resulting solid product was isolated by filtration. The solid was washed with water and dried in vacuo to provide 5.4 g of colorless solid, identified as the benzyl alcohol derivative, mp 267–271 °C. Anal. ( $C_{18}H_{17}NO_4$ ) C, H, N.

2-[(2-Benzimidazolylthio)methyl]-3,5-dimethyl-4-methoxyaniline (47) and 2-[(2-benzimidazolylsulfinyl)methyl]-3,5-dimethyl-4-methoxyaniline (89) were prepared by methods A and C, respectively.

**Registry No.** 6 (R<sub>1</sub> = H), 583-39-1; 6 (R<sub>1</sub> = 5-OMe), 37052-78-1; 6 (R<sub>1</sub> = 5-OEt), 55489-15-1; 6 (R<sub>1</sub> = 4-Me), 27231-33-0; 6 (R<sub>1</sub> = 5-Me), 27231-36-3; 6 (R<sub>1</sub> = 5-Cl), 25369-78-2; 6 (R<sub>1</sub> = 5-CF<sub>3</sub>), 86604-73-1; 6 (R<sub>1</sub> = 5,6-(Me)<sub>2</sub>), 3287-79-4; 6 (R<sub>1</sub> = 5,6-(OMe)<sub>2</sub>), 74004-74-3; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> = H, X = OH), 5344-90-1; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> = H, X = Cl), 114059-99-3; 7 (R<sub>2</sub> = Ac, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> = H, X = Cl), 90562-37-1; 7 (R<sub>2</sub> = Me, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> = H, X = Cl), 100376-52-1; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = Me, R<sub>4</sub> = H, X = Cl), 106771-59-9; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 3-Me, X = Cl), 114060-00-3; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 4-Me, X = Cl), 114060-01-4; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 6-Me, X = Cl), 88301-86-4; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 4-Et, X = Cl), 114060-02-5; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 4-Et, X = Cl)-HCl, 106746-71-8; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 6-Et, X = Cl), 88301-87-5; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 6-Et, X = Cl)-HCl, 88301-76-2; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 4-*n*-Bu, X = Cl), 114060-03-6; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 4-*m*-Bu, X = Cl)-HCl, 106746-85-4; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 4-MeO, X = Cl), 114060-04-7; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 4-MeO, X = Cl)-2HCl, 114060-05-8; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 6-MeO, X = Cl), 88301-88-6; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 4-Cl, X = Cl), 114060-06-9; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 5-Cl, X = Cl), 95304-97-5; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 4-CF<sub>3</sub>, X = Cl), 114060-07-0; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 4-CO<sub>2</sub>Et, X = Cl), 114060-08-1; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 6-CO<sub>2</sub>Me, X = Cl), 88301-89-7; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 3,6-(Me)<sub>2</sub>, X = Cl), 114060-10-9; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 4,6-(Me)<sub>2</sub>, X = Cl), 114060-10-5; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 5,6-(Me)<sub>2</sub>, X = Cl), 114060-11-6; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 5,6-(Me)<sub>2</sub>, X = Cl) HCl, 106746-87-6; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 4-CF<sub>3</sub>, X = OH), 106746-82-1; 7 (R<sub>2</sub> R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 4-CF<sub>3</sub>, X = Cl)-HCl, 106746-83-2; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 5-Cl, 6-Me, X = Cl). HCl, 106746-91-2; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 5-Cl, 6-Me, X = Cl). HCl, 106746-91-2; 7 (R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> = H, R<sub>4</sub> = 5-Cl, 6-Me, X = Cl). HCl, 106746-9

106746-92-3; 8, 104340-33-2; 9, 106747-44-8; 10, 106746-78-5; 11, 106747-42-6; 12, 106746-76-3; 13, 106746-77-4; 14, 106746-79-6; 15, 106747-43-7; 16, 106747-01-7; 17, 106747-41-5; 18, 104340-35-4; 19, 104340-38-7; 20, 106746-61-6; 21, 106746-63-8; 22, 106746-65-0; 23, 106746-70-7; 24, 111881-58-4; 25, 106746-84-3; 26, 106746-58-1; 27, 106746-60-5; 28, 106747-47-1; 30, 106747-48-2; 31, 106746-80-9; 32, 106746-98-9; 33, 106746-97-8; 34, 106746-68-3; 35, 106746-69-4; 36, 106746-93-4; 37, 106747-00-6; 38, 106746-96-7; 39, 106746-88-7; 40, 106746-66-1; 41, 106746-86-5; 42, 106746-90-1; 43, 114060-16-1; 44, 106746-95-6; 45, 106746-94-5; 46, 114060-17-2; 47, 106746-74-1; 48, 106785-95-9; 49, 114060-18-3; 50, 104340-34-3; 51, 106747-08-4; **52**, 106747-23-3; **53**, 106747-06-2; **54**, 106747-21-1; **55**, 106747-22-2; 56, 106747-24-4; 57, 106747-07-3; 58, 106747-37-9; 59, 106747-05-1; **60**, 104340-37-6; **61**, 100924-68-3; **62**, 106747-14-2; **63**, 106747-15-3; 64, 106747-16-4; 65, 114060-19-4; 66, 106771-58-8; 67, 106747-26-6; **68**, 106747-12-0; **69**, 106747-13-1; **70**, 106747-10-8; **71**, 106747-38-0; 72, 106747-11-9; 73, 106747-25-5; 74, 106747-35-7; 75, 106747-34-6; 76, 106747-18-6; 77, 106747-19-7; 78, 106747-30-2; 79, 106747-36-8; 80, 106747-33-5; 81, 106785-96-0; 82, 106747-17-5; 83, 106747-27-7; 84, 106747-28-8; 85, 114060-20-7; 86, 106747-32-4; 87, 106747-31-3; 88, 106747-39-1; 89, 106747-20-0; 90, 106747-29-9; 91, 106747-40-4; ATPase, 9000-83-3; N-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenyl)phthalimide, 106747-02-8; 4-fluoro-2-methylaniline, 452-71-1; phthalic anhydride, 85-44-9; N-[2-[(2-benzimidazolylthio)methyl]-4-fluorophenyl]phthalimide, 106771-57-7; N-[4-fluoro-2-(bromomethyl)phenyl]phthalimide, 106747-03-9; N-[2-[(2-benzimidazolylsulfinyl)methyl]-4-fluorophenyl]phthalimide, 106747-04-0; 4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline, 455-14-1; pivaloyl chloride, 3282-30-2; N-pivaloyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline, 25617-34-9; N-pivaloyl-2-amino-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde, 106746-81-0; N-(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)phthalimide, 106746-72-9; N-[3,5-dimethyl-2-(hydroxymethyl)-4-methoxyphenyl]phthalimide, 106746-73-0; 4-methoxy-3,5-dimethylbenzenamine, 39785-37-0; omeprazole, 73590-58-6; timoprazole, 57237-97-5; 4-ethylbenzenamine, 589-16-2; 2-ethylbenzenamine, 578-54-1; 4-n-butylbenzenamine, 104-13-2; 2,5-dimethylbenzenamine, 95-78-3; 2,3-dimethylbenzenamine, 87-59-2; 4-chloro-2-methylbenzenamine, 95-69-2; 3-chloro-2-methylbenzenamine, 87-60-5; 3,4,5-trimethylbenzenamine, 1639-31-2; 2-methoxy-4-chloro-5methylbenzenamine, 6376-14-3; N-(3.4,5-trimethylphenyl)phthalimide, 40101-22-2; N-[2-(hydroxymethyl)-3,4,5-trimethylphenyl]phthalimide, 114060-21-8.

# (Imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidin-2-yl)phenylmethanones and Related Compounds as Potential Nonsedative Anxiolytics

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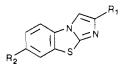
Roussel Laboratories Ltd., Kingfisher Drive, Covingham, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 5BZ, U.K. Received October 29, 1987

Several series of heterocyclic carboxylic esters were found to be active in the benzodiazepine receptor binding assay, a typical example being ethyl 7-ethyl-5-methoxyimidazo[1,2-a]quinoline-2-carboxylate (4b) with an  $IC_{50}$  of 150 nM. The corresponding phenylmethanone 5d was more potent with an  $IC_{50}$  of 14 nM and was orally active in animal models thought to predict anxiolytic effects. The synthesis of a large number of compounds resulted in the optimization of this activity in a series of (imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidin-2-yl)phenylmethanones of which compounds 7e, 8b, 8h, 8j, and 8k were equipotent with chlordiazepoxide while exhibiting reduced anticonvulsant activity, little or no muscle relaxation, and negligible sedative effects.

A current goal of antianxiety research is the discovery of potent anxiolytic agents which do not possess sedative side effects. Part of this endeavor has been to find compounds which lack the benzodiazepine structure but which nevertheless bind potently to the benzodiazepine receptor. A separation of antianxiety activity from muscle relaxation, sedation, and hypnotic effects might then be achieved by partial intrinsic activity at the receptor complex.<sup>1</sup> With this aim we routinely screened all compounds synthesized for a variety of objectives in our laboratories for their ability to displace [<sup>3</sup>H]flunitrazepam from ratbrain preparations. One of these compounds, ethyl 4,5-

 <sup>(</sup>a) Haefely, W. In Clinical Neuropharmacology; Raven: New York, 1984; Vol. 7, Suppl 1, p 658.
 (b) Williams, M. Prog. Neuro-Psychopharmacol. Biol. Psychiatry 1984, 8, 209.

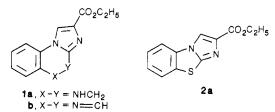
#### Table I. Imidazo[2,1-b]benzothiazoles



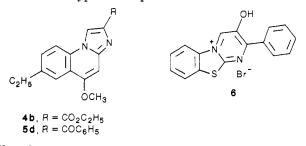
no.	$\mathbf{R}_{1}$	$ m R_2$	method	yield, %	mp, °C	formula	anal.	flunitrazepam receptor binding: IC <sub>50</sub> , nM
2a	$CO_2C_2H_5$	Н	A	31	147-148 <sup>a</sup>			120
2b	$CO_2C_2H_5$	$C_2H_5$	Α	26	119-120	$C_{14}H_{14}N_2O_2S$	CHNS	4000
2c	$COC_6H_5$	нŰ	D	87	172-173	$C_{16}H_{10}N_2OS$	CHNS	85
2d	$COC_6H_5$	$C_2H_5$	D	73	151 - 153	$C_{18}H_{14}N_2OS$	CHNS	740
2e	$CO_2H$	Н	E F F F	77	$262 - 263^{b}$	$C_{10}H_6N_2O_2S$	CHNS	Ic
2f	$CO_2CH_3$	Н	F	56	156 - 157	$\mathrm{C}_{11}\mathrm{H}_8\mathrm{N}_2\mathrm{O}_2\mathrm{S}$	CHNS	60
2g	$CO_2C_3H_7$	Н	F	52	127 - 128	$C_{13}H_{12}N_2O_2S$	CHNS	470
2h	$CO_2CH(CH_3)_2$	Н	F	10	125 - 126	$C_{13}H_{12}N_2O_2S$	CHNS	160
<b>2i</b>	c02-	н	F	37	172 - 174	$C_{16}H_{16}N_{2}O_{2}S$	CHN	7100
2j	$CO_2CH_2C_6H_5$	Н	G	21	120 - 121	$C_{17}H_{12}N_2O_2S$	CHNS	50
2 <b>k</b>	$\prec^{N}$	Н	Н	73	113-115	$C_{14}H_{13}N_3OS$	CHNS	Ι
21		н	G	31	280-281	$\mathrm{C_{16}H_{10}ClN_{3}OS}$	CHCINS	I
2m	сонн-	Н	G	37	321-323	$\mathrm{C_{13}H_8N_4OS_2}$	CHNS	Ι
2 <b>n</b>	CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	Н	$\mathbf{A}^d$	5	$84-85^{e}$	$C_{13}H_{12}N_2O_2S$	CHNS	Ι

<sup>a</sup> Literature<sup>3a</sup> mp 147-148 °C. <sup>b</sup> Literature<sup>3a</sup> mp 263-265 °C. <sup>c</sup> I = activity > 10  $\mu$ M. <sup>d</sup> With ClCH<sub>2</sub>COCH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Et. <sup>e</sup> Literature<sup>8</sup> mp 84-85 °C.

dihydroimidazo[1,2-a]quinoxaline-2-carboxylate (1a),<sup>2c</sup> was found to have an IC<sub>50</sub> value of 175 nM compared with 6 nM for that of nitrazepam. This prompted us to screen a large number of heterocyclic esters which we had previously prepared<sup>2a,b</sup> during the course of the antiallergy program for which 1a had been synthesized. Although the parent compound 1b had an IC<sub>50</sub> of >10  $\mu$ M, the benzothiazole 2a and the quinoline 4b were found to be of the same order of activity as 1a with IC<sub>50</sub>'s of 120 and 150 nM, respectively. Unfortunately none of the esters were active in vivo in pharmacological screens predicting antianxiety properties, the most obvious explanation being that the esters were readily metabolized to the corresponding acids which lacked both receptor affinity (IC<sub>50</sub> > 10  $\mu$ M) and the lipophilicity necessary to penetrate the blood-brain barrier.



The next logical step was to examine previously prepared analogues of the esters which might be receptor active and metabolically stable. In this way it was discovered that phenylmethanone 5d was 10 times more potent on receptor binding ( $IC_{50} = 14 \text{ nM}$ ) and possessed oral activity in the licking-conflict screen for anxiolytics without exhibiting overt sedative effects. Compound **5d** was therefore a key lead structure on which to base our investigations into the optimum structure-activity requirements of this type of compound.



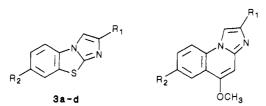
# Chemistry

The routes used to prepare the fused imidazole ketones are outlined in Scheme I. The ethyl esters were synthesized by the known reaction $^{2b,3}$  of heterocyclic amines with ethyl bromopyruvate. It was found that yields were improved by isolating the salt<sup>3b</sup> initially formed in an inert solvent such as tetrahydrofuran and then cyclizing the intermediate in refluxing methanol or ethanol. The same procedure was employed to prepare phenylmethanones directly by using 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1,2-propanedione, except in the benzothiazole series where cyclization took place onto the wrong carbonyl group to give the pyrimido[2,1-b]benzothiazolium bromide 6 as supported by the lack of a carbonyl absorption in its infrared spectrum. The desired phenylmethanones 2c and 2d were therefore prepared from esters 2a and 2b via intermediates 3a-d in Table II. Benzothiazoles 2f-m were obtained from the corresponding acid by standard methods, and 2n was ob-

<sup>(2) (</sup>a) Rowlands, D. A.; Taylor, J. B. British Patent 1538479, 1979. Rowlands, D. A.; Taylor, J. B. British Patent 2008585, 1979. Rowlands, D. A.; Taylor, J. B. British Patent 1576077, 1980. (b) Barnes, A. C.; Ramm, P. J. British Patent 2027707, 1980. Barnes, A. C.; Kay, D. P. British Patent 2043064, 1980. Barnes, A. C.; Rowlands, D. A. British Patent 2043637, 1980. Ager, I. R.; Ramm, P. J. British Patent 1596652, 1980. (c) Barnes, A. C.; Kay, D. P.; Kennewell, P. D.; Parker, F. L.; Rowlands, D. A. British Patent 2118943, 1983.

<sup>(3) (</sup>a) Abignente, E.; Arena, F.; de Caprariis, P. Farmaco Ed. Sci. 1977, 32, 735. (b) Abignente, E.; de Caprariis, P.; Patscot, R.; Sacchi, A. J. Heterocycl. Chem. 1986, 23, 1031.

# Table II. Intermediates

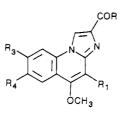


4a-f

no.	R <sub>1</sub>	$\mathbf{R}_2$	method	yield, %	mp, °C	formula	anal.
3a	CH₂OH	Н	B	44	172-173	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>2</sub> OS	CHNS
3b	$CH_2OH$	$C_2H_5$	В	68	141 - 142	$C_{12}H_{12}N_2OS$	CHNS
3c	CHO	H	С	79	208-209	$C_{10}H_6N_2OS$	CHNS
3d	CHO	$C_2H_5$	С	85	183-184	$C_{12}H_{10}N_2OS$	CHNS
4a	$CO_2C_2H_5$	Н	Α	35	176-176.5°	$C_{15}^{12}H_{14}^{10}N_2O_3$	
4b	$CO_2C_2H_5$	$C_2H_5$	Α	45	$170 - 171^{b}$	$C_{17}H_{18}N_2O_3$	
4c	CH <sub>2</sub> OH	н	В	89	173 - 175	$C_{13}H_{12}N_2O_2$	CHN
4d	$CH_2OH$	$C_2H_5$	В	47	202-203	$C_{15}H_{16}N_2O_2$	CHN
4e	CHO	н	С	75	195-196	$C_{13}H_{10}N_2O_2$	CHN
4 <b>f</b>	CHO	$C_2H_5$	С	91	192-193	$C_{15}H_{14}N_2O_2$	CHN

<sup>a</sup>Literature<sup>9</sup> mp 175-176.6 °C. <sup>b</sup>Literature<sup>9</sup> mp 167-168 °C.

Table III. Imidazo[1,2-a]quinolines



										flunitrazepam	
no.	R	$R_1$	$\mathbf{R}_{2}$	$R_3$	method	yield, %	mp, °C	formula	anal	receptor binding: $IC_{50}$ , nM	food conflict: MED, mg/kg po
	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	$C_2H_5$	Н	A	22	141-142	$C_{22}H_{20}N_2O_2$	CHN	7	2
5b	$2 \cdot C_5 H_4 N$	НŮ	$C_2H_5$	н	D	15	185-186	$C_{20}H_{17}N_3O_2$	CHN	9	$\frac{-}{5}$
5c	$C_6H_5$	Н	$CH(CH_3)_2$	Н	Α	23	187 - 188	$C_{22}H_{20}N_2O_2$	CHN	10	5
5 <b>d</b>	$C_6H_5$	н	$C_2H_5$	н	Α	37	196-198	$C_{21}H_{18}N_2O_2$	CHN	14	5
5e	$C_6H_5$	н	$C_3H_7$	Н	Α	30	185 - 186	$C_{22}H_{20}N_2O_2$	CHN	16	2
5f	$C_6H_5$	Н	F	н	Α	19	234-235	$C_{19}H_{13}FN_2O_2$	CHNF	20	10
5g	$C_6H_5$	н	$CH_3$	Н	Α	30	218 - 220	$C_{20}H_{16}N_2O_2$	CHN	21	5
5h	$C_6H_5$	Н	$C_4H_9$	Н	Α	26	165 - 167	$C_{23}H_{22}N_2O_2$	CHN	25	10
5i	$C_6H_5$	н	н	Н	Α	12	190–191	$C_{19}H_{14}N_2O_2$	CHN	57	5
5j	$C_6H_5$	Н	$CH_3$	$CH_3$	Α	28	244 - 245	$C_{21}H_{18}N_2O_2$	CHN	100	5
5k	$C_2H_5$	н	$C_2H_5$	н	D	29	188–189	$C_{17}H_{18}N_2O_2$	CHN	135	10
51	$C_6H_5$	$C_2H_5$	$C_2H_5$	Н	Α	18	145 - 146	$C_{23}H_{22}N_2O_2$	CHN	135	20
5m	$C_3H_7$	Н	$C_2H_5$	н	D	39	179 - 180	$C_{18}H_{20}N_2O_2$	CHN	535	20
5 <b>n</b>	$CH_3$	Н	$C_2H_5$	H	$\mathbf{A}^{a}$	30	148	$C_{16}H_{16}N_2O_2$	CHN	1300	20
50	$4-CH_3C_6H_4$	Н	н	н	D	35	212-213	$C_{20}H_{16}N_2O_2$	CHN	19	>50
5p	$2 - C_4 H_3 S$	н	н	н	D	36	257 - 259	$C_{17}H_{12}N_2O_2S$	CHNS	24	>50
5q	$4-CH_3OC_6H_4$	н	Н	н	D	31	170 - 171	$C_{20}H_{16}N_2O_3$	CHN	37	>50
5r	$4-ClC_6H_4$	Н	H	Н	D	25	245 - 246	$\mathrm{C_{19}H_{13}ClN_2O_2}$	CHNCl	96	>50
a \$\$7:4	L D-OTI COCO	OTT 18									

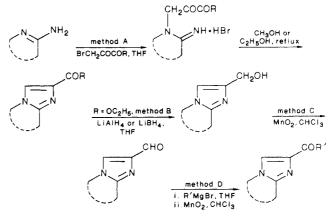
<sup>a</sup>With BrCH<sub>2</sub>COCOCH<sub>3</sub>.<sup>18</sup>

tained in low yield from the reaction of 2-benzothiazolamine with ethyl 4-chloroacetoacetate.

The (imidazo[1,2-a]quinolin-2-yl)methanones<sup>4</sup> were synthesized either directly by using the propanedione or indirectly via intermediates 4c-f in Table II. The most potent members of the series, i.e. those with receptor binding IC<sub>50</sub> values of 1  $\mu$ M or less, are shown in Table III along with their oral activity in food conflict, our primary anxiolytic screen.

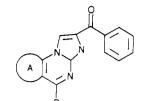
A large number of imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidin-2-yl ketones<sup>5</sup> were likewise synthesized from 2-pyrimidinamines. With the exception of imidazo[1,2-a] quinazolines 7e-i, the tri-

# Scheme I



<sup>(4) (</sup>a) Robson, P. A.; Barnes, A. C. British Patent 2096 143, 1982.
(b) Tully, W. R. British Patent 2127 824, 1984.
(5) Tully, W. R. British Patent 2128 989, 1984.

## Table IV. Tricyclic Imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidines



no.	А	R	yield, %	mp, °C	formula	anal.	flunitrazepam receptor binding: IC <sub>50</sub> , nM	food conflict: MED, mg/kg po
7a 7b 7c 7d	$\langle \chi \rangle$	$\begin{array}{c} { m OCH}_3 \ { m OC}_2{ m H}_5 \ { m SCH}_3 \ { m SCH}_3 \ { m SC}_2{ m H}_5 \end{array}$	35 47 44 63	210–211 227–229 208–209 211–212	$\begin{array}{c} C_{17}H_{15}N_{3}O_{2}\\ C_{18}H_{17}N_{3}O_{2}\\ C_{17}H_{15}N_{3}OS\\ C_{18}H_{17}N_{3}OS \end{array}$	CHN CHN CHNS CHNS	200 >10000 35 1850	20 50 2 50
7e 7f 7g	(	$\begin{array}{c} { m OCH}_3 \\ { m OC}_2 { m H}_5 \\ { m SCH}_3 \end{array}$	52 48 35	234 250–252 225	$\begin{array}{c} C_{18}H_{17}N_3O_2{}^{,1}/_2H_2O\\ C_{19}H_{19}N_3O_2{}^{,1}/_2H_2O\\ C_{18}H_{17}N_3OS{}^{,1}/_4H_2O \end{array}$	CHN CHN CHNS	61 2000 9	5 >50 10
7h 7i	CH3	${ m OCH_3} m SCH_3$	43 52	200-201 215-217	$C_{19}H_{19}N_3O_2 \\ C_{19}H_{19}N_3OS$	CHN CHNS	135 76	10 50
7j 7k	$\langle \rangle$	$OCH_3 OC_2H_5$	44 39	196–198 193–194	$\begin{array}{c} C_{19}H_{19}N_{3}O_{2}\\ C_{20}H_{21}N_{3}O_{2} \end{array}$	CHN CHN	$\frac{125}{4000}$	10 5
71	s	$OCH_3$	60	239-240ª	$C_{16}H_{13}N_{3}O_{2}S$	CHNS	430	>50
7m 7n 7o	s	$\begin{array}{c} { m OCH}_3 \\ { m OC}_2 { m H}_5 \\ { m SCH}_3 \end{array}$	21 53 39	252–254 262–265ª 267–269ª	$\begin{array}{c} {\rm C_{17}H_{15}N_3O_2S}\\ {\rm C_{18}H_{17}N_3O_2S}\\ {\rm C_{17}H_{15}N_3OS_2} \end{array}$	CHNS CHNS <sup>b</sup> CHNS <sup>b</sup>	185 >10000 24	20 >50 50
7 <b>p</b>	C2H5O2C-N	OCH <sub>3</sub>	37	$274-277^{a}$	$C_{19}H_{18}N_4O_4$	CHN <sup>c</sup>	10000	50

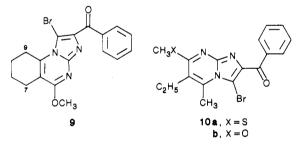
<sup>a</sup> Decomposition. <sup>b</sup>Analysis corrected for 0.1 mol of CHCl<sub>3</sub>. <sup>c</sup>Analysis corrected for 0.2 mol of H<sub>2</sub>O.

cyclic pyrimidines in Table IV are new ring systems. Table V lists the most potent bicyclic members of the series.

The reaction between unsymmetrical 2-pyrimidinamines and  $\alpha$ -bromo ketones can in theory give two isomeric products.<sup>6</sup> We have observed that the initial ring-nitrogen alkylation is hindered sterically by an adjacent phenyl substituent and electronically by an adjacent methoxy group, 4-methoxy-6-phenyl-2-pyrimidinamine and 4,6-dimethoxy-2-pyrimidinamine, for example, giving no reaction. 2-Pyrimidinamines possessing only one such group are alkylated on the unhindered ring nitrogen to yield an intermediate which then cyclizes to a single product. The structure of the fused imidazoles is supported by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy where there is an observed NOE difference between the imidazole proton and the protons at position 9 in compound 7e and likewise the 5-methyl group in compounds 8b and 8j. Further structural evidence was obtained by bromination of selected examples with Nbromosuccinimide and observation of the effects on chemical shifts. Thus compound 7e yielded compound 9 in which there was a downfield shift of 0.7 ppm for the protons at position 9. Compounds 8b and 8j gave derivatives 10a and 10b in which the 5-methyl group moved downfield by 0.5 ppm as expected.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, the

- (10) Doerner, M. P. U.S. Patent 2821555, 1958.

structure of compound 8r is supported by the observed allylic coupling (J = 1 Hz) between the 5-methyl group and the proton at position 6 in common with other compounds of this nature.6b,7



# **Results and Discussion**

Work first started on the benzothiazole series (Table I) and showed that there are steric as well as electronic requirements for potent receptor binding. Thus compound **2b** was 33 times less active than **2a** and the acetate **2n** in which the ester carbonyl cannot conjugate with the imidazole ring was inactive. Methanones 2c and 2d, in contrast with the orally active quinoline 5d, were found to be less potent on the receptor and inactive in licking conflict. Attention was therefore turned to the quinoline series<sup>4</sup> (Table III) where we found a rough correlation between receptor affinity and oral activity in food conflict, a test giving more consistent results than licking conflict and therefore used as our primary anxiolytic screen. Notable exceptions were compounds 50-r, which retained receptor affinity but lost oral activity. Modification of the carbonyl

<sup>(6)</sup> (a) Guerret, P.; Jacquier, R.; Maurey, G. Bull. Soc. Chim. Fr. 1972, 3503. (b) Abignente, E.; Arena, F.; de Caprariis, P. Farmaco Ed. Sci. 1976, 31, 777.

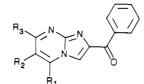
Paudler, W. W.; Kuder, J. E. J. Org. Chem. 1966, 31, 809. (8) Abignente, E.; Arena, F.; de Caprariis, P.; Parente, L. Farmaco Ed. Sci. 1976, 31, 880.

<sup>(9)</sup> British Patent 1542778, 1979.

<sup>(11)</sup> Litchfield, J. T.; Wilcox, F. A. J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther. 1949, 96.99.

<sup>(12)</sup> Vogel, J. R.; Beer, B.; Clody, D. E. Psychopharmacology 1971, 21.1.

### Table V. Imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidines



	5	5	Ð	yield,	<b>A</b> G	<b>4</b> 1		flunitrazepam receptor binding:	food conflict: MED,
no.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	%	mp, °C	formula	anal.	IC <sub>50</sub> , nM	mg/kg po
8a	$CH_3$	$CH_2 = CHCH_2$	$CH_3S$	45	167 - 169	$C_{18}H_{17}N_3OS$	CHNS	8	5
8b	$CH_3$	$C_2H_5$	$CH_3S$	53	182 - 184	$C_{17}H_{17}N_3OS$	CHNS	12	2
8c	$CH_3$	$c-C_3H_5CH_2$	$CH_3O$	32	136 - 137	$C_{19}H_{19}N_3O_2$	CHN	30	10
8 <b>d</b>	$C_2H_5$	$C_3H_7$	$CH_{3}O$	26	151 - 152	$C_{19}H_{21}N_3O_2$	CHN	34	10
8e	$C_2H_5$	$C_4H_9$	$CH_{3}O$	20	158-159	$C_{20}H_{23}N_3O_2$	CHN	34	10
8 <b>f</b>	$CH_3$	$C_4H_9$	CH <sub>3</sub> O	26	141 - 145	$C_{19}H_{21}N_3O_2$	CHN	42	2
8g	$C_2H_5$	$CH_2 = CHCH_2$	$CH_{3}O$		130-131	$C_{19}H_{19}N_3O_2$		42	10
8h	$CH_3$	$CH_2 = CHCH_2$	$CH_{3}O$	68	128-131	$C_{18}H_{17}N_3O_2$	CHN	45	5
<b>8i</b>	$C_2H_5$	$C_3H_7$	$CH_3S$	24	156 - 158	$C_{19}H_{21}N_3OS$	CHNS	47	10
8j	$CH_3$	$C_2H_5$	CH <sub>3</sub> O	68	148 - 150	$C_{17}H_{17}N_3O_2$	CHN	56	2
8k	$CH_3$	$C_3H_7$	$CH_{3}O$	54	141 - 142	$C_{18}H_{19}N_3O_2$	CHN	85	5
81	$C_3H_7$	H	$CH_3S$	37	152 - 154	$C_{17}H_{17}N_3O_2S$	CHN	89	10
8m	$C_2H_5$	$C_2H_5$	$CH_{3}O$	23	144 - 145	$C_{18}H_{19}N_3O_2$	CHN	107	2
8n	$CH_3$	Н	$CH_3S$	58	170 - 172	$C_{15}H_{13}N_3OS$	CHNS	190	5
80	$C_2H_5$	Н	CH <sub>3</sub> O	49	179 - 182	$C_{16}H_{15}N_3O_2$	CHN	295	2
8p	$C_4H_9$	Н	$CH_{3}O$	39	170 - 171	$C_{18}H_{19}N_3O_2$	CHN	340	10
8q	$C_3H_7$	Н	CH <sub>3</sub> O	37	152 - 154	$C_{17}H_{17}N_3O_2$	CHN	535	1
8 <b>r</b>	$CH_3$	Н	CH <sub>3</sub> O	43	165 - 166	$C_{15}H_{13}N_3O_2$	CHN	800	5
8s	$CH_3$	CH₃O	$CH_{3}O$	28	191-193	$C_{16}H_{15}N_3O_3$	CHN	1000	5
8t	Н	$C_2 H_5$	$CH_{3}O$	52	126 - 129	$C_{16}H_{15}N_3O_2$	CHN	1500	5

# Table VI. Comparative Biological Data for Example Compounds

compd	receptor binding: $IC_{50}$ , nM	food conflict: MEDª	licking conflict: MEDª	antileptazol: $\mathrm{ED}_{50}{}^{a}$	rotating drum: $ED_{50}^{a}$	$\mathrm{pull} ext{-up:}\ \mathrm{ED}_{50}{}^{a}$
chlordiazepoxide	b	5	2	1.9 (1.1-3.2)	6.8 (5.0-9.2)	16.0 (11.9-21.6)
5d .	14	$2-5^{c}$	2-5	3.2(2.8-3.7)	22.5(17.4-29.0)	640
8j	56	2	2	21.0(14.0-31.5)	200	200
8b	12	2	2	12.5 (9.7 - 16.1)	100	200
8h	45	2-5	10	54	100	
8 <b>k</b>	85	2-5	5	200	100	100
7e	61	5	5	100	200	500

<sup>a</sup> MED (minimal effective dose) and  $ED_{50}$  values in mg/kg per os. 95% confidence limits are shown on  $ED_{50}$  values where the doses tested allowed their calculation according to the method of Litchfield and Wilcoxon.<sup>11</sup> <sup>b</sup> In vitro receptor binding activity for chlordiazepoxide has not been shown in view of its in vivo metabolism. <sup>c</sup>This result was obtained by using the original method of Vogel et al.<sup>12</sup>

group or of the methoxyl group or insertion of a halogen in the imidazole ring reduced receptor affinity with loss of oral activity.

The tetrahydroimidazo[1,2-a]quinazoline 7e was synthesized on route to the unsaturated ring system in an attempt to improve bioavailability. Dehydrogenation was not achieved but the observed activity of 7e demonstrated that an aromatic A ring was not essential. Little improvement was obtained by varying the nature of the alicyclic ring (Table IV), but in the tricyclic series it was observed that replacing the methoxyl group by methylthio increased receptor affinity by up to eightfold (e.g., compare 7a with 7c and 7e with 7g), but in some cases this had an adverse effect on oral activity, comparing 7h with 7i, for example. Likewise, increasing the size of the alkyl substituent on oxygen or sulfur usually reduced both receptor affinity and oral activity, presumably for steric reasons.

The A ring was then opened to produce a series of imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidines<sup>5</sup> whose potencies were consistent with the structural requirements deduced from the other series (Table V). In some examples such as 8q oral activity was observed in spite of poor receptor affinity. However, compounds for detailed pharmacological evaluation were chosen on the basis of both potency and efficacy in the tests for anxiolytic activity. The magnitude of the increases in punished lever pressing or punished licking in the conflict tests was taken as an indication of efficacy (see the Experimental Section). Compound 8q was therefore excluded because it elicited only small increases in punished behavioral response.

Table VI gives comparative biological data for examples of the compounds chosen for further studies and demonstrates a consistent improvement in the ratio between doses active in models of anxiety and doses producing sedative and muscle-relaxant effects. They have similar or slightly less potency than chlordiazepoxide in the conflict tests, but none of them attained 50% inhibition at 100 mg/kg po in the pull-up test, designed specifically to detect muscle relaxation. Similarly five of the compounds showed no sedative activity on the rotating drum, the exception being compound 5d, which also possessed the anticonvulsant activity expected of a classical benzodiazepine with equivalent anxiolytic potency. Compounds 8b, 8h, and 8j showed reduced anticonvulsant activity whereas compounds 7e and 8k retained only the anxiolytic activity of a full benzodiazepine profile.

There is a crude correlation between in vitro benzodiazepine receptor affinity and in vivo behavioral effects

#### Potential Nonsedative Anxiolytics

in that compounds inactive on the receptor are inactive orally, suggesting that the former may be responsible for the latter. However, the two do not correlate well in compounds having in vivo activity lower than 50 mg/kg. There are two major factors which influence this correlation. First, the in vitro binding technique assesses the affinity of compounds for the benzodiazepine receptor but does not indicate intrinsic activity. It is possible that some compounds have lower efficacy with respect to affinity, resulting in reduced oral activity. Such a hypothesis is supported by the profile of compound 7e, which possesses benzodiazepine-like anticonflict activity but no anticonvulsant activity against leptazol in mice. On the contrary, 7e totally antagonized the antileptazol effects of diazepam at 100 mg/kg po. This antagonism was dose related, with an  $ED_{50}$  of 54 mg/kg po, and is consistent with low efficacy and therefore only partial agonism at the benzodiazepine receptor. The compound occupies the receptors with enough intrinsic activity to produce an anticonflict effect but not an anticonvulsant effect. The affinity is sufficient however to block the anticonvulsant activity of diazepam. Secondly, there is a possible difference in bioavailability of the compounds arising from absorption, distribution, and metabolism. Selected compounds are therefore currently undergoing further studies to evaluate their potential as antianxiety drugs, the results of which will be published in due course.

# Conclusion

(Imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidin-2-yl)phenylmethanones represent a new class of anxiolytic agents which potently bind to the benzodiazepine receptor but do not possess the full pharmacological profile of classical benzodiazepines. While being equipotent with chlordiazepoxide in animal models of anxiety, compounds **7e**, **8b**, **8h**, **8j**, and **8k** show reduced anticonvulsant activity, little or no muscle relaxation, and neglibible sedative effects. Compounds such as these present a significant step forward in the study of benzodiazepine receptor activity and should offer a distinct advantage in the treatment of anxiety.

## **Experimental Section**

Melting points were determined with a Reichert Kofler hotstage melting point apparatus. IR spectra were determined for KBr disks with a Pye-Unicam SP1000 spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were determined with a Perkin-Elmer R12A spectrometer at 60 MHz and chemical shifts are reported as  $\tau$  values with respect to tetramethylsilane as internal standard; all OH and NH peaks were removed by addition of D<sub>2</sub>O. The NOE difference spectra were run on a Brucker WP2005Y instrument at 200 MHz. Benzothiazolamines,<sup>13</sup> quinolinamines,<sup>14</sup> and pyrimidinamines<sup>15</sup> were synthesized by known methods. Activated manganese(IV) oxide was supplied by Aldrich.

Method A. Ethyl 7-Ethylimidazo[2,1-b]benzothiazole-2carboxylate (2b). Ethyl bromopyruvate (39.9 g, 0.2 mol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 6-ethyl-2-benzothiazolamine (26.7 g, 0.15 mol) in dry THF (200 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 4 h. EtOH (100 mL) was added and the solution was refluxed for 3 h. Solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (200 mL) and washed with 5% NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. Evaporation of the solvent gave a residue which was subjected to chromatography (silica; CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/EtOAc 96:4) to yield 2b (10.6 g, 26%), mp 119–120 °C (from EtOAc). Esters 4a and 4b were made in the same way by using the appropriate 2-quinolinamine except that the intermediate hydrobromide salt which crystallized out of the THF solution was removed by filtration and then heated in refluxing EtOH.

All phenyl methanones except 2c and 2d were made by method A with 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1,2-propanedione<sup>16</sup> instead of ethyl bromopyruvate.

Method B. 7-Ethylimidazo[2,1-b]benzothiazole-2methanol (3b). Lithium aluminum hydride (1.25 g, 0.033 mol) was added to a stirred solution of 2b (8.22 g, 0.03 mol) in dry THF (350 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> and the mixture was stirred for 2 h. After addition of wet THF, the mixture was poured into water (500 mL) and the product was extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub> (300 mL), evaporation of which gave 3b (4.8 g, 68%), mp 141–142 °C (from EtOAc).

Ethyl esters 2a, 4a, and 4b were reduced in the same way to give methanols 3a, 4c, and 4d. Method C. 7-Ethylimidazo[2,1-b]benzothiazole-2-

Method C. 7-Ethylimidazo[2,1-b]benzothiazole-2carboxaldehyde (3d). A solution of 3b (4.6 g, 0.02 mol) in  $CHCl_3$ (200 mL) was stirred for 16 h with manganese dioxide (15.0 g, 0.17 mol) and filtered through Celite. Evaporation of the solvent gave 3d (3.9 g, 85%), mp 183–184 °C (from EtOAc).

Aldehydes 3c, 4e, and 4f were prepared in the same way. Method D. (7-Ethylimidazo[2,1-b]benzothiazol-2-yl)phenylmethanone (2d). A solution of phenylmagnesium bromide [from bromobenzene (3.8 g, 0.024 mol) and magnesium (0.58 g, 0.024 g-atom] in dry THF (15 mL) was added to a suspension of 3d (1.84 g, 0.008 mol) in dry THF (70 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. The mixture was poured into water (300 mL) and extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub> (200 mL), evaporation of which gave a crystalline solid (1.85 g, 75%), mp 129–130 °C (from EtOAc-petroleum ether, bp 40–60 °C). The solid (1.65 g) was treated with manganese dioxide as in method C to give 2d (1.2 g, 73%), mp 151–153 °C (from EtOAc).

Other methanones were prepared by the same procedure by using Grignard reagents and the appropriate aldehyde.

Method E. Imidazo[2,1-b]benzothiazole-2-carboxylic Acid (2e). A solution of 2a (18.45 g, 0.075 mol) and aqueous NaOH (1 N, 90 mL, 0.09 mol) in EtOH (100 mL) was heated on a steam bath for 1 h. Solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was dissolved in water. Addition of aqueous HCl precipitated the acid 2e (12.6 g, 77%), mp 262–263 °C (lit.<sup>3a</sup> mp 263–265 °C).

Method F. Methyl Imidazo[2,1-b]benzothiazole-2carboxylate (2f). A mixture of 2e, (1.09 g, 5 mmol) and boron trifluoride etherate (0.71 g, 5 mmol) in MeOH (10 mL) was refluxed for 24 h. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (50 mL). The solution was washed with 10% Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and water and then evaporated to dryness to give the methyl ester 2f (0.65 g, 56%), mp 156–157 °C (from EtOAc).

Esters **2g-i** were prepared in the same way except that in the case of higher boiling alcohols the reaction temperature was 120 °C.

Method G. Benzyl Imidazo[2,1-*b*]benzothiazole-2carboxylate (2j). Oxalyl chloride (6.5 mL, 0.075 mol) was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of 2e (10.9 g, 0.05 mol) in dry toluene (70 mL). After the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 h, filtration gave the acid chloride of 2e (11.2 g, 95%), mp 232–236 °C. A mixture of the acid chloride (4.73 g, 0.02 mol) and benzyl alcohol (3.24 g, 0.03 mol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 4 days, washed with 5% Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, and evaporated to dryness to give 2j (1.3 g, 21%), mp 120–121 °C (from EtOAc).

Amides 21 and 2m were prepared in the same way.

Method H. 2-(4,4-Dimethyl-2-oxazolidinyl)imidazo[2,1b]benzothiazole (2k). The amide obtained from reaction of acid chloride with 2-amino-2-methylpropan-1-ol as in method G (1.9 g, 6.6 mmol) was heated in polyphosphoric acid (20 mL) at 100 °C for 1 h, cooled, and poured into iced water. The solution was basified (Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, evaporation of which gave an oil which crystallized in cold Et<sub>2</sub>O. The product was purified by HPLC (silica; CHCl<sub>3</sub>) to give 2k (1.3 g, 73%), mp 113-135 °C; IR 2980, 1670, and 1500 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\tau$ 

<sup>(13)</sup> Gupta, R. R.; Ojha, K. G.; Kumar, M. J. Heterocycl. Chem. 1980, 17, 1325.

<sup>(14)</sup> Grout, R. J.; Hynam, B. M.; Partridge, M. W. J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1, 1973, 1314.

 <sup>(15) (</sup>a) Ross, L. O.; Goodman, L.; Baker, B. R. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1959. 81, 3108. (b) Chauham, S. M. S.; Junjappa, H. Tetrahedron 1976, 32, 1779.

<sup>(16)</sup> Wegmann, J.; Dahn, H. Helv. Chim. Acta 1946, 29, 1247.

1.82 (1 H, s, 1-H), 2.15-2.75 (4 H, m, Ar H), 5.89 (2 H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 8.62 (6 H, s, 2 CH<sub>3</sub>).

2-Hydroxy-3-phenylpyrimido[2,1-*b*]benzothiazolium Bromide (6). 3-Bromo-1-phenyl-1,2-propanedione (7.5 g, 0.033 mol) was added dropwise to a solution of 2-benzothiazolamine (4.5 g, 0.03 mol) in dimethoxyethane (20 mL), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. Solid material was filtered off and heated for 6 h in refluxing EtOH (100 mL). After cooling, filtration yielded 6 (4.5 g, 42%) as golden-yellow crystals (from CH<sub>3</sub>OH-EtOAc), mp 270-280 °C dec; IR 3600-3300, 3000-2300, 1600, and 1585 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Anal. (C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>11</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>OS) C, H, Br, N, S.

(1-Bromo-5-methoxy-6,7,8,9-tetrahydroimidazo[1,2-a]quinazolin-2-yl)phenylmethanone (9). N-Bromosuccinimide (2.85 g, 0.016 mol) was added to a solution of 7e (4.5 g, 0.015 mol) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (20 mL). After 10 min the solution was washed with water and evaporated under reduced pressure to give 9 (4.5 g, 80%) (from EtOH), mp 162–163 °C; IR 1645 (infl) and 1634 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\tau$  1.65–1.86 (2 H, m, phenyl 2-H and 6-H), 2.40–2.60 (3 H, m, Ar H), 5.98 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.30–6.62 (2 H, m, 9-CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.20–7.55 (2 H, m, 6-CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.90–8.35 (4 H, m, 7-CH<sub>2</sub> and 8-CH<sub>2</sub>). Anal. (C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>BrN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) C, H, Br, N.

(3-Bromo-6-ethyl-5-methyl-7-(methylthio)imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidin-2-yl)phenylmethanone (10a) was prepared from 8b as for compound 9: mp 154–156 °C; IR 1660 and 1605 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\tau$  1.70–1.90 (2 H, m, phenyl 2-H and 6-H), 2.30–2.70 (3 H, m, Ar H), 6.96 (3 H, s, 5-CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.41 (3 H, s, SCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.27 (2 H, q, J = 7 Hz, 6-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 8.80 (3 H, t, J = 7 Hz, 6-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). Anal. (C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>BrN<sub>3</sub>OS) C, H, Br, N, S.

(3-Bromo-6-ethyl-7-methoxy-5-methylimidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidin-2-yl)phenylmethanone (10b) was prepared from 8j as for compound 9: mp 142 °C; IR 1697 and 1629 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\tau$  1.70–1.90 (2 H, m, phenyl 2-H and 6-H), 2.40–2.75 (3 H, m, Ar H), 5.98 (3 H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.01 (3 H, s, 5-CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.38 (2 H, q, J = 7 Hz, 6-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 8.90 (3 H, t, J = 7 Hz, 6-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). Anal. (C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>BrN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) C, H, Br, N.

**Benzodiazepine Receptor Binding Assay.** The affinity of the compounds for the benzodiazepine receptor was assessed by using modifications of the original method of Squires and Braestrup.<sup>17</sup> The values in the tables are nanomolar concentration of test drug which inhibit the specific binding of 0.6 nM [<sup>3</sup>H]-fluinitrazepam to rat forebrain membrane preparations by 50% (IC<sub>50</sub>, nM) and are derived from displacement curves with at least four concentrations, each assayed in triplicate.

**Food-Conflict Test.** The food-motivated conflict test is a modification of the method of Cook and Sepinwall<sup>18</sup> with five alternating 4-min FI30 unpunished and 3-min FR5 punished components with male Lister rats. Compounds were initially tested at 50 mg/kg po in four rats and if active were then tested at decreasing doses until the minimum effective dose (MED) was found. The MED was based on at least one rat showing a significant increase in punished response as assessed by using the Mann–Whitney U test.

Licking-Conflict Test. The licking-conflict paradigm is similar to that of Petersen and Lassen<sup>19</sup> with the addition of a 0.5-s on-off alternating tone conditioning stimulus. After 1-min unpunished drinking, the tone stimulus began and continued for the 3-min punished period. Rats were trained to stable suppression of drinking at the onset of the tone before drugs were tested.

Anticonvulsant Test. Anticonvulsant activity was assessed in male CD-1 mice with 120 mg/kg of leptazol according to the method described by Everett and Richards.<sup>20</sup>

**Rotating-Drum Test.** Sedative/muscle relaxant effects in male CD-1 mice were assessed with a Ugo Basile rotating drum (diameter 3 cm, 16 rev/min). The time spent on the drum was recorded 1 h after drug administration, and the mean time for groups of 10 mice was expressed as a percentage of the mean time for a control group.

**Pull-Up Test.** Muscle relaxation was assessed by using the pull-up test<sup>21</sup> in which the mean time is recorded for groups of 10 male Lister rats to pull up to the experimenter's hand after being suspended vertically by the hind limbs. Data were analyzed by using the Mann-Whitney U test.

Registry No. 2a, 64951-05-9; 2b, 81022-07-3; 2c, 114094-91-6; 2d, 114094-92-7; 2e, 64951-09-3; 2e (acid chloride), 114094-93-8; 2e (amide), 114094-94-9; 2f, 114094-95-0; 2g, 114094-96-1; 2h, 114094-97-2; 2i, 114094-98-3; 2j, 114094-99-4; 2k, 114095-00-0; 2l, 114130-38-0; 2m, 114095-01-1; 2n, 61984-82-5; 3a, 114095-02-2; 3b, 114095-03-3; 3c, 114095-04-4; 3d, 114095-05-5; 4a, 66491-09-6; 4b, 66491-19-8; 4c, 84357-16-4; 4d, 114095-06-6; 4e, 84357-17-5; 4f, 114095-07-7; 5a, 92412-78-7; 5b, 84357-38-0; 5c, 84357-23-3; 5d, 84357-04-0; 5e, 84357-40-4; 5f, 84357-39-1; 5g, 84357-21-1; 5h, 84357-24-4; 5i, 84357-09-5; 5j, 84357-41-5; 5k, 114095-08-8; 5l, 92412-80-1; 5m, 114095-09-9; 5n, 84357-11-9; 5o, 84357-25-5; 5p, 84357-29-9; 5q, 84357-26-6; 5c, 84357-28-8; 6, 114095-10-2; 7a, 90808-01-8; 7b, 90808-02-9; 7c, 90808-03-0; 7d, 90808-09-6; 7e, 90807-98-0; 7f, 90807-99-1; 7g, 90808-82-5; 7h, 90808-13-2; 7i, 90808-14-3; 7j, 90808-05-2; 7k, 90808-07-4; 7l, 114095-11-3; 7m, 114095-12-4; 7n, 114095-13-5; 7o, 114095-14-6; 7p, 114095-15-7; 8a, 90808-47-2; 8b, 90808-45-0; 8c, 90808-19-8; 8d, 90808-31-4; 8e, 90808-32-5; 8f, 90808-26-7; 8g, 90808-40-5; 8h, 90808-16-5; 8i, 90808-49-4; 8j, 90808-12-1; 8k, 90808-28-9; 8l, 90808-18-7; 8m, 90808-27-8; 8n, 90808-17-6; 8o, 90808-11-0; 8p, 90808-39-2; 8q, 90808-10-9; 8r, 90808-00-7; 8s, 114095-16-8; 8t, 90808-34-7; 9, 114095-17-9; **10a**, 114095-18-0; **10b**, 114095-19-1; ClCH<sub>2</sub>COCH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Et, 638-07-3; m-ClC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, 108-42-9; PrMgBr, 927-77-5; EtMgBr, 925-90-6; BrCH<sub>2</sub>COAc, 5308-51-0; p-MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>MgBr, 4294-57-9; p-MeOC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>MgBr, 13139-86-1; p-ClC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>MgBr, 873-77-8; ethyl bromopyruvate, 70-23-5; 2-amino-6-ethylbenzothiazole, 21224-16-8; 2-amino-4-methoxyquinoline, 42712-65-2; 2-amino-6-ethyl-4-methoxyquinoline, 84357-05-1; 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1,2-propanedione, 29634-62-6; 2-amino-2methylpropan-1-ol, 124-68-5; 2-aminobenzothiazole, 136-95-8; 2-aminothiazole, 96-50-4; 2-amino-6-ethyl-4-methoxy-3-methylquinoline, 92412-82-3; 2-amino-6-isopropyl-4-methoxyquinoline, 114095-20-4; 2-amino-4-methoxy-6-propylquinoline, 114095-21-5; 2-amino-6-fluoro-4-methoxyquinoline, 5761-71-7; 2-amino-4methoxy-6-methylquinoline, 42712-69-6; 2-amino-6-butyl-4methoxyquinoline, 114095-22-6; 2-amino-6,7-dimethyl-4-methoxyquinoline, 77937-86-1; 2-pyridinylmagnesium bromide, 21970-13-8; 2-amino-3,6-diethyl-4-methoxyquinoline, 92412-84-5; 2-magnesium bromide thiophene, 5713-61-1.

<sup>(17)</sup> Squires, R. F.: Braestrup, C. Nature (London) 1977, 266, 732.

<sup>(18)</sup> Cook, L.; Sepinwall, J. In Mechanisms of Actions of Benzodiazepines; Costa, E.; Greengard, P., Eds.; Raven: New York, 1975; Chapter 1.

<sup>(19)</sup> Petersen, E. N.; Lassen, J. B. Psychopharmacology 1981, 75, 236.

<sup>(20)</sup> Everett, G. M.; Richards, R. K. J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther. 1944, 81, 402.

<sup>(21)</sup> Deacon, R. M. J.; Gardner, C. R. J. Pharmacol. Methods 1984, 11, 119.