or -S(O)_nN(R^6)S(O)_nN(R^6)-;$

A⁴ represents A⁶ or -S(O)_n-;

A⁵ represents a single bond, -N(R⁶)- or -O-;

A⁶ represents, on each occasion when used above, a single bond, -C(Z)-,

-C(Z)O-, -C(Z)N(R⁶)-, -S(O)_nN(R⁶)- or -S(O)_nO-; and

Z represents, on each occasion when used above, a substituent connected by a double bond, which is selected from =0, =S, = NR^5 , = $NN(R^5)(R^6)$, = NOR^5 ,

 $=NS(O)_2N(R^5)(R^6)$, =NCN, $=C(H)NO_2$ and $=C(R^5)(R^6)$;

R⁵ and R⁶ independently represent, on each occasion when used above,

- (a) hydrogen;
- (b) C_{1-8} alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2 , Q, C_{1-8} alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2 , C_{1-8} alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group and Q), an aryl group and a heterocyclic group (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2 , C_{1-8} alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocyclic group); or
 - (c) an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, both of which are optionally substituted

by one or more substituents selected from X^2 , C_{1-8} alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2 , C_{1-8} alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group and Q), an aryl group and a heterocyclic group (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2 , C_{1-8} alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocyclic group); or

R⁵ and R⁶ may, when present on the same atom or on adjacent atoms, taken together with those atoms form a 5- to 8-membered ring optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 double bonds, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X², C₁₋₈ alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group (which latter three groups are optionally substituted as described in (b) and (c) above, respectively) and, provided that the ring that R⁵ and R⁶ may together be part of is not aromatic in character, Q;

X² represents, on each occasion when used above, halo, cyano,

-N₃, -NO₂, -ONO₂ or -A⁷-R⁷, wherein:

A⁷ represents a spacer group selected from -C(Q)A⁸-, -N(R⁸)A⁹-,

 $-OA^{10}$ -, -S- or -S(O)_nA¹¹-, in which:

A⁸ represents a single bond, -O-, -S-, -N(R⁸)- or -C(Q)-;

 A^9 represents A^{12} , $-C(Q)N(R^8)C(Q)N(R^8)$ -, $-C(Q)N(R^8)C(Q)O$ -,

 $-C(Q)N(R^8)S(O)_nN(R^8)-,-C(Q)S-,-S(O)_n-,$

 $N(R^8)C(Q)N(R^8)-, -S(O)_nN(R^8)C(Q)N(R^8)-,$

 $-S(O)_nN(R^8)C(Q)O- or -S(O)_nN(R^8)S(O)_nN(R^8)-;$

A¹⁰ represents A¹² or -S(O)_n-;

A¹¹ represents a single bond, -N(R⁸)- or -O-;

 A^{12} represents, on each occasion when used above, a single bond, -C(Q)-, -C(Q)O-, -C(Q)N(R⁸)-, -S(O)_nN(R⁸)- or -S(O)_nO-;

Q represents, on each occasion when used above, a substituent connected by a double bond, which is selected from =0, =S, =NR⁷, =NN(R⁷)(R⁸), =NOR⁷, =NS(O)₂N(R⁷)(R⁸), =NCN, =C(H)NO₂ and =C(R⁷)(R⁸);

R⁷ and R⁸ independently represent, on each occasion when used herein,

- (i) hydrogen;
- (ii) an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, both of which may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^3 , C_{1-8} alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocyclic group (and which latter three groups are themselves optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, hydroxy,
- -R⁹, -OR⁹ and, provided that the group is not aromatic in nature, =O); or
- (iii) C_{1-8} alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^3 and W; or

R⁷ and R⁸ may, when present on the same atom or on adjacent atoms, taken together with those atoms form a 5- to 8-membered ring optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 double bonds, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X³, C₁₋₈ alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group and, provided that the ring that R⁷ and R⁸ may together be part of is not aromatic in character, W;

X³ represents, on each occasion when used above, halo, cyano, -N₃, -NO₂, -ONO₂ or -A¹³-R¹⁰, wherein:

A¹³ represents a spacer group selected from -C(W)A¹⁴-, -N(R¹¹)A¹⁵-,

$$-OA^{16}$$
-, -S- or -S(O)_nA¹⁷-, in which:

A¹⁴ represents a single bond, -O-, -S-, -N(R¹¹)- or -C(W)-,

 A^{15} represents A^{18} , $-C(W)N(R^{11})C(W)N(R^{11})$ -, $-C(W)N(R^{11})C(W)O$ -,

 $-C(W)N(R^{11})S(O)_{n}N(R^{11})-, -C(W)S-, -S(O)_{n}-, -S(O)_{n}N(R^{11})C(W)N(R^{11})-,$

 $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})C(W)O$ - or $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})S(O)_nN(R^{11})$ -;

 A^{16} represents A^{18} or $-S(O)_{n}$ -;

A¹⁷ represents a single bond, -N(R¹¹)- or -O-;

A¹⁸ represents, on each occasion when used above, a single bond, -C(W)-,

-C(W)O-, $-C(W)N(R^{11})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$

R⁹ represents, on each occasion when used above, C₁₋₆ alkyl optionally substituted by one or more fluoro atoms;

W represents, on each occasion when used above, a substituent connected by a double bond, which is selected from =O, =S, =NR¹⁰, =NN(R¹⁰)(R¹¹), =NOR¹⁰, =NS(O)₂N(R¹⁰)(R¹¹), =NCN, =C(H)NO₂ and =C(R¹⁰)(R¹¹);

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ independently represent, on each occasion when used above:

- (1) hydrogen;
- (2) an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, both of which may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^4 , C_{1-8} alkyl, methylenedioxy, difluoromethylenedioxy and dimethylmethylenedioxy; or
- (3) C_{1-8} alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^4 , =O, =S, =NR¹², =NN(R¹²)(R¹³), =NOR¹², =NS(O)₂N(R¹²)(R¹³), =NCN, =C(H)NO₂ and =C(R¹²)(R¹³); or

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ may, when present on the same atom or on adjacent atoms, taken

together with those atoms form a 5- to 8-membered ring optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 double bonds, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^4 and, provided that the ring that R^{10} and R^{11} may together be part of is not aromatic in character, =0, =S, =NR¹², =NN(R¹²)(R¹³), =NOR¹², =NS(O)₂N(R¹²)(R¹³), =NCN, =C(H)NO₂ and =C(R¹²)(R¹³);

X⁴ represents, on each occasion when used above, halo, cyano, -N₃, -NO₂, -ONO₂ or -A¹⁹-R¹², wherein:

A¹⁹ represents a spacer group selected from -C(O)A²⁰-, -N(R¹³)A²¹-,

 $-OA^{22}$ -, -S- or -S(O)_n A^{23} -, in which:

A²⁰ represents a single bond, -O-, -S-, -N(R¹³)- or -C(O)-;

 A^{21} represents A^{24} , $-C(O)N(R^{13})C(O)N(R^{13})$ -, $-C(O)N(R^{13})C(O)O$ -,

 $-C(O)N(R^{13})S(O)_{n}N(R^{13})-, -C(O)S-, -S(O)_{n}-, -S(O)_{n}N(R^{13})C(O)N(R^{13})-,$

 $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})C(O)O$ - or $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})S(O)_nN(R^{13})$ -;

 A^{22} represents A^{24} or $-S(O)_{n-1}$

A²³ represents a single bond, -N(R¹³)- or -O-;

A²⁴ represents, on each occasion when used above, a single bond, -C(O)-,

-C(O)O-, -C(O)N(R¹³)-, -S(O)_nN(R¹³)- or -S(O)_nO-;

R¹² and R¹³ independently represent, on each occasion when used above:

- (A) hydrogen; or
- (B) C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-N(R^{14})R^{15}$, $-OR^{15}$ and =O;

n represents, on each occasion when used above, 1 or 2;

R³ and R⁴ independently represent H or C₁₋₆ alkyl optionally substituted by one or

more substituents selected from halo, C₁₋₆ alkyl, cyano, -NO₂, -ONO₂, -N(R¹⁴)R¹⁵, -OR¹⁵, =O, aryl and heteroaryl; and

 ${\sf R}^{\sf 14}$ and ${\sf R}^{\sf 15}$ independently represent, on each occasion when used above, H or ${\sf C}_{\sf 1-4}$ alkyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease in which inhibition of the activity of a lipoxygenase, and particularly 15-lipoxygenase, is desired and/or required.

2 (original). A use as claimed in Claim 1, wherein R^1 represents a phenyl group or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^1 , aryl and C_{1-6} alkyl, which alkyl group is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from X^1 .

3 (currently amended). A use as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein R^2 represents a phenyl group or a heteroaryl group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^1 , a heterocyclic group and C_{1-3} alkyl, which alkyl group is optionally substituted by X^1 .

4 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding elaimsclaim 1, wherein X¹ represents halo, -NO₂, -A¹-R⁵ or cyano.

5 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims one of the preceding claims of the preceding of th

6 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims claim 1, wherein A^2 represents a single bond, -O- or -N(R^6) A^6 -.

7 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding elaimsclaim 1, wherein A^3 represents A^6 or $-S(O)_n$ -.

8 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims A^4 represents A^6 .

9 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding elaimsclaim 1, wherein A⁵ represents -N(R⁶)-.

10 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claimsclaim 1, wherein A⁶ represents a single bond.

11 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claimsclaim 1, wherein n represents 2.

12 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding elaimsclaim 1, wherein R⁵ represents H, C_{1.3} alkyl or phenyl.

13 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claimsclaim 1, wherein R⁶ represents H or C₁₋₃ alkyl.

14 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding elaimsclaim 1, wherein R³ represents H or C₁₋₃ alkyl.

15 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding elaims claim 1, wherein R^4 represents H or C_{1-3} alkyl, which alkyl group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from phenyl and $-OR^{15}$.

16 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding elaimsclaim 1, wherein R^{15} represents C_{1-2} alkyl.

17 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding elaimsclaim 1, wherein R¹ and/or R² represent an optionally substituted pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, oxindolyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thienyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, indolyl, indolinyl, isoindolinyl, quinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, quinolizinyl, benzofuranyl, isobenzofuranyl, chromanyl, benzothienyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, indazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl, benzodioxanyl, tetrazolyl, benzothiazolyl and/or indazolyl group.

18 (original). A use as claimed in Claim 17, wherein R¹ and/or R² represent an optionally substituted pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, oxindolyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thienyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, indolyl, indolinyl, isoindolinyl, quinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, quinolizinyl, benzofuranyl, isobenzofuranyl, chromanyl, benzothienyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, indazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl and/or benzodioxanyl group.

19 (currently amended). A use as claimed in Claim 17 or Claim 18, wherein the optional substituents are selected from halo, -NO₂, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl (which alkyl group may be linear, branched, cyclic, part-cyclic, unsaturated and/or optionally substituted with one or more fluoro group), phenyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranyl, morpholinyl, -OR¹⁸,-N(R¹⁸)R¹⁹, -C(O)R¹⁸, -C(O)OR¹⁸ -C(O)N(R¹⁸), R¹⁹, -S(O)_mR²⁰, -S(O)₂N(R¹⁸)R¹⁹ and/or -N(R¹⁸)S(O)₂R²⁰, wherein R¹⁸ and R¹⁹ independently represent H, phenyl or C₁₋₆ alkyl, R²⁰ represents C₁₋₄ alkyl and m represents 0, 1 or 2.

20 (original). A use as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the substituents are selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, cyano, hydroxyl, amino, -NO₂, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, phenyl, phenoxy, trifluoromethyl, -N(H)SO₂CH₃, -SO₂NH₂, -SO₂N(CH₃)₂, -SO₂N(H)CH₃, -N(CH₃)₂ and morphoinyl.

21 (original). A use as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the substituents are selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, cyano, hydroxyl, amino, -NO₂, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, phenyl, phenoxy, trifluoromethyl, -N(H)SO₂CH₃, -SO₂NH₂ and -SO₂N(CH₃)₂.

22 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding elaimsclaim 1, wherein R¹ represents thienyl; pyrazolyl, which pyrazolyl group is substituted by one or more methyl groups or is unsubstituted; pyridyl, which pyridyl group is substituted by one or more substituents selected from bromo, chloro, methyl and hydroxyl or is unsubstituted; or phenyl, which phenyl group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from methyl, *t*-butyl, methoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, hydroxyl, amino, -NO₂, -SO₂NH₂, -SO₂N(CH₃)₂, -SO₂N(H)CH₃ and -N(CH₃)₂.

23 (original). A use as claimed in Claim 22, wherein R¹ represents thienyl; unsubstituted pyrazolyl; unsubstituted pyridyl; or phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from methyl, *t*-butyl, methoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, hydroxyl, amino, -NO₂, -SO₂NR₂ and -SO₂N(CH₃)₂.

24 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of the preceding elaimsclaim 1, wherein R² represents 2-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 2-quinoxalinyl, or phenyl, which phenyl group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from methyl, phenoxy, -N(H)SO₂CH₃, methoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, -NO₂, -SO₂NH₂, -SO₂N(CH₃)₂, cyano, morpholinyl, -N(CH₃)₂ and ethyl.

25 (original). A use as claimed in Claim 24, wherein R² represents 2-pyridyl or phenyl, which phenyl group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from methyl, phenoxy, -N(H)SO₂CH₃, methoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, -NO₂, -SO₂NH₂ and -SO₂N(CH₃)₂.

26 (currently amended). A compound of formula I as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 25 claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a pharmaceutical, provided that, when R⁴ represents H and:

(A) R³ represents H and:

- (I) R² represents phenyl, then R¹ does not represent 2-furanyl, 4-pyridyl, 3-(5-methylisooxazolyl), phenyl, or 3-nitro-, 2- hydroxy-3-methyl-, 4-(phenylthio)-, 2-hydroxy-5-methyl- or 4-hydroxyphenyl;
- (II) R² represents 4-chlorophenyl, then R¹ does not represent 2-furanyl, 4-pyridyl, phenyl, or 2-hydroxy-5-methyl-, 4-hydroxy-, 2-hydroxy-3-methyl- or 2-hydroxyphenyl;
- (III) R² represents 4-methylphenyl, then R¹ does not represent 4-pyridyl, phenyl, or 3-nitro-, 2-hydroxy-5-methyl-, 4-hydroxy-, 2-hydroxy- or 4-(phenylthio)phenyl; or
- (IV) R² represents 2-furanyl or 2-benzofuiranyl, then R¹ does not represent 4-pyridyl or 3-(5-methylisooxazolyl); and

(B) R³ represents methyl and:

(1) R^2 represents phenyl, then R^1 does not represent *N*-(4-

bromophenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(4-methylphenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(3-methylphenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(2-methylphenyl)-2-amino- or *N*-(phenyl)-2-aminophenyl; or

(2) R² represents 4-chlorophenyl, then R¹ does not represent 4-pyridyl, phenyl, or 3-nitro-, 2-hydroxy-5-methyl-, 4-hydroxy-, 2-hydroxy- or 2-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl.

27 (original). A compound as claimed in Claim 26, with the additional provisos that, when R⁴ represents H, R³ represents H and R² represents phenyl or 4-methylphenyl, then R¹ does not represent 4-(thienyl)phenyl.

28 (currently amended). A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in Claim 26 or Claim 27, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

29 (currently amended). A compound as defined in Claim 26 or Claim 27, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, with the additional provisos that, when R⁴ represents H, R² represents phenyl and:

- (a) R³ represents H, then R¹ does not represent 2-pyridyl, or 3-bromo-, 3,4-dimethoxy- or 2-hydroxy-5-bromophenyl; and
 - (b) R³ represents methyl, then R¹ does not represent 4-methoxyphenyl.

30 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 25 claim 1

wherein the lipoxygenase is 15-lipoxygenase.

31 (currently amended). A use as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 25 or 30claim 1, wherein the disease is inflammation and/or has an inflammatory component.

32 (original). A use as claimed in Claim 31 wherein the inflammatory disease is asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pulmonary fibrosis, allergic disorders, rhinitis, inflammatory bowel disease, ulcers, inflammatory pain, fever, atherosclerosis, coronary artery disease, vasculitis, pancreatitis, arthritis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, conjunctivitis, iritis, scleritis, uveitis, wound healing, dermatitis, eczema, psoriasis, stroke, diabetes, autoimmune diseases, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, sarcoidosis, Hodgkin's disease or another malignancy.

33 (currently amended). A method of treatment of a disease in which inhibition of the activity of a lipoxygenase is desired and/or required, which method comprises administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 29claim 1, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, to a patient suffering from, or susceptible to, such a condition.

34 (currently amended). A combination product comprising:

- (A) a compound of formula I, as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 29claim 1, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and
 - (B) another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of inflammation,

wherein each of components (A) and (B) is formulated in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

35 (currently amended). A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound of formula I as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 29claim 1, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of inflammation, and a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

36 (currently amended). A kit of parts comprising components:

- (a) a pharmaceutical formulation including a compound of formula I as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 29 claim 1, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier; and
- (b) a pharmaceutical formulation including another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of inflammation in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier,

which components (a) and (b) are each provided in a form that is suitable for administration in conjunction with the other.

37 (original). A process for the preparation of a compound as defined in Claim 29, which comprises:

(i) reaction of a compound of formula II,

$$R_1$$
 N_1 N_2 N_2

wherein R¹ is as defined in Claim 1, or an acid addition salt thereof, with a compound of formula III,

$$R^2$$
 $N_{m_{N}}$
 OR^4
 R^3

wherein the squiggly bond, R², R³ and R⁴ are as defined in Claim 1;

(ii) reaction of a compound of formula IV,

wherein R1 is as defined in Claim I with a compound of formula V,

wherein the squiggly bonds, R², R³ and R⁴ are as defined in Claim I;

(iii) reaction of a compound of formula VI,

$$\mathbb{R}^1$$
 \mathbb{V} \mathbb{R}^1

wherein R¹ is as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula V as defined above;

(iv) ring opening of a compound of formula VII,

$$R^2$$
 N
 N
 R^1
 OR^4

wherein R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are as defined in Claim 1;

(v) reaction of a compound of formula VIII,

$$R^{1}$$
 N
 R^{2}
 N
 N
 R^{3}
 N

wherein the squiggly bond, R¹, R² and R³ are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula IX,

$$R^4ONH_2$$
 IX

wherein R4 is as defined in Claim 1, or an acid addition salt thereof;

(vi) for compounds of formula I in which R^4 represents optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^4 represents H with a compound of formula X,

 $R^{4a}L^1$ X

wherein L^1 is a suitable leaving group and R^{4a} is C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, C_{1-6} alkyl, cyano, -NO₂, -ONO₂, -N(R^{14}) R^{15} , -OR¹⁵, =O, aryl or heteroaryl; or

(vii) reaction of a compound of formula XI,

 R^1L^2 XI

wherein L^2 is a suitable leaving group and R^1 is as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula V as defined above in the presence of carbon monoxide or another suitable CO source.