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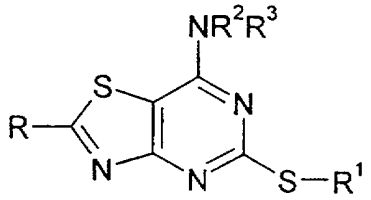
(54) Abstract Title
Pharmaceutically active thiazolopyrimidines

(57) A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof:



(I)

wherein R, R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined in the specification, has pharmaceutical, eg. antiinflammatory, activity.

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NOVEL COMPOUNDS

The present invention relates to certain thiazolopyrimidine compounds, processes and intermediates used in their preparation, pharmaceutical compositions containing them and their use in therapy.

The compound 2,7-diamino-5-methylmercapto-thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidine is known from J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 73, 4226 – 4227 (1951).

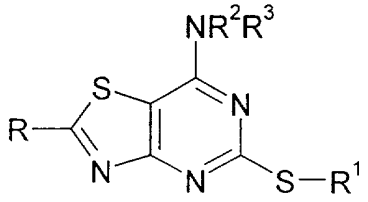
Chemokines play an important role in immune and inflammatory responses in various diseases and disorders, including asthma and allergic diseases, as well as autoimmune pathologies such as rheumatoid arthritis and atherosclerosis. These small secreted molecules are a growing superfamily of 8-14 kDa proteins characterised by a conserved four cysteine motif. The chemokine superfamily can be divided into two main groups exhibiting characteristic structural motifs, the Cys-X-Cys (C-X-C) and Cys-Cys (C-C) families. These are distinguished on the basis of a single amino acid insertion between the NH-proximal pair of cysteine residues and sequence similarity.

The C-X-C chemokines include several potent chemoattractants and activators of neutrophils such as interleukin-8 (IL-8) and neutrophil-activating peptide 2 (NAP-2).

The C-C chemokines include potent chemoattractants of monocytes and lymphocytes but not neutrophils such as human monocyte chemotactic proteins 1-3 (MCP-1, MCP-2 and MCP-3), RANTES (Regulated on Activation, Normal T Expressed and Secreted), eotaxin and the macrophage inflammatory proteins 1α and 1β (MIP-1α and MIP-1β).

Studies have demonstrated that the actions of the chemokines are mediated by subfamilies of G protein-coupled receptors, among which are the receptors designated CCR1, CCR2, CCR2A, CCR2B, CCR3, CCR4, CCR5, CCR6, CCR7, CCR8, CCR9, CCR10, CXCR1, CXCR2, CXCR3 and CXCR4. These receptors represent good targets for drug development since agents which modulate these receptors would be useful in the treatment of disorders and diseases such as those mentioned above.

In accordance with the present invention, there is therefore provided compounds of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof:

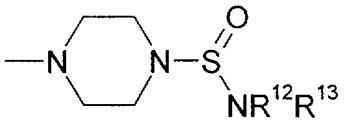


(I)

wherein R represents a hydrogen atom, or a group $-NR^4R^5$;

R^4 and R^5 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a 4-piperidinyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl or C_1-C_8 alkyl group, which latter two groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{11}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$, morpholinyl, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, tetrahydrofuranyl aryl and heteroaryl groups, each of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and cyano, nitro, $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$, C_1-C_6 alkyl and trifluoromethyl groups,

or R^4 and R^5 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from



;

$-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, and C_1-C_6 alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^{11}R^{12}$ and $-OR^8$ groups,

R^1 represents a C_1-C_8 alkyl group optionally containing one or more atoms independently selected from O, NR^6 or S which terminates in a heteroaryl group, the latter group may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{11}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$, C_1-C_6 alkyl, trifluoromethyl, or an aryl or heteroaryl group each of which can be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{11}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$, C_1-C_6 alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups.

R^2 and R^3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C_3-C_7 carbocyclic, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl or C_2-C_6 alkynyl group, the latter four groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from:
halogen atoms , $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{11}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$
or
a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, S, NR^9 and itself optionally substituted by C_{1-3}-alkyl, halogen,

R^8 represents hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl or a phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{14}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SO_2NR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$

R^6 and R^7 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl or phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{14}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SO_2NR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$
or
R^6 and R^7 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system optionally comprising a further heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen atoms, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from phenyl, $-OR^{14}$, $-COOR^{14}$, $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SO_2NR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$ or C_1-C_6 alkyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $-OR^{17}$ groups,

R^{11} represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6, or phenyl group, each of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{17}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, and

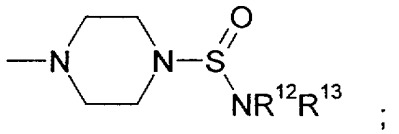
R^9, R^{10}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14} R^{15}, R^{16}, and R^{17} independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6, alkyl, or a phenyl group.

In the context of the present specification, unless otherwise indicated, an alkyl or alkenyl group or an alkyl or alkenyl moiety in a substituent group may be linear or branched.

Aryl groups include phenyl and naphthyl. Heteroaryl is defined as a 5- or 6-membered monocyclic aromatic ring or a 5,6- or 6,6-bicyclic ring system each of which contains one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S, O. Examples include pyridine, pyrimidine, thiazole, oxazole, pyrazole, imidazole, furan and benzimidazole.

In formula (I) above, the group R represents a hydrogen atom, or a group $-NR^4R^5$. Particularly advantageous compounds of formula (I) are those in which R represents a group $-NR^4R^5$.

Suitably R^4 and R^5 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a 4-piperidinyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl or C_1-C_8 alkyl group, which latter two groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{11}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$, morpholinyl, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, tetrahydrofuranyl aryl and heteroaryl groups, each of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and cyano, nitro, $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$, C_1-C_6 alkyl and trifluoromethyl groups, or R^4 and R^5 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from



; $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, and C_1-C_6 alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^{11}R^{12}$ and $-OR^8$ groups.

Particularly advantageous compounds of formula (I) are those in which R^4 and R^5 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group substituted by a $-CONR^5R^6$ or imidazolyl (e.g. 1*H*-imidazol-4-yl) group.

Suitably R^1 represents a C_1-C_8 alkyl group optionally containing one or more atoms independently selected from O, NR^6 or S which terminates in a heteroaryl group, the latter group may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{11}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$, C_1-C_6 alkyl, trifluoromethyl, or an aryl or heteroaryl group each of which can be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{11}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$, C_1-C_6 alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups.

Particularly advantageous compounds of formula (I) are those in which R^1 represents a C_1-C_6 alkyl group which terminates in a heteroaryl group such as furan or methylthiazole,.

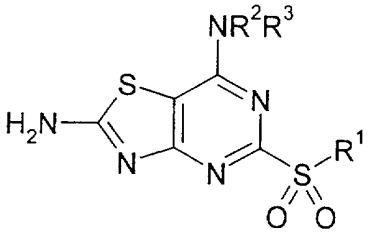
Suitably R^2 and R^3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C_3-C_7 carbocyclic, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl or C_2-C_6 alkynyl group, the latter four groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from:
halogen atoms , $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{11}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$
or
a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, S, NR^9 and itself optionally substituted by C_{1-3}-alkyl, halogen.

Preferably one of R^2 and R^3 is hydrogen and the other is C_1-C_8 alkyl substituted by hydroxy and one or more methyl or ethyl groups. More preferably one of R^2 and R^3 is hydrogen and the other is $CH(CH_3)CH_2OH$, $CH(Et)CH_2OH$ or $C(CH_3)_2CH_2OH$.

Particularly preferred compounds of the invention include:
2-[[2-Amino-5-[(1*H*-benzimidazol-2-ylmethyl)thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-2-methyl-1-propanol,
2-[[2-Amino-5-[(2-furanylmethyl)thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-2-methyl-1-propanol,
2-[[2-amino-5-[[1-(2-thienyl)ethyl]thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-2-methyl-1-propanol,
(2*R*)- 2-[[2-amino-5-[[(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)methyl]thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-1-propanol,
and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates.

According to the invention there is also provided a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) which comprises:

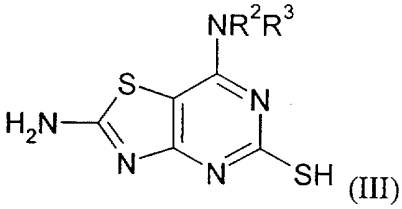
(a) treatment of a compound of formula (II):



(II)

where R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined in formula (I) with a thiol R^1SH in the presence of a base, or

(b) treatment of a compound of formula (III):



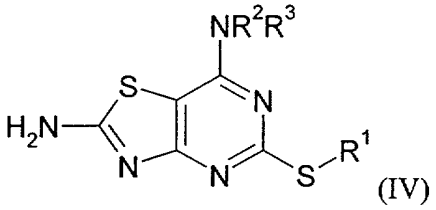
(III)

where R^2 and R^3 are as defined in formula (I) with a compound of formula R^1X where R^1 is as defined in formula (I) and X is a leaving group,
and optionally after (a) or (b) forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate.

Reaction (a) may be carried out in a solvent such as DMSO at a temperature between 0°C and 100°C using a base such as potassium *tert*-butoxide.

Reaction (b) may be carried out in NMP at room temperature. The leaving group X is preferably halogen such as bromide. Preferbly the reaction is carrie out in the presence of a base such as *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine. The reaction may be carried out in a suitable solvent such as NMP at room temperature.

Compounds of formula (II) where R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined in formula (I) may be prepared by treatment of a compound of formula (IV):

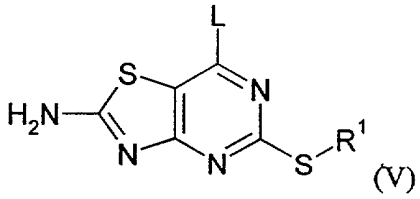


(IV)

where R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined above with an oxidizing agent such as peracetic acid. The reaction may be carried out in a solvent such as glacial acetic acid at a temperature between 0°C and 100°C.

Compounds of formula (III) where R^2 and R^3 are as defined in formula (I) may be prepared by treatment of a compound of formula (IV) where R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined in formula (I) with sodium in liquid ammonia.

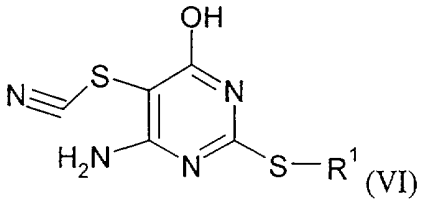
Compounds of formula (IV) where R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined in formula (I) may be prepared by treatment of a compound of formula (V) where R^1 is as defined above and L is a halogen such as chlorine with an amine HNR_2R_3. The reaction may be carried out in a solvent such as tetrahydrofuran in a sealed vessel at a temperature between 0°C and 150°C.



(V)

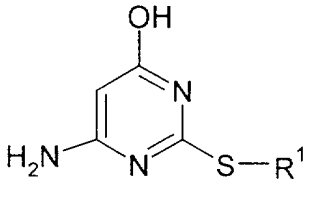
Compounds of formula (V) where R^1 is as defined in formula (I) and L is a halogen may be prepared by treating a compound of formula (V) where R^1 is as defined in formula (I) and L is a hydroxyl group with a halogenating agent such as phosphorous oxychloride. The reaction may be carried at reflux in the presence of dimethylaniline.

Compounds of formula (V) where R^1 is as defined in formula (I) and L is a hydroxyl group may be formed by heating a compound of formula (VI) where R^1 is as defined above.



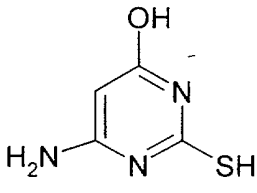
(VI)

Compounds of formula (VI) where R^1 is as defined in formula (I) may be readily prepared by reacting a compound of general formula (VII) wherein R^1 is as defined above, with potassium thiocyanate and bromine in an inert solvent such as dimethylformamide/pyridine.



(VII)

Compounds of formula (VII) are suitably prepared by reacting a compound of formula (VIII):



(VIII)

with a compound of formula R^1X where R^1 is as defined above and X is a leaving group such as bromide in the presence of a base such as sodium hydroxide.

The protection and deprotection of functional groups is fully described in 'Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry', edited by J. W. F. McOmie, Plenum Press (1973), and 'Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis', 2nd edition, T. W. Greene & P. G. M. Wuts, Wiley–Interscience (1991).

The compounds of formula (I) above may be converted to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, preferably an acid addition salt such as a hydrochloride, hydrobromide, phosphate, acetate, fumarate, maleate, tartrate, citrate, oxalate, methanesulphonate or *p*-toluenesulphonate.

Certain compounds of formula (I) are capable of existing in stereoisomeric forms. It will be understood that the invention encompasses all geometric and optical isomers of the compounds of formula (I) and mixtures thereof including racemates. Tautomers and mixtures thereof also form an aspect of the present invention.

The compounds of formula (I) have activity as pharmaceuticals, in particular as modulators of chemokine receptor (especially CXCR2) activity, and may be used in the treatment (therapeutic or prophylactic) of conditions/diseases in human and non-human animals which are exacerbated or caused by excessive or unregulated production of chemokines. Examples of such conditions/diseases include:

(1) **(the respiratory tract)** obstructive airways diseases including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) such as irreversible COPD; asthma, such as bronchial, allergic, intrinsic, extrinsic and dust asthma, particularly chronic or inveterate asthma (e.g. late asthma and airways hyper-responsiveness); bronchitis; acute, allergic, atrophic rhinitis and chronic rhinitis including rhinitis caseosa, hypertrophic rhinitis, rhinitis purulenta, rhinitis sicca and rhinitis medicamentosa; membranous rhinitis including croupous, fibrinous and pseudomembranous rhinitis and scrofoulous rhinitis; seasonal rhinitis including rhinitis nervosa (hay fever) and vasomotor rhinitis; sarcoidosis, farmer's lung and related diseases, fibroid lung and idiopathic interstitial pneumonia;

(2) **(bone and joints)** rheumatoid arthritis, seronegative spondyloarthropathies (including ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis and Reiter's disease), Behcet's disease, Sjogren's syndrome and systemic sclerosis;

(3) **(skin)** psoriasis, atopical dermatitis, contact dermatitis and other eczmatous dermitides, seborrhoetic dermatitis, Lichen planus, Pemphigus, bullous Pemphigus, Epidermolysis bullosa, urticaria, angiodermas, vasculitides, erythemas, cutaneous eosinophilias, uveitis, Alopecia areata and vernal conjunctivitis;

(4) **(gastrointestinal tract)** Coeliac disease, proctitis, eosinopilic gastro-enteritis, mastocytosis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, food-related allergies which have effects remote from the gut, e.g., migraine, rhinitis and eczema;

(5) **(other tissues and systemic disease)** multiple sclerosis, atherosclerosis, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), lupus erythematosus, systemic lupus, erythematosus, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, myasthenia gravis, type I diabetes, nephrotic syndrome, eosinophilia fascitis, hyper IgE syndrome, lepromatous leprosy, sezary syndrome and idiopathic thrombocytopenia pupura;

(6) **(allograft rejection)** acute and chronic following, for example, transplantation of kidney, heart, liver, lung, bone marrow, skin and cornea; and chronic graft versus host disease;

(7) cancers, especially non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and squamous sarcoma;

(8) diseases in which angiogenesis is associated with raised CXCR2 chemokine levels (e.g. NSCLC); and

(9) cystic fibrosis, stroke, re-perfusion injury in the heart, brain, peripheral limbs and sepsis.

Thus, the present invention provides a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as hereinbefore defined for use in therapy.

In a further aspect, the present invention provides the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as hereinbefore defined in the manufacture of a medicament for use in therapy.

In a still further aspect, the present invention provides the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as hereinbefore defined in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of human diseases or conditions in which modulation of chemokine receptor activity is beneficial.

In the context of the present specification, the term "therapy" also includes "prophylaxis" unless there are specific indications to the contrary. The terms "therapeutic" and "therapeutically" should be construed accordingly.

The invention still further provides a method of treating a chemokine mediated disease wherein the chemokine binds to a CXCR2 receptor, which comprises administering to a

patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as hereinbefore defined.

The invention also provides a method of treating an inflammatory disease, especially psoriasis, in a patient suffering from, or at risk of, said disease, which comprises administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as hereinbefore defined.

For the above-mentioned therapeutic uses the dosage administered will, of course, vary with the compound employed, the mode of administration, the treatment desired and the disorder indicated.

The compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof may be used on their own but will generally be administered in the form of a pharmaceutical composition in which the formula (I) compound/salt/solvate (active ingredient) is in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier. Depending on the mode of administration, the pharmaceutical composition will preferably comprise from 0.05 to 99 %w (per cent by weight), more preferably from 0.05 to 80 %w, still more preferably from 0.10 to 70 %w, and even more preferably from 0.10 to 50 %w, of active ingredient, all percentages by weight being based on total composition.

The present invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as hereinbefore defined, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

The invention further provides a process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition of the invention which comprises mixing a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as hereinbefore defined, with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

The pharmaceutical compositions may be administered topically (e.g. to the lung and/or airways or to the skin) in the form of solutions, suspensions, heptafluoroalkane aerosols and dry powder formulations; or systemically, e.g. by oral administration in the form of tablets, capsules, syrups, powders or granules, or by parenteral administration in the form of solutions or suspensions, or by subcutaneous administration or by rectal administration in the form of suppositories or transdermally.

The invention will now be further illustrated by reference to the following examples. In the examples the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectra were measured on a Varian Unity Inova 300 or 400 MHz spectrometer and the Mass Spectrometry (MS) spectra measured on a Finnigan Mat SSQ7000 or Micromass Platform spectrometer. Where necessary, the reactions were performed under an inert atmosphere of either nitrogen or argon. Chromatography was generally performed using Matrex Silica 60® (35-70 micron) or Prolabo Silica gel 60® (35-70 micron) suitable for flash silica gel chromatography. High pressure liquid chromatography purification was performed using either a Waters Micromass LCZ with a Waters 600 pump controller, Waters 2487 detector and Gilson FC024 fraction collector or a Waters Delta Prep 4000. The abbreviations m.p. and DMSO used in the examples stand for melting point and dimethyl sulphoxide respectively.

Example 1

2-[[2-Amino-5-[(1*H*-benzimidazol-2-ylmethyl)thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-2-methyl-1-propanol

(a) 6-Amino-1,4-dihydro-2-[(phenylmethyl)thio]-4-oxo-5-thiocyanic acid, pyrimidinyl ester

6-Amino-2-[(phenylmethyl)thio]-4(1*H*)-pyrimidinone (10.5g)[preparation as described in WO 9635678] and potassium thiocyanate (25g) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (200ml) were heated together at 65°C. Pyridine (6.3ml) was added and the solution cooled to 5°C. Bromine (2.2ml) was added slowly and the reaction mixture stirred for 2 hours at 5-10°C. The reaction mixture was poured onto ice water, stirred for 1 hour and the solid was isolated by filtration. After washing with water and ether, a pure sample was obtained after tituration with hot methanol.

MS (APCI) 291 (M+H, 100%).

(b) 2-Amino-5-[(phenylmethyl)thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7(4*H*)-one

The product of step a) (7.35g) was heated at 120°C in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (40ml)/water (10ml) for 10 hours. After cooling, the resulting solid was filtered off, washed with water, then ethyl acetate to give the subtitle compound.

m.p. ~325°C
MS (APCI) 291 (M+H, 100%).

(c) 7-Chloro-5-[(phenylmethyl)thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-2-amine

The product from step b) (0.89g), phosphorus oxychloride (12ml) and *N,N*-dimethylaniline (1.2ml) were heated at reflux for 2 hours. The cooled reaction mixture was poured onto ice water and stirred for 2 hours. Chromatography (SiO_2, methanol/dichloromethane as eluant) gave the sub-title compound.

m.p. 217-218.5°C
MS (APCI) 309 (M+H, 100%).

(d) 2-[[2-Amino-5-[(phenylmethyl)thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-2-methyl-1-propanol

The product from step c) (0.6g) and 2-amino-2-methylpropanol. (1.1g) in tetrahydrofuran (10ml) was heated in a sealed vessel at 100 °C for 18 hours. The mixture was evaporated to dryness and purified (SiO_2, ethyl acetate as eluant) to give the subtitle compound (0.46g).

MS (APCI) 362 ($M+H^+$, 100%).

(e) 2-[[2-Amino-5-[(phenylmethyl)sulfonyl]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-2-methyl-1-propanol

A solution of the product from step d) (0.65g) in glacial acetic acid (75ml) was treated with peracetic acid (36-40% w/w in acetic acid, 0.93ml) and stirred for 1 hour. The solution was treated with more peracetic acid (3x 2ml) over 40 minutes, and stirred at 70°C for 1 hour. The excess reagent was destroyed with dimethyl sulphide, and the solution was evaporated. The residue was slurried in toluene and evaporated (3x) to give the subtitled compound, contaminated with a little DMSO

MS: APCI 394 (M+H)

(f) 2-[[2-Amino-5-[(1*H*-benzimidazol-2-ylmethyl)thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-2-methyl-1-propanol

The product from step e) was taken up in DMSO (7.5ml) and treated with potassium t-butoxide (1M in THF, 4.95ml). An aliquot of the solution (1ml) was treated with (1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)methanethiol (0.063g) and stirred at 50°C for 1 hour. The solution was treated with glacial acetic acid (1ml) and purified by reverse phase preparative HPLC on Symmetry® C8 column, using 10 to 60% acetonitrile in 0.1% aqueous ammonium acetate at 20ml/min over 5 min to give the titled compound (0.013g)

MS: APCI 402 (M+H)
^{1}H NMR: δ (DMSO) 1.32(s, 6H), 3.56 (d, 2H), 4.57 (s, 2H), 4.87 (t, 1H), 6.34 (s, 1H), 7.13 (mult., 2H), 7.43-7.52 (mult., 2H), 8.01 (s, 2H), 12.33 (s, 1H).

Example 2

2-[[2-Amino-5-[(2-furanylmethyl)thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-2-methyl-1-propanol

The titled compound was prepared from furfuryl mercaptan (0.043g) using the method of example 1, step (f) (0.013g)

MS: APCI 352 (M+H)
^{1}H NMR: δ (DMSO) 1.33 (s, 6H), 3.55 (d,2H), 4.38 (s, 2H), 4.87 (t, 1H), 6.30-6.38 (mult., 3H), 7.56 (broard s, 1H), 8.01 (s, 2H),

Example 3

2-[[2-amino-5-[[1-(2-thienyl)ethyl]thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-2-methyl-1-propanol

The titled compound was prepared from 1-(2-thienyl)ethyl mercaptan (0.055g) using the method of example 1, step (f) (0.008g)

MS: APCI 382 (M+H)

^{1}H NMR: δ (DMSO) 1.33 (s, 6H), 1.77 (s, 3H), 3.55 (d, 2H), 4.88 (t, 1H), 5.26 (q, 1H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 6.95-6.97 (mult., 1H), 7.90 (d, 1H), 7.40 (d of d, 1H), 8.00 (s, 2H),

Example 4

(2*R*)- 2-[[2-amino-5-[[(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)methyl]thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-1-propanol

(a) *(R)*-2-[[2-Amino-5-[(phenylmethyl)thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]- 1-propanol

Prepared by the method of example 1, step (d), using the product of example 1, step (c) and (*R*)-(-)-2-amino-1-propanol.

MS (APCI) 412 ($M+H^+$, 100%).

(b) (2*R*)- 2-[(2-Amino-5-mercaptothiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl)amino]- 1-propanol

A stirred solution of the product of step (a) (1g) in liquid ammonia (20ml) was treated portionwise with sodium until a permanent blue colour was obtained. The solution was treated with ammonium chloride to dissipate the blue colour, and allowed to evaporate. The residue was taken up in water, filtered and purified by reverse phase preparative HPLC on Xterra® C8 column, using 0 to 20% acetonitrile in water at 20ml/min over 2 min to give the subtitled compound (0.22g)

MS: APCI 258 (M+H)
^{1}H NMR: δ (DMSO) 1.09 (d, 3H), 3.39-3.42 (mult., obscured by DMSO), 4.05 (broard s, 2H), 5.55 (broard), 5.99 (broard), 7.57 (broard s, 2H)

(c) (2*R*)- 2-[[2-amino-5-[[(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)methyl]thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-1-propanol

A stirred solution of the product of step (b) (0.05g) in DMSO (4ml) was treated with a solution of 4-chloromethyl-2-methylthiazole hydrochloride (0.029g) and Hunig's base (0.025g) in NMP (0.5ml) and stirred for 1 hour. The solution was purified by reverse phase

preparative HPLC on Nova-pak® C18 column, using 10 to 60% acetonitrile in 0.1% aqueous ammonium acetate at 50ml/min over 10 min to give the titled compound (0.021g)

MS: APCI 369 (M+H)

^{1}H NMR: δ (CD_3OD) 1.21 (d, 3H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 3.48-3.64 (mult., 2H), 4.33-4.40 (mult., 1H), 4.46 (s, 2H), 7.31 (s,1H)

Pharmacological Data

Ligand Binding Assay

[^{125}I]IL-8 (human, recombinant) was purchased from Amersham, U.K. with a specific activity of 2,000Ci/mmol. All other chemicals were of analytical grade. High levels of hrCXCR2 were expressed in HEK 293 cells (human embryo kidney 293 cells ECACC No. 85120602) (Lee *et al.* (1992) *J. Biol. Chem.* **267** pp16283-16291). hrCXCR2 cDNA was amplified and cloned from human neutrophil mRNA. The DNA was cloned into PCRScript (Stratagene) and clones were identified using DNA. The coding sequence was sub-cloned into the eukaryotic expression vector RcCMV (Invitrogen). Plasmid DNA was prepared using Quiagen Megaprep 2500 and transfected into HEK 293 cells using Lipofectamine reagent (Gibco BRL). Cells of the highest expressing clone were harvested in phosphate-buffered saline containing 0.2%(w/v) ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) and centrifuged (200g, 5min.). The cell pellet was resuspended in ice cold homogenisation buffer [10mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 1mM dithiothreitol, 1mM EDTA and a panel of protease inhibitors (1mM phenyl methyl sulphonyl fluoride, 2μg/ml soybean trypsin inhibitor, 3mM benzamidine, 0.5μg/ml leupeptin and 100μg/ml bacitracin)] and the cells left to swell for 10 minutes. The cell preparation was disrupted using a hand held glass mortar/PTFE pestle homogeniser and cell membranes harvested by centrifugation (45 minutes, 100,000g, 4°C). The membrane preparation was stored at -70°C in homogenisation buffer supplemented with Tyrode's salt solution (137mM NaCl, 2.7mM KCl, 0.4mM NaH_2PO_4), 0.1%(w/v) gelatin and 10%(v/v) glycerol.

All assays were performed in a 96-well MultiScreen 0.45μm filtration plates (Millipore, U.K.). Each assay contained ~50pM [^{125}I]IL-8 and membranes (equivalent to ~200,000 cells) in assay buffer [Tyrode's salt solution supplemented with 10mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 1.8mM $CaCl_2$, 1mM $MgCl_2$, 0.125mg/ml bacitracin and 0.1%(w/v) gelatin]. In addition, a compound of formula (I) according to the Examples was pre-dissolved in DMSO and added to reach a final concentration of 1%(v/v) DMSO. The assay was initiated with the

addition of membranes and after 1.5 hours at room temperature the membranes were harvested by filtration using a Millipore MultiScreen vacuum manifold and washed twice with assay buffer (without bacitracin). The backing plate was removed from the MultiScreen plate assembly, the filters dried at room temperature, punched out and then counted on a Cobra γ-counter.

The compounds of formula (I) according to the Examples were found to have IC_{50} values of less than (<) 10μM.

Intracellular Calcium Mobilisation Assay

Human neutrophils were prepared from EDTA-treated peripheral blood, as previously described (Baly *et al.* (1997) Methods in Enzymology 287 pp70-72), in storage buffer [Tyrode's salt solution (137mM NaCl, 2.7mM KCl, 0.4mM NaH_2PO_4) supplemented with 5.7mM glucose and 10mM HEPES (pH 7.4)].

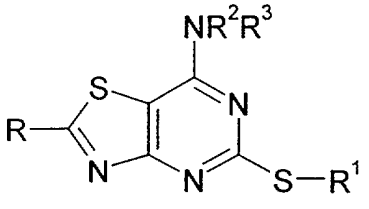
The chemokine GROα (human, recombinant) was purchased from R&D Systems (Abingdon, U.K.). All other chemicals were of analytical grade. Changes in intracellular free calcium were measured fluorometrically by loading neutrophils with the calcium sensitive fluorescent dye, fluo-3, as described previously (Merritt *et al.* (1990) Biochem. J. 269, pp513-519). Cells were loaded for 1 hour at 37°C in loading buffer (storage buffer with 0.1%(w/v) gelatin) containing 5μM fluo-3 AM ester, washed with loading buffer and then resuspended in Tyrode's salt solution supplemented with 5.7mM glucose, 0.1%(w/v) bovine serum albumin (BSA), 1.8mM $CaCl_2$ and 1mM $MgCl_2$. The cells were pipetted into black walled, clear bottom, 96 well micro plates (Costar, Boston, U.S.A.) and centrifuged (200g, 5 minutes, room temperature).

A compound of formula (I) according to the Examples was pre-dissolved in DMSO and added to a final concentration of 0.1%(v/v) DMSO. Assays were initiated by the addition of an A_{50} concentration of GROα and the transient increase in fluo-3 fluorescence (λ_{Ex} =490nm and λ_{Em} = 520nm) monitored using a FLIPR (Fluorometric Imaging Plate Reader, Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, U.S.A.).

The compounds of formula (I) according to the Examples were tested and found to be antagonists of the CXCR2 receptor in human neutrophils.

CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof:

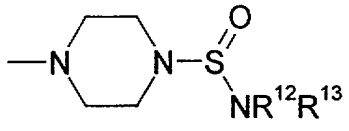


(I)

wherein R represents a hydrogen atom, or a group $-NR^4R^5$;

R^4 and R^5 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a 4-piperidinyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl or C_1-C_8 alkyl group, which latter two groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{11}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$, morpholinyl, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, tetrahydrofuranyl aryl and heteroaryl groups, each of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and cyano, nitro, $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$, C_1-C_6 alkyl and trifluoromethyl groups,

or R^4 and R^5 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from



;

$-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, and C_1-C_6 alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^{11}R^{12}$ and $-OR^8$ groups,

R^1 represents a C_1-C_8 alkyl group optionally containing one or more atoms independently selected from O, NR^6 or S which terminates in a heteroaryl group, the latter group may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{11}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$, C_1-C_6 alkyl, trifluoromethyl, or an aryl or heteroaryl group each of which can be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected

from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{11}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$, C_1-C_6 alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups.

R^2 and R^3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C_3-C_7 carbocyclic, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl or C_2-C_6 alkynyl group, the latter four groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from:
halogen atoms , $-NR^6R^7$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-OR^8$, $-COOR^8$, $-NR^9COR^{10}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{11}$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $-NR^9SO_2R^{10}$
or
a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, S, NR^9 and itself optionally substituted by C_{1-3}-alkyl, halogen,

R^8 represents hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl or a phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{14}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SO_2NR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$

R^6 and R^7 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl or phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{14}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SO_2NR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$
or
R^6 and R^7 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system optionally comprising a further heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen atoms, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from phenyl, $-OR^{14}$, $-COOR^{14}$, $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SO_2NR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$ or C_1-C_6 alkyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $-OR^{17}$ groups,

R^{11} represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6, or phenyl group, each of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{17}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, and

R^9, R^{10}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14} R^{15}, R^{16}, and R^{17} independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6, alkyl, or a phenyl group.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R represents a group $-NR^4R^5$.

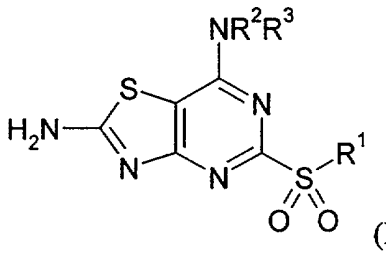
3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein R^4 and R^5 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group substituted by a $-CONR^5R^6$ or imidazolyl (e.g. 1*H*-imidazol-4-yl) group.

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein R^1 represents a C_1-C_6 alkyl group which terminates in a heteroaryl group.

5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein one of R^2 and R^3 is hydrogen and the other is C_1-C_8 alkyl substituted by hydroxy and one or more methyl or ethyl groups.

6. A compound according to claim 1 being selected from:
2-[[2-Amino-5-[(1*H*-benzimidazol-2-ylmethyl)thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-2-methyl-1-propanol,
2-[[2-Amino-5-[(2-furanylmethyl)thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-2-methyl-1-propanol,
2-[[2-amino-5-[[1-(2-thienyl)ethyl]thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-2-methyl-1-propanol,
(2*R*)- 2-[[2-amino-5-[[(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)methyl]thio]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-7-yl]amino]-1-propanol,
and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates.

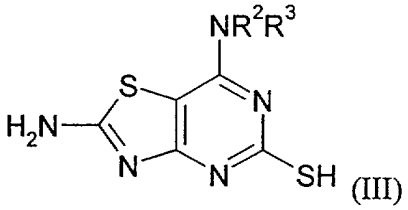
7. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 which comprises:
a) treatment of a compound of formula (II):



(II)

where R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined in formula (I) with a thiol R^1SH in the presence of a base, or

(b) treatment of a compound of formula (III):



(III)

where R^2 and R^3 are as defined in formula (I) with a compound of formula R^1X where R^1 is as defined in formula (I) and X is a leaving group,
and optionally after (a) or (b) forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

9. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 11 which comprises mixing a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

10. A compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 for use in therapy.

11. Use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in therapy.

12. A method of treating a chemokine mediated disease wherein the chemokine binds to a CXCR2 receptor, which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6.

13. A method of treating an inflammatory disease in a patient suffering from, or at risk of, said disease, which comprises administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the disease is psoriasis.

Application No:	GB 0003025.4	**Examiner:**	Peter Davey
Claims searched:	1-14	**Date of search:**	15 May 2000

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.R): C2C (CRM)

Int Cl (Ed.7):

Other: Online: CAS ONLINE

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage		Relevant to claims
A	GB 0713652	(WELLCOME), see fourth compound in Table I	1 at least
E,A	WO 00/09511 A1	(ASTRA), 24 February 2000, see eg. claims 1 and 11-17	1 at least

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.