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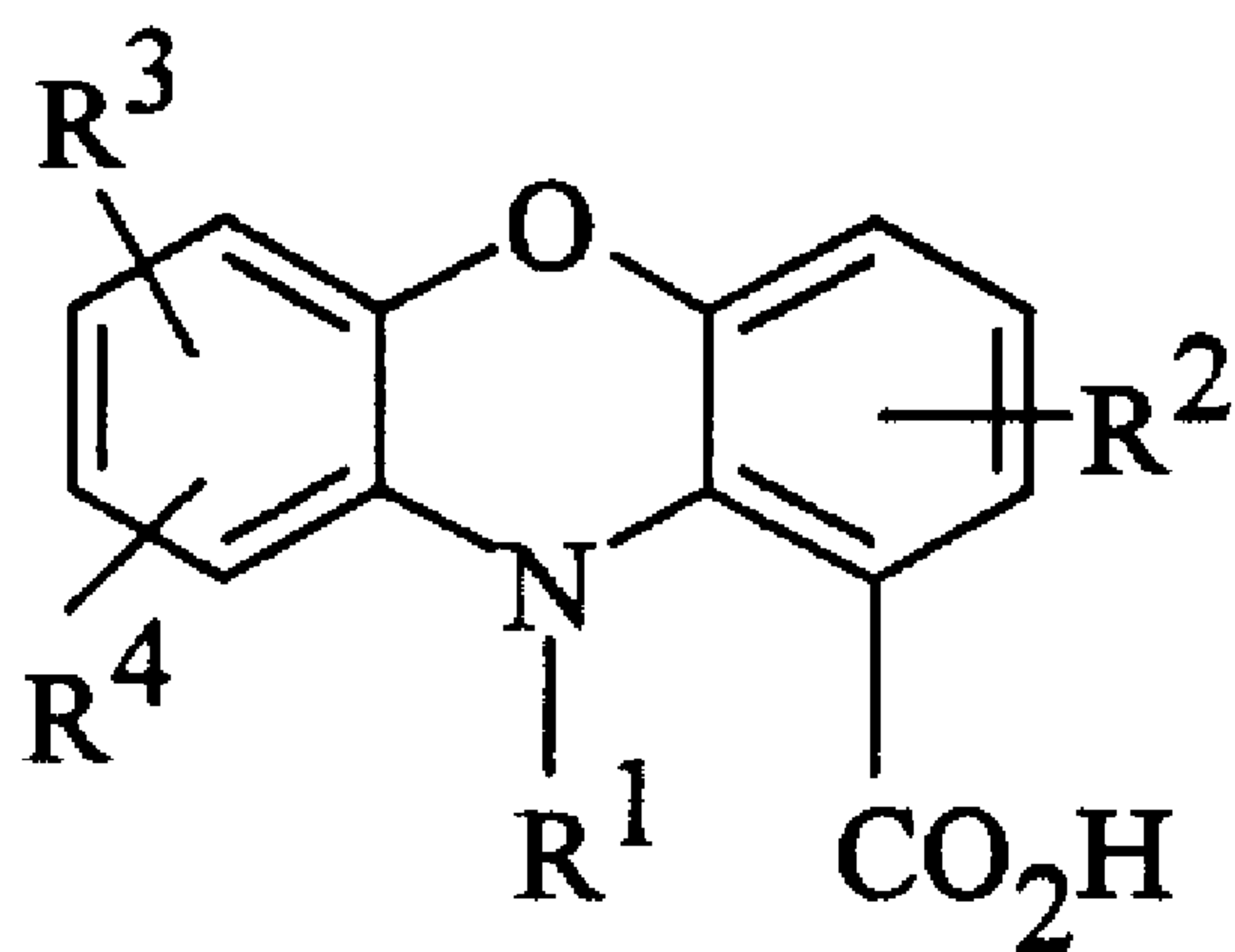
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(54) Titre : ANALOGUES DE PHENOXAZINE POUVANT ETRE UTILISES COMME INHIBITEURS D'AGREGATION DE  
SUBSTANCES AMYLOIDES ET TRAITEMENT DE LA MALADIE D'ALZHEIMER ET DES TROUBLES RELATIFS A  
L'AMYLOIDOSE

(54) Title: PHENOXAZINE ANALOGS USEFUL AS AMYLOID AGGREGATION INHIBITORS AND TREATMENT OF  
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DISORDERS RELATED TO AMYLOIDOSIS



I

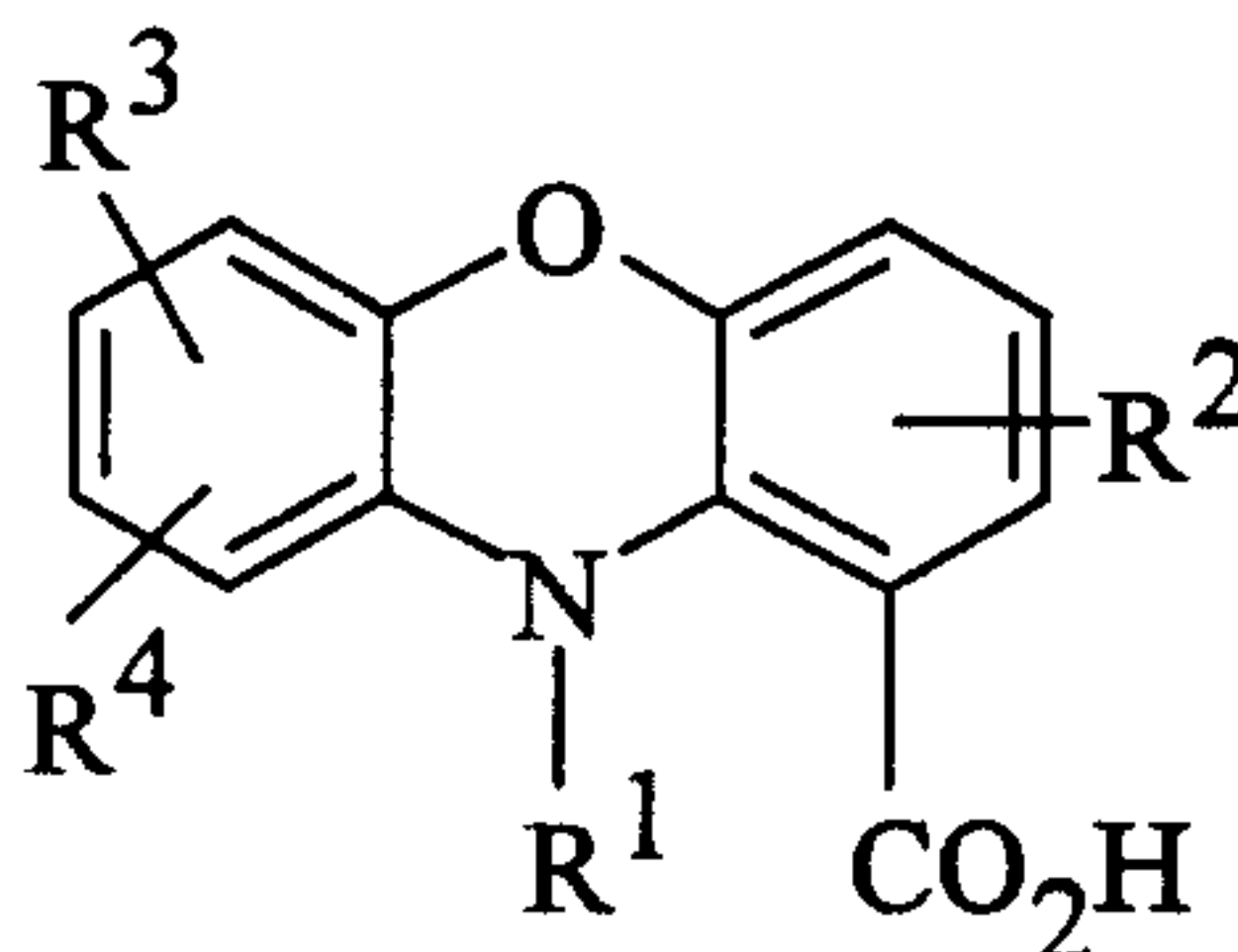
(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

Disclosed are compounds of the Formula I (see formula I) wherein: R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, or cycloalkyl; R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, aryl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, arylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxy, cyano, carboxy, alkoxy-carbonyl, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, or mono- or dialkylamino; and R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> independently are hydrogen, lower alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, carboxy, alkoxy-carbonyl, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino, or unsubstituted or substituted lower alkyl or lower alkenyl; or R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> together form an unsubstituted or substituted carbocyclic group. Also provided is a method of inhibiting the aggregation of amyloid proteins using a compound of Formula I and a method of imaging amyloid deposits.

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## ABSTRACT

Disclosed are compounds of the Formula I



I

wherein:

5 R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, or cycloalkyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, aryl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, arylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxy, cyano, carboxy, alkoxy carbonyl, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, or mono- or dialkylamino; and

10 R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> independently are hydrogen, lower alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, carboxy, alkoxy carbonyl, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino, or unsubstituted or substituted lower alkyl or lower alkenyl; or

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> together form an unsubstituted or substituted carbocyclic group.

15 Also provided is a method of inhibiting the aggregation of amyloid proteins using a compound of Formula I and a method of imaging amyloid deposits.

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PHENOXAZINE ANALOGS USEFUL AS AMYLOID AGGREGATION  
INHIBITORS AND TREATMENT OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND  
DISORDERS RELATED TO AMYLOIDOSIS

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PHENOXAZINE ANALOGS USEFUL AS AMYLOID AGGREGATION  
INHIBITORS AND TREATMENT OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND  
DISORDERS RELATED TO AMYLOIDOSIS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5           This invention relates to compounds useful for inhibiting amyloid protein aggregation and imaging amyloid deposits. In addition, this invention relates to a method of treating Alzheimer's disease and disorders related to amyloidosis.

SUMMARY OF THE RELATED ART

10           Amyloidosis is a condition characterized by the accumulation of various insoluble, fibrillar proteins in the tissues of a patient. The fibrillar proteins that comprise the accumulations or deposits are called amyloid proteins. While the particular proteins or peptides found in the deposits vary, the presence of fibrillar morphology and a large amount of  $\beta$ -sheet secondary structure is common to many types of amyloids. An amyloid deposit is formed by the aggregation of  
15 amyloid proteins, followed by the further combination of aggregates and/or amyloid proteins.

          The presence of amyloid deposits has been shown in various diseases, each with its particular associated protein, such as Mediterranean fever, Muckle-Wells syndrome, idiopathic myeloma, amyloid polyneuropathy, amyloid  
20 cardiomyopathy, systemic senile amyloidosis, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis, Alzheimer's disease, Down syndrome, scrapie, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, kuru, Gerstmann-Sträussler-Scheinker syndrome, medullary carcinoma of the thyroid, isolated atrial amyloid,  $\beta_2$ -microglobulin amyloid in dialysis patients, inclusion body myositis,  $\beta_2$ -amyloid deposits in muscle wasting  
25 disease, sickle cell anemia, Parkinson's disease, and Islets of Langerhans diabetes type 2 insulinoma.

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Alzheimer's disease is a degenerative brain disorder characterized clinically by progressive loss of memory, cognition, reasoning, judgement, and emotional stability that gradually leads to mental deterioration and ultimately death. Because Alzheimer's disease and related degenerative brain disorders are a major medical issue for an increasingly aging population, the need for new treatments and methods for diagnosing the disorders are needed.

A simple, noninvasive method for detecting and quantitating amyloid deposits in a patient has been eagerly sought. Presently, detection of amyloid deposits involves histological analysis of biopsy or autopsy materials. Both methods have major drawbacks. For example, an autopsy can only be used for a postmortem diagnosis.

The direct imaging of amyloid deposits in vivo is difficult, as the deposits have many of the same physical properties (i.e., density and water content) as normal tissues. Attempts to image amyloid deposits directly using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computer-assisted tomography (CAT) have been disappointing and have detected amyloid deposits only under certain favorable conditions. In addition, efforts to label amyloid deposits with antibodies, serum amyloid P protein, or other probe molecules has provided some selectivity on the periphery of tissues, but has provided for poor imaging of tissue interiors.

Thus, it would be useful to have a noninvasive technique for imaging and quantitating amyloid deposits in a patient. In addition, it would be useful to have compounds that inhibit the aggregation of amyloid proteins to form amyloid deposits. An object of this invention is to provide new compounds that are useful to diagnose and treat diseases associated with amyloidosis.

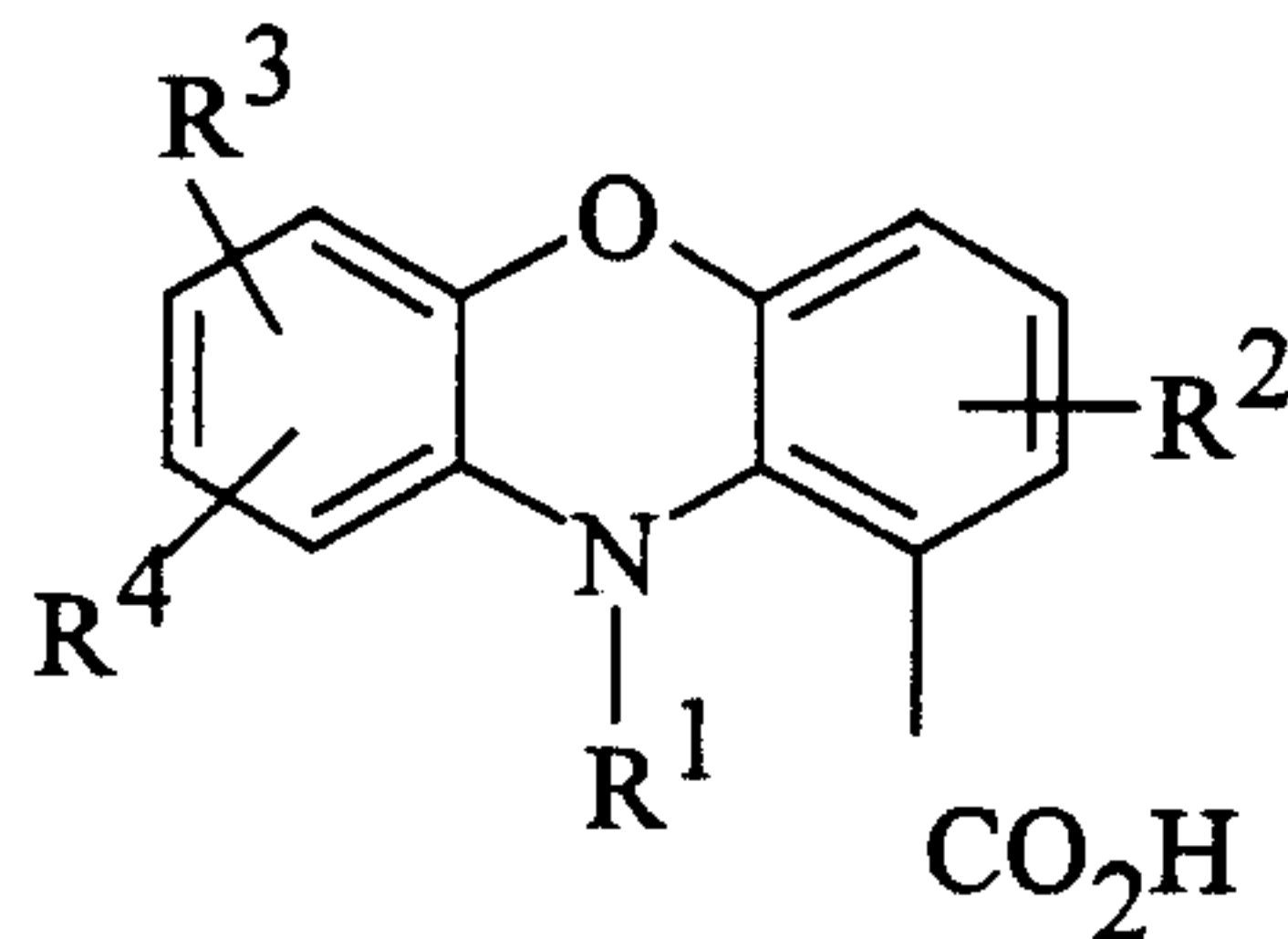
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## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides compounds that are useful in a method of inhibiting amyloid protein aggregation, the method comprising the administration of an effective amount of the compound to a subject, preferably mammalian, in need thereof.

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The present invention is directed to phenoxazine derivatives and their use as inhibitors of amyloid protein aggregation. The compounds of the invention are those having the structure of Formula I



I

5 wherein

$R^1$  is hydrogen, lower alkyl, or cycloalkyl;

$R^2$  is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, aryl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, arylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxy, cyano, carboxy, alkoxy carbonyl, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, or  
10 mono- or dialkylamino;

$R^3$  and  $R^4$  independently are hydrogen, lower alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, carboxy, alkoxy carbonyl, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino, or  
15 lower alkyl or lower alkenyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from oxo, halogen, hydroxy, carboxy, carbamoyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino, or aryl or heteroaryl optionally substituted independently with up to three groups selected from halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy, carboxy, alkoxy carbonyl, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino, carbamoyl, carboxyalkyl,  
20 alkoxy carbonylalkyl, sulfamoyl, or carbonylamino, or

$R^3$  and  $R^4$  together form a carbocyclic group containing from five to seven members, up to two of which members are optionally heteroatoms selected from oxygen and nitrogen, where the carbocyclic group is optionally substituted with one or two groups selected from halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, mono- or dialkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, or a heterocyclic group.  
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The instant invention includes pharmaceutical compositions of compounds of Formula I and a method of treating Alzheimer's disease, the method comprising administering to a patient having Alzheimer's disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Formula I. Also provided is a method for treating disorders related to amyloidosis, the method comprising administering to a patient having disorders related to amyloidosis a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Formula I.

In a further embodiment, radiolabeled compounds of Formula I are provided, as well as a method for detecting and quantitating amyloid deposits by administering such radiolabeled compound to an animal and measuring the localization thereof in tissues.

Also provided is a method of inhibiting the aggregation of amyloid proteins to form amyloid deposits, the method comprising administering to a patient in need of inhibition of the aggregation of amyloid protein an amyloid protein aggregation inhibiting amount of a compound of Formula I.

In a further embodiment, radiolabeled compounds of Formula I are provided, as well as a method for detecting and quantitating amyloid deposits by administering such radiolabeled compound to an animal and measuring the localization thereof in tissues.

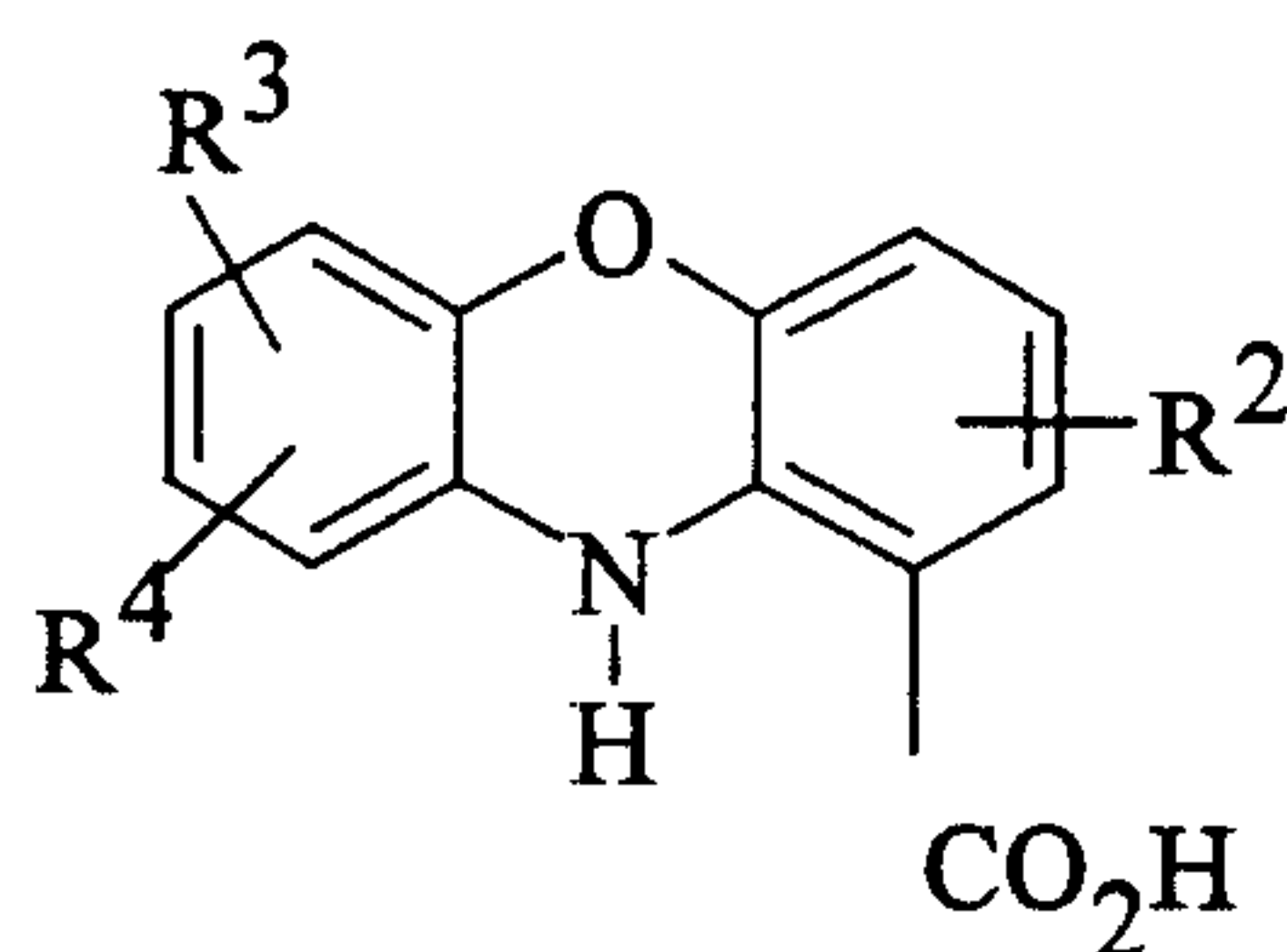
## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The novel compounds encompassed by the instant invention are those described by the general Formula I set forth above, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

Preferred compounds of Formula I are those in which  $R^1$  is hydrogen;  $R^2$  is hydrogen, nitro, or amino;  $R^3$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, halogen, or nitro; and  $R^4$  is halogen, aryl, or arylalkyl.

In addition to the compounds of Formula I, the invention encompasses compounds of Formula II

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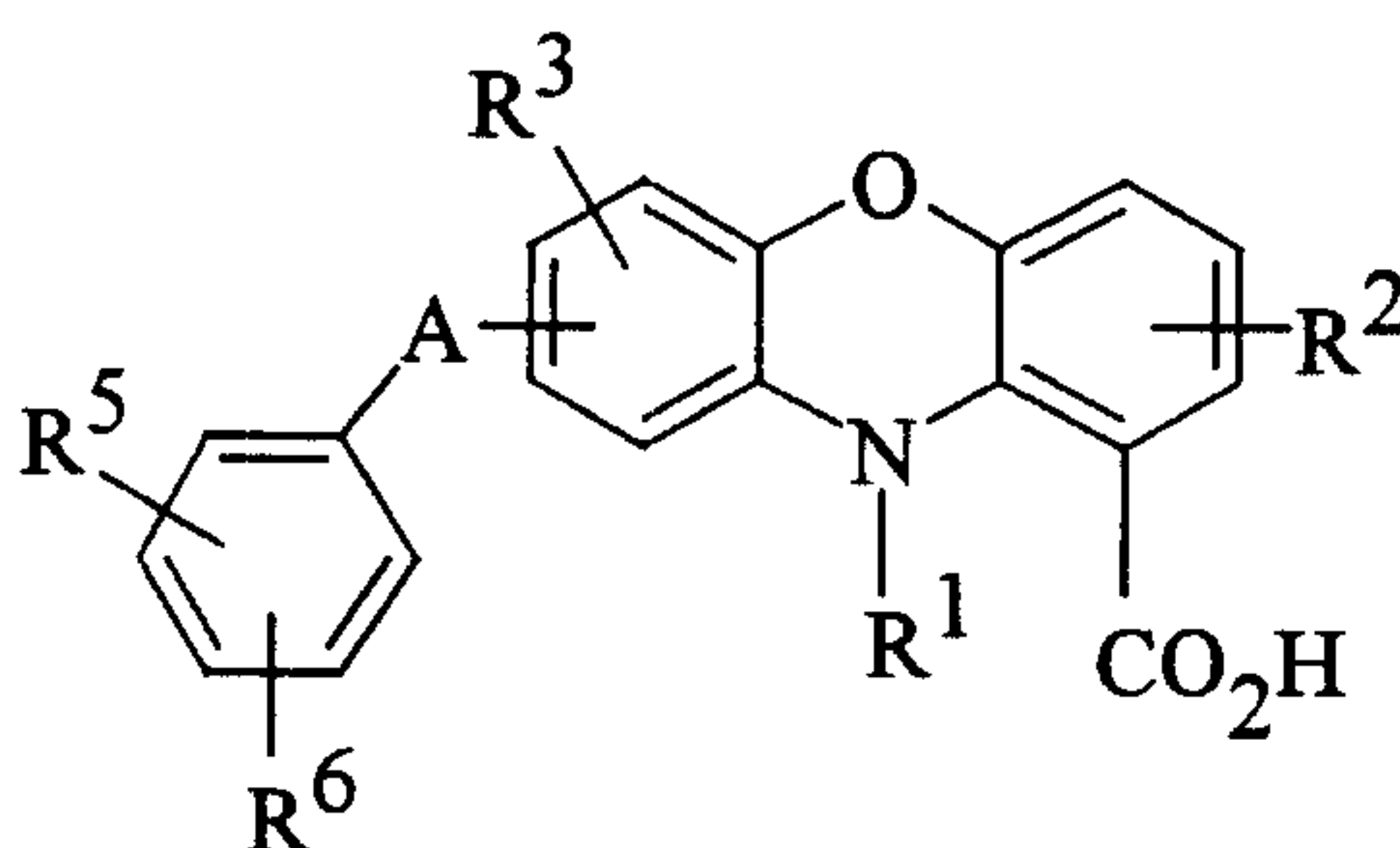


II

wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  are as defined above for Formula I.

Preferred compounds of Formula II are those in which  $R^2$  is hydrogen, nitro, or amino;  $R^3$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, halogen, or nitro; and  $R^4$  is halogen, aryl, or arylalkyl.

In addition, the invention encompasses compounds of Formula III



III

wherein:

$R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and  $R^3$  are as defined above for Formula I;

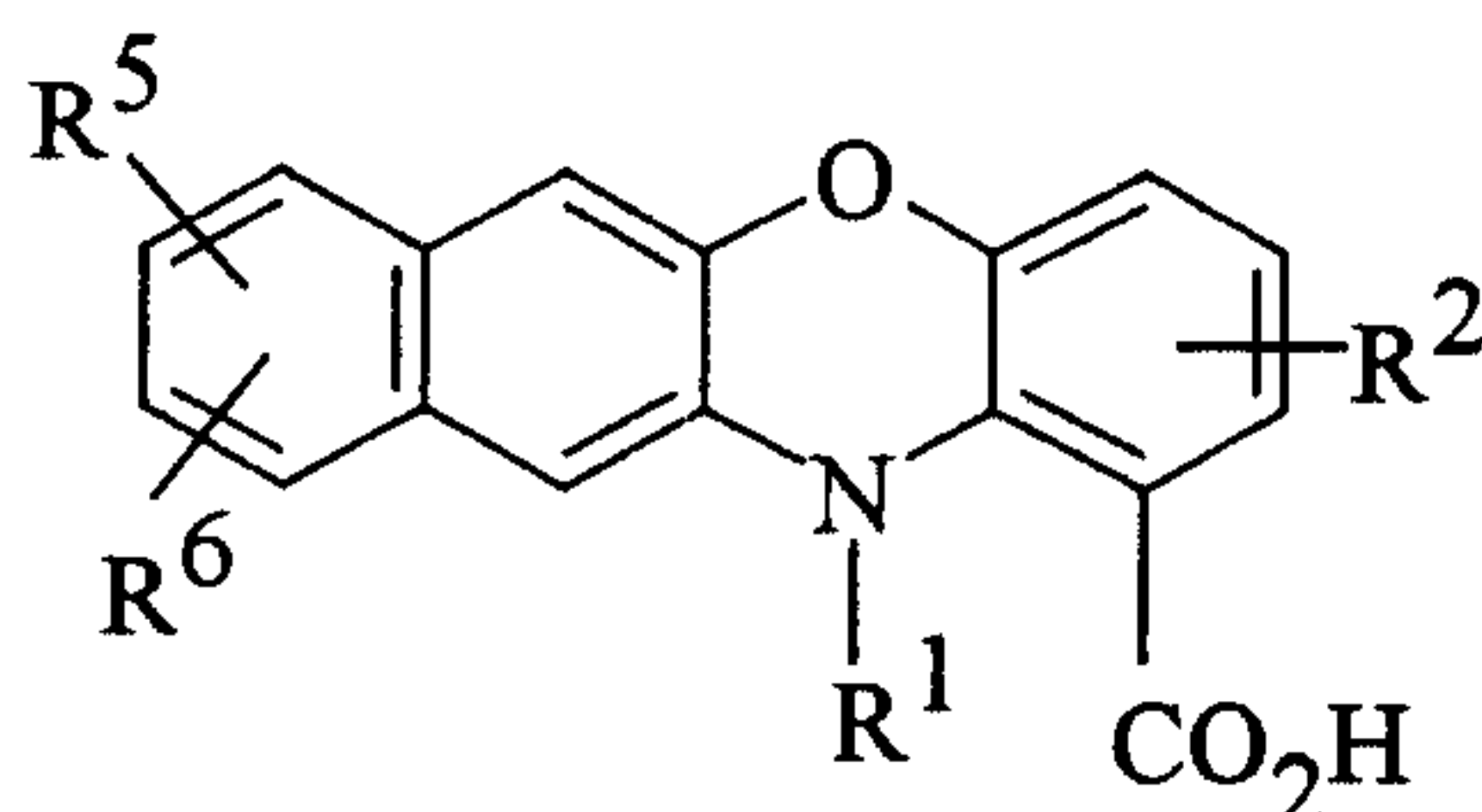
$R^5$  and  $R^6$  are as defined above for  $R^2$  in Formula II; and

A is absent, or is

lower alkyl or lower alkenyl unsubstituted or substituted with one or two groups independently selected from oxo, halogen, hydroxy, carboxy, carbamoyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino.

Preferred compounds of Formula III are those in which  $R^1$  is hydrogen;  $R^2$  is hydrogen, nitro or, amino;  $R^3$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, halogen, or nitro;  $R^5$  is hydrogen or halogen; and  $R^6$  is hydrogen or halogen.

In addition, the invention encompasses compounds of Formula IV:



IV



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wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>6</sup> are as defined above for Formula I.

Preferred compounds of Formula IV are those in which R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen; R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, nitro, or amino; R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy, or halogen; and R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy, or halogen.

5 Another preferred group of compounds are those of Formula I wherein R<sup>1</sup> is alkyl.

Except as expressly defined otherwise, the following definition of terms is employed throughout this specification.

10 The terms "alkyl", "lower alkyl", or "(C1-C6)-alkyl" mean a straight or branched hydrocarbon having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and includes, for example, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, isobutyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, and the like. The alkyl group can also be substituted with one or more of the substituents listed below for aryl.

15 By "alkoxy," "lower alkoxy," or "(C1-C6)-alkoxy" in the present invention is meant straight or branched chain alkoxy groups having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, such as, for example, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, n-butoxy, sec-butoxy, tert-butoxy, pentoxy, 2-pentyl, isopentoxy, neopentoxy, hexoxy, 2-hexoxy, 3-hexoxy, and 3-methylpentoxy.

20 The term "cycloalkyl" means a carbocyclic ring having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms. Examples include cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, and cycloheptyl. The rings may be substituted with one or more of the substituents listed below for aryl. Examples include 2-aminocyclobutyl.

The term "halogen" includes chlorine, fluorine, bromine, and iodine, and their monovalent radicals.

25 The term "aryl" means an aromatic carbocyclic group having a single ring (e.g., phenyl), multiple rings (e.g., biphenyl), or multiple condensed rings in which at least one is aromatic (e.g., 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthyl, naphthyl, anthryl, or phenanthryl), unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from alkyl, O-alkyl and S-alkyl, OH, SH, -CN, halogen, 1,3-dioxolanyl, CF<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>,  
30 NH<sub>2</sub>, NHCH<sub>3</sub>, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, NHCO-alkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>-alkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>H, -NH alkyl, -N(alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>PO<sub>3</sub>(alkyl)<sub>2</sub>,

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-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, and -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NH-alkyl wherein alkyl is defined as above and m is 0, 1, 2, or 3. A preferable aryl group of the present invention is phenyl. Typical substituted phenyl groups include 2-chlorophenyl, 3-methoxyphenyl, 4-aminophenyl, 3,5-dinitrophenyl, 2,6-dibromo-4-ethoxyphenyl, and 2-hydroxy-  
 5 3-cyano-5-trifluoromethylphenyl.

The term "aralkyl" or "arylalkyl" means an alkyl moiety (as defined above) substituted with an aryl moiety (also as defined above).

By heteroaryl (aromatic heterocycle) in the present invention is meant one or more aromatic ring systems of 5-, 6-, or 7-membered rings containing at least  
 10 one and up to four heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen, or sulfur. Such heteroaryl groups include, for example, thienyl, furanyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, (is)oxazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, (iso)quinolinyl, naphthyridinyl, benzimidazolyl, and benzoxazolyl. The heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from alkyl, O-alkyl and S-alkyl, OH, SH, -CN,  
 15 halogen, 1,3-dioxolanyl, CF<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHCH<sub>3</sub>, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, NHCO-alkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>-alkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>H, -NH alkyl, -N(alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>PO<sub>3</sub>(alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, and -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NH-alkyl wherein alkyl is defined as above and m is 0, 1, 2, or 3. A preferable heteroaryl group of the present invention is 2-, 3- or 4-pyridine. Examples of  
 20 substituted heteroaryl groups include 2-chloropyridin-4-yl, 6-methoxynaphthyridin-2-yl, 6-trifluoromethylpyrimidin-2-yl, 5,6-diethoxybenzimidazol-2-yl, and 4-chloro-5-nitro-7-acetamidobenzoxazol-2-yl.

The symbol "-" means a covalent bond.

The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, and prodrug" as  
 25 used herein refers to those carboxylate salts, amino acid addition salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs of the compounds of the present invention which are, within the scope of sound medical judgement, suitable for use in contact with the tissues of patients without undue toxicity, irritation, allergic response, and the like, commensurate with a reasonable benefit/risk ratio, and effective for their intended  
 30 use, as well as the zwitterionic forms, where possible, of the compounds of the invention. The term "salts" refers to the relatively nontoxic, inorganic and organic acid addition salts of compounds of the present invention. These salts can be

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prepared in situ during the final isolation and purification of the compounds or by separately reacting the purified compound in its free base form with a suitable organic or inorganic acid and isolating the salt thus formed. Representative salts include the hydrobromide, hydrochloride, sulfate, bisulfate, nitrate, acetate, oxalate, valerate, oleate, palmitate, stearate, laureate, borate, benzoate, lactate, phosphate, tosylate, citrate, maleate, fumarate, succinate, tartrate, naphthylate mesylate, glucoheptonate, lactobionate and laurylsulphonate salts, and the like. These may include cations based on the alkali and alkaline earth metals, such as sodium, lithium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and the like, as well as, nontoxic ammonium, quaternary ammonium, and amine cations including, but not limited to ammonium, tetramethylammonium, tetraethylammonium, methylamine, dimethylamine, trimethylamine, triethylamine, ethylamine, and the like. (See, for example, Berge S.M., et al., *Pharmaceutical Salts*, *J. Pharm. Sci.*, 1977;66:1-19 which is incorporated herein by reference.)

Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable, nontoxic esters of the compounds of this invention include C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl esters wherein the alkyl group is a straight or branched chain. Acceptable esters also include C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> cycloalkyl esters as well as arylalkyl esters such as, but not limited to benzyl. C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl esters are preferred. Esters of the compounds of the present invention may be prepared according to conventional methods.

Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable, nontoxic amides of the compounds of this invention include amides derived from ammonia, primary C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl amines and secondary C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> dialkyl amines wherein the alkyl groups are straight or branched chain. In the case of secondary amines, the amine may also be in the form of a 5- or 6-membered heterocycle containing one nitrogen atom. Amides derived from ammonia, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkyl primary amides and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> dialkyl secondary amides are preferred. Amides of the compounds of the invention may be prepared according to conventional methods.

The term "prodrug" refers to compounds that are rapidly transformed in vivo to yield the parent compound of the above formulas, for example, by hydrolysis in blood. A thorough discussion is provided in Higuchi T. and Stella V., Pro-drugs as Novel Delivery Systems, Vol. 14 of the A.C.S. Symposium

Series, and in Bioreversible Carriers in Drug Design, ed. Edward B. Roche, American Pharmaceutical Association and Pergamon Press, 1987, both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

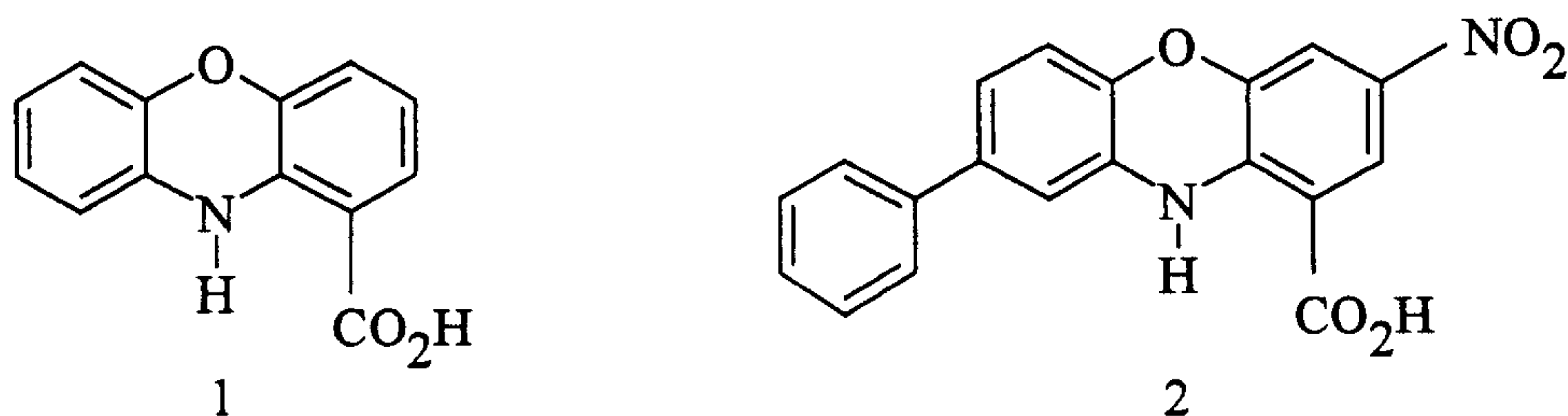
5 All of the foregoing pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs are readily prepared and used by pharmaceutical scientists and medical personnel to whom this invention is directed. Such compounds are those that are pharmaceutically acceptable and can be administered to animals, including humans, for the treatments and other uses described herein.

10 In addition, the compounds of the present invention can exist in unsolvated as well as solvated forms with pharmaceutically acceptable solvents such as water, ethanol, and the like. In general, the solvated forms are considered equivalent to the unsolvated forms for the purposes of the present invention.

15 Certain of the compounds of the present invention possess one or more chiral centers and each center may exist in the R or S configuration. The present invention includes all diastereomeric, enantiomeric, and epimeric forms as well as the appropriate mixtures thereof. Additionally, the compounds of the present invention may exist as geometric isomers. The present invention includes all cis, trans, syn, anti, entgegen (E), and zusammen (Z) isomers as well as the appropriate mixtures thereof.

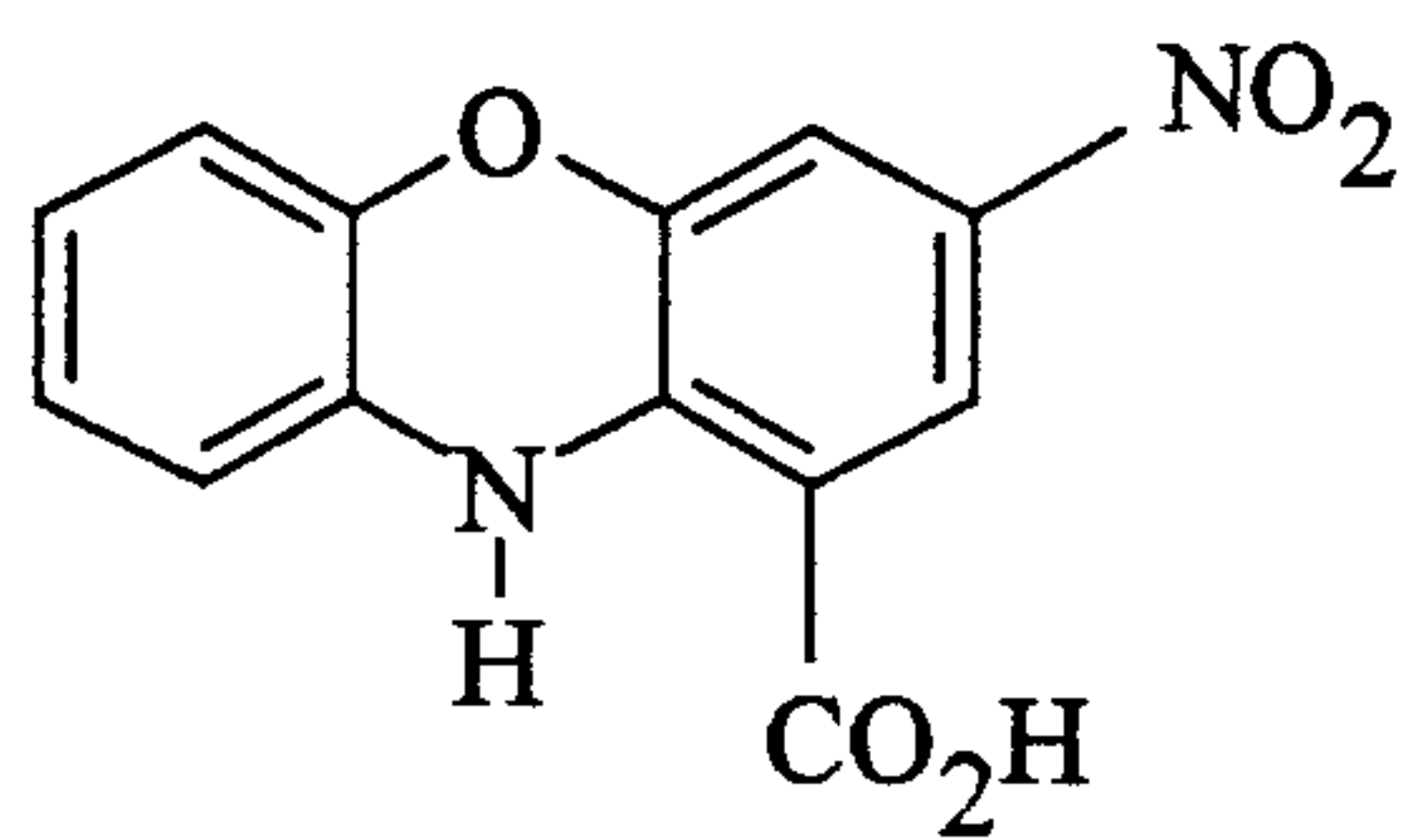
20 Representative compounds of the invention are shown below in Table 1.

TABLE 1

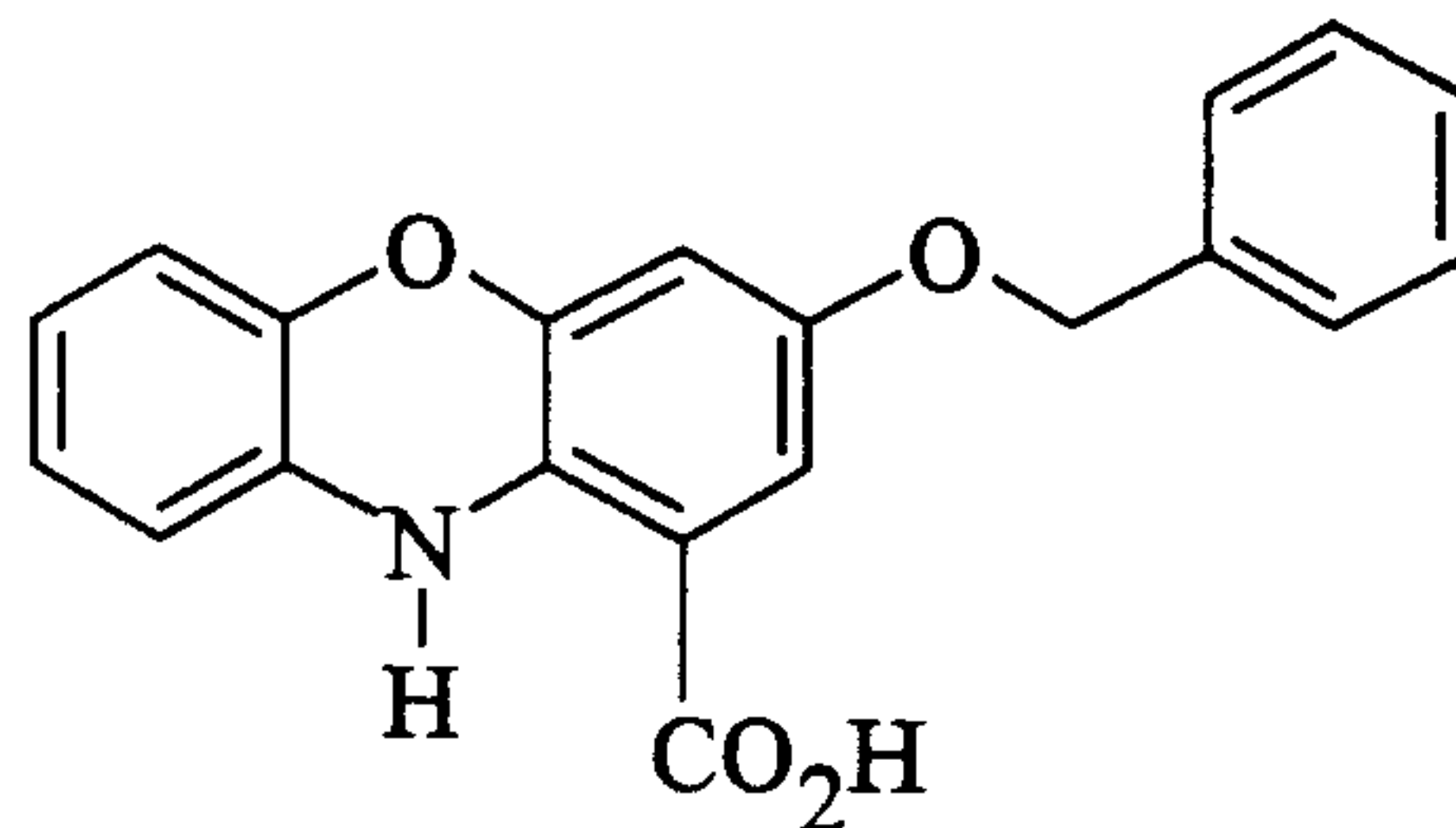


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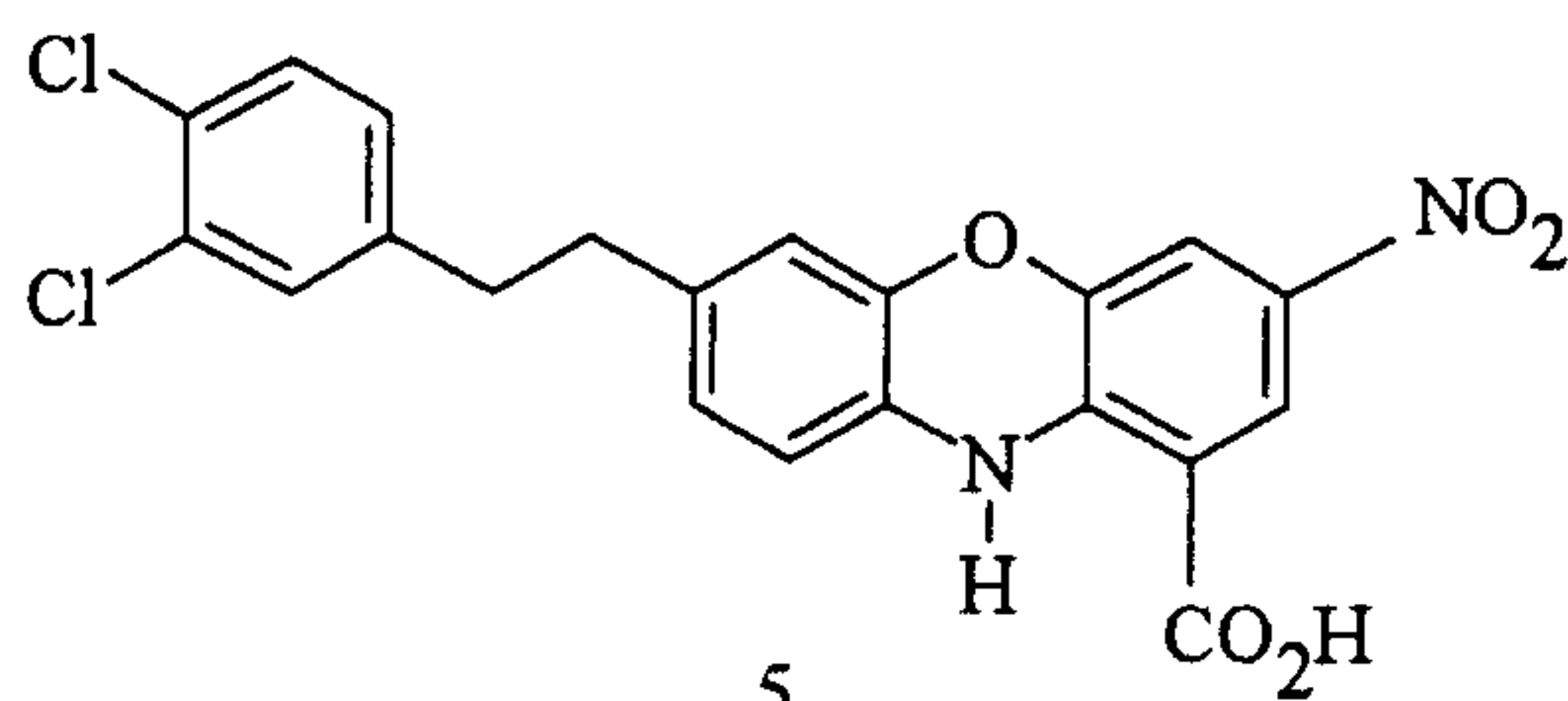
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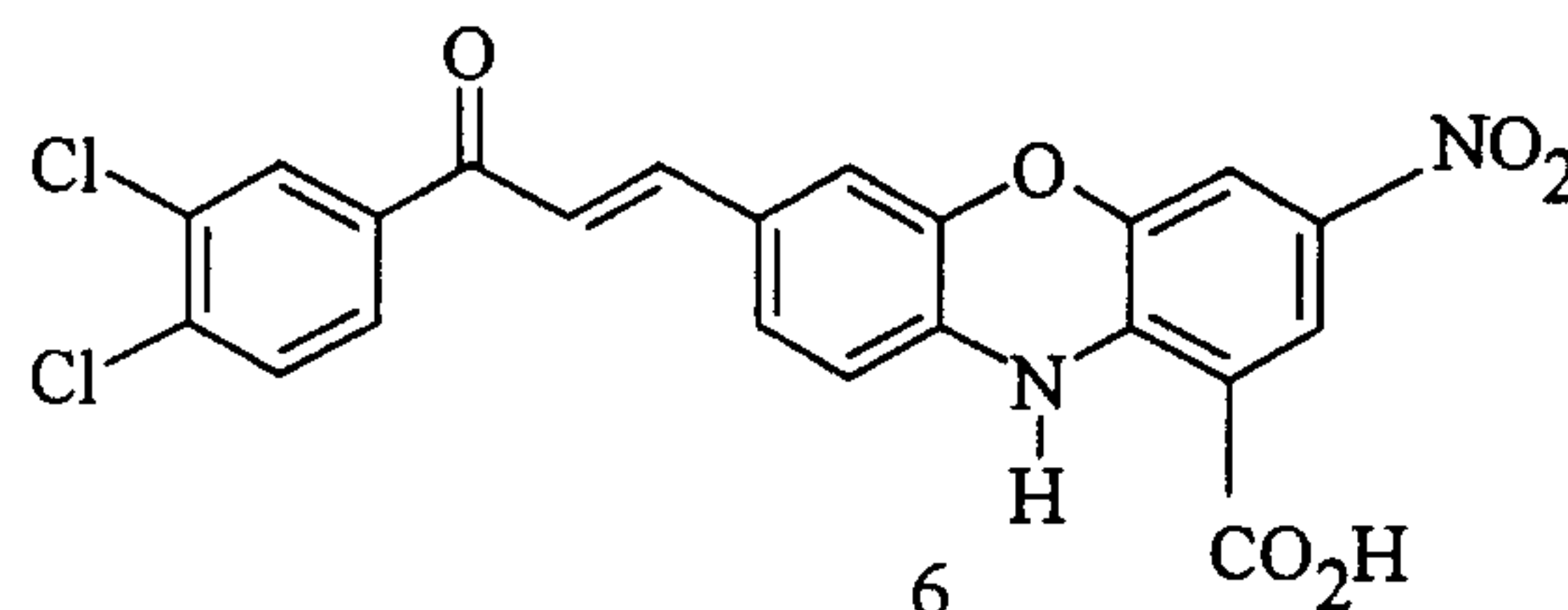
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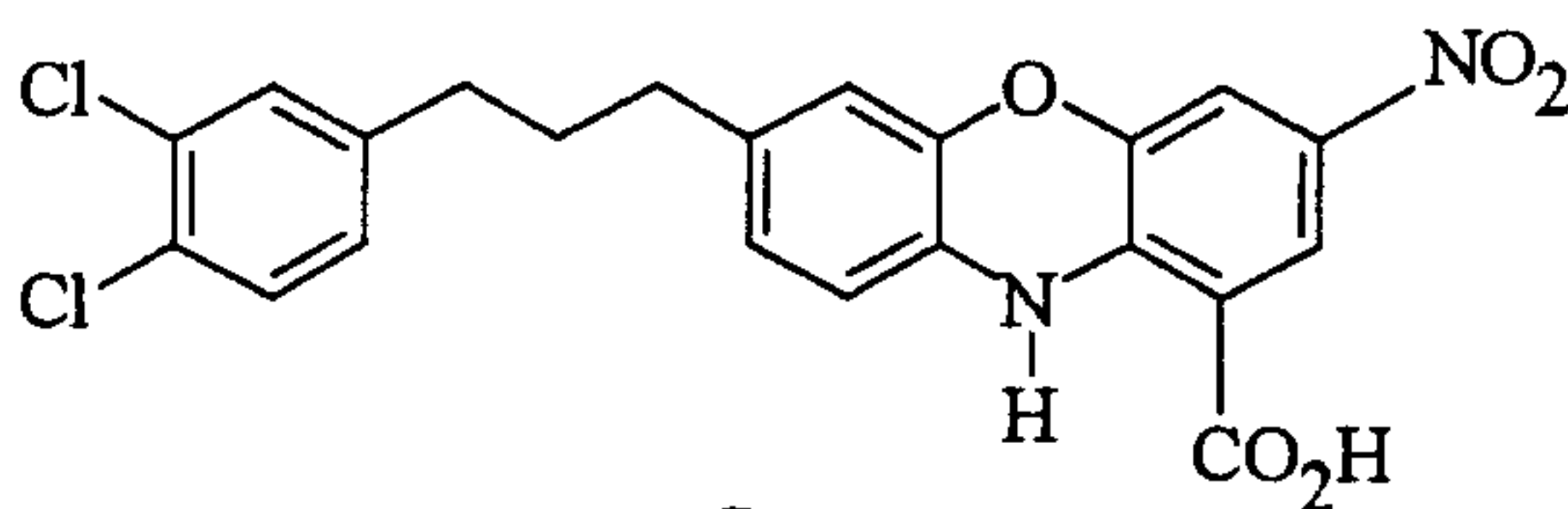
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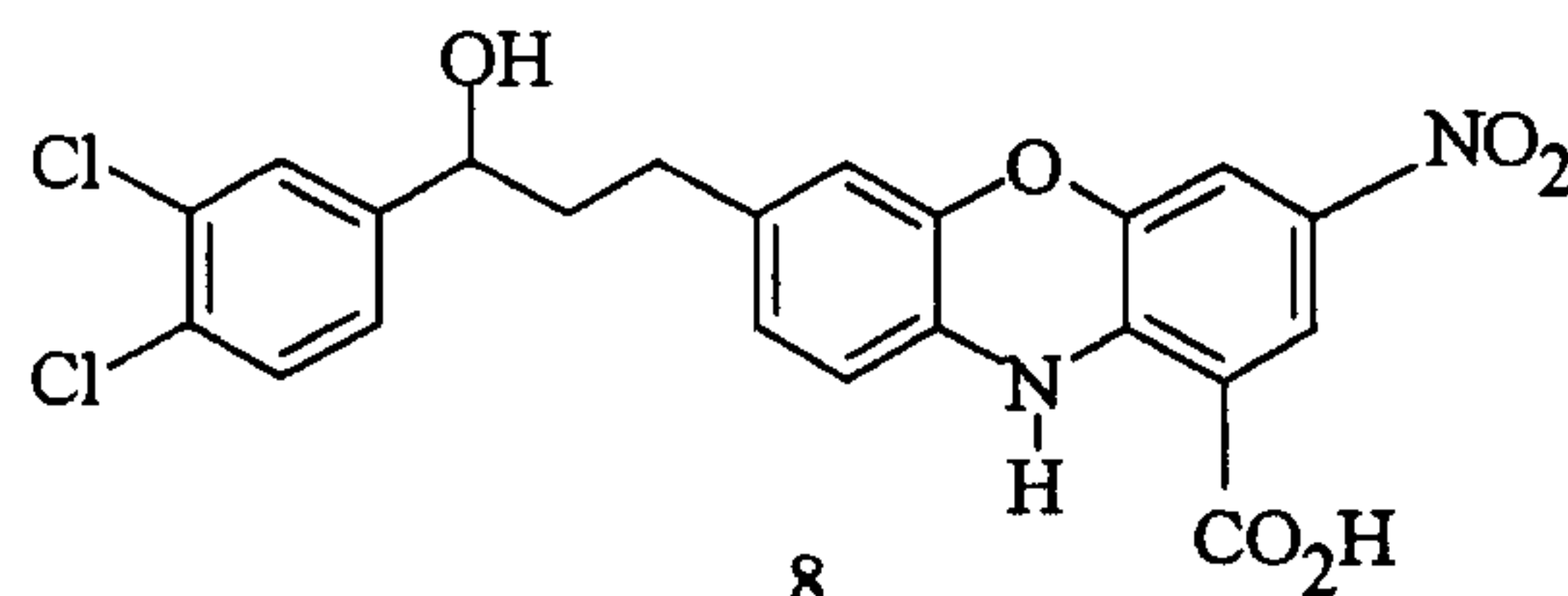
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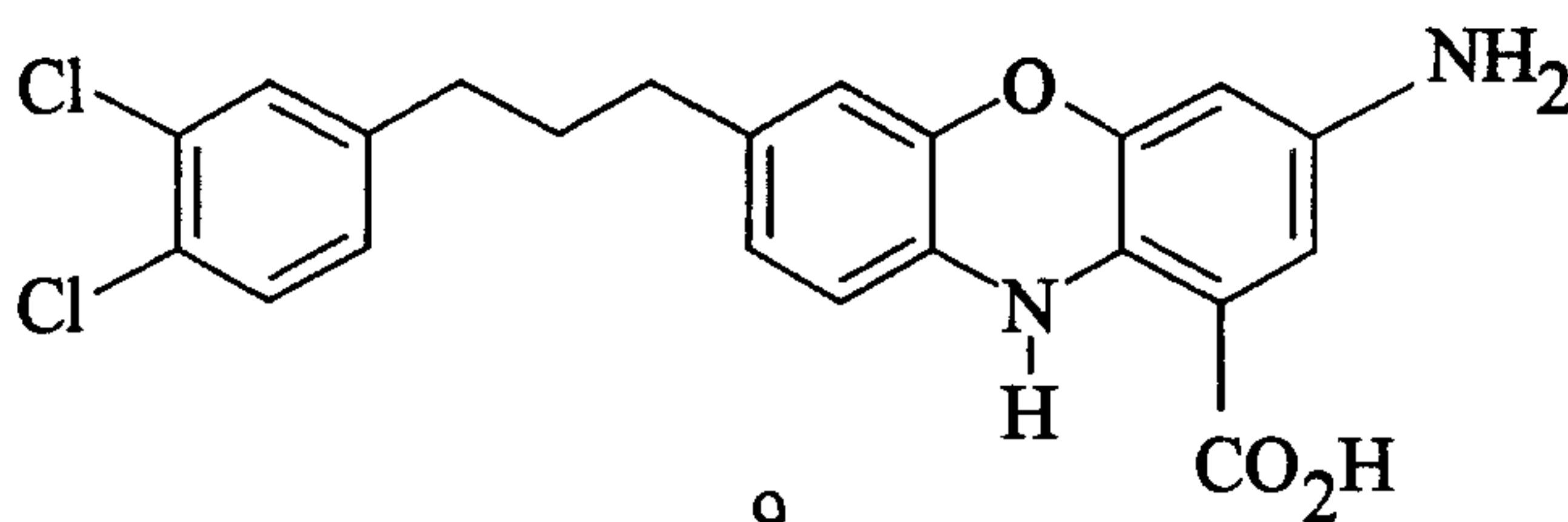
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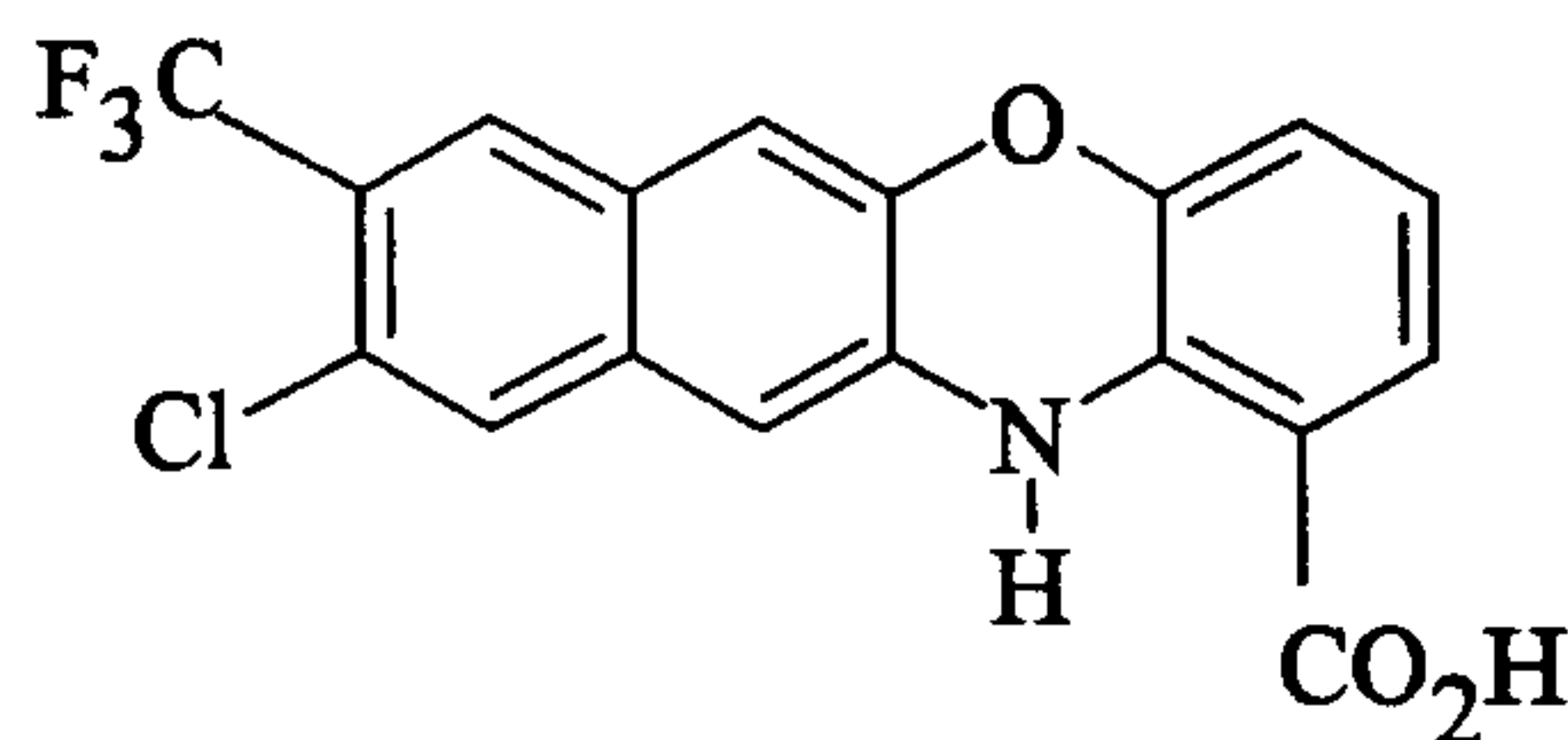
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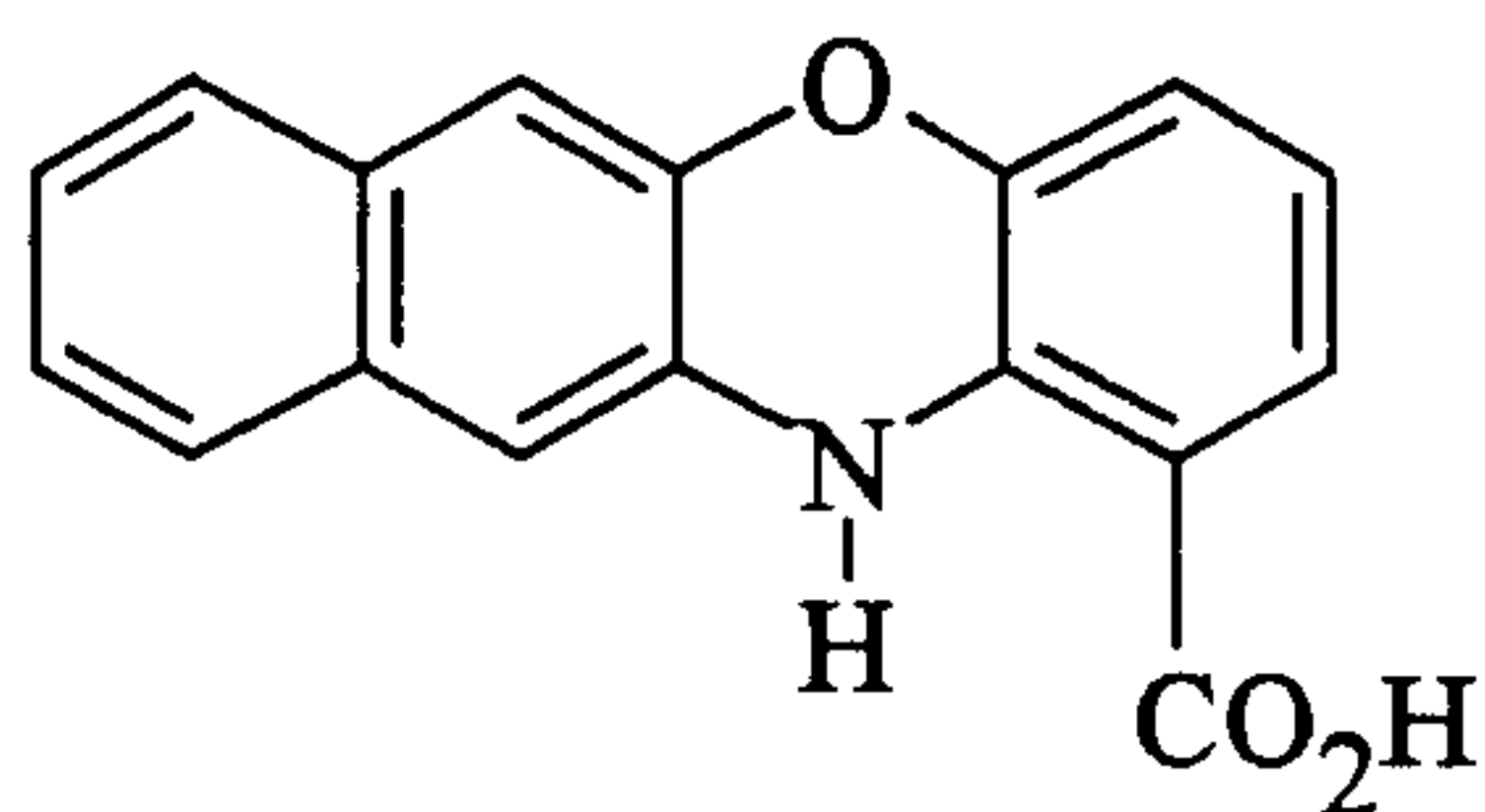


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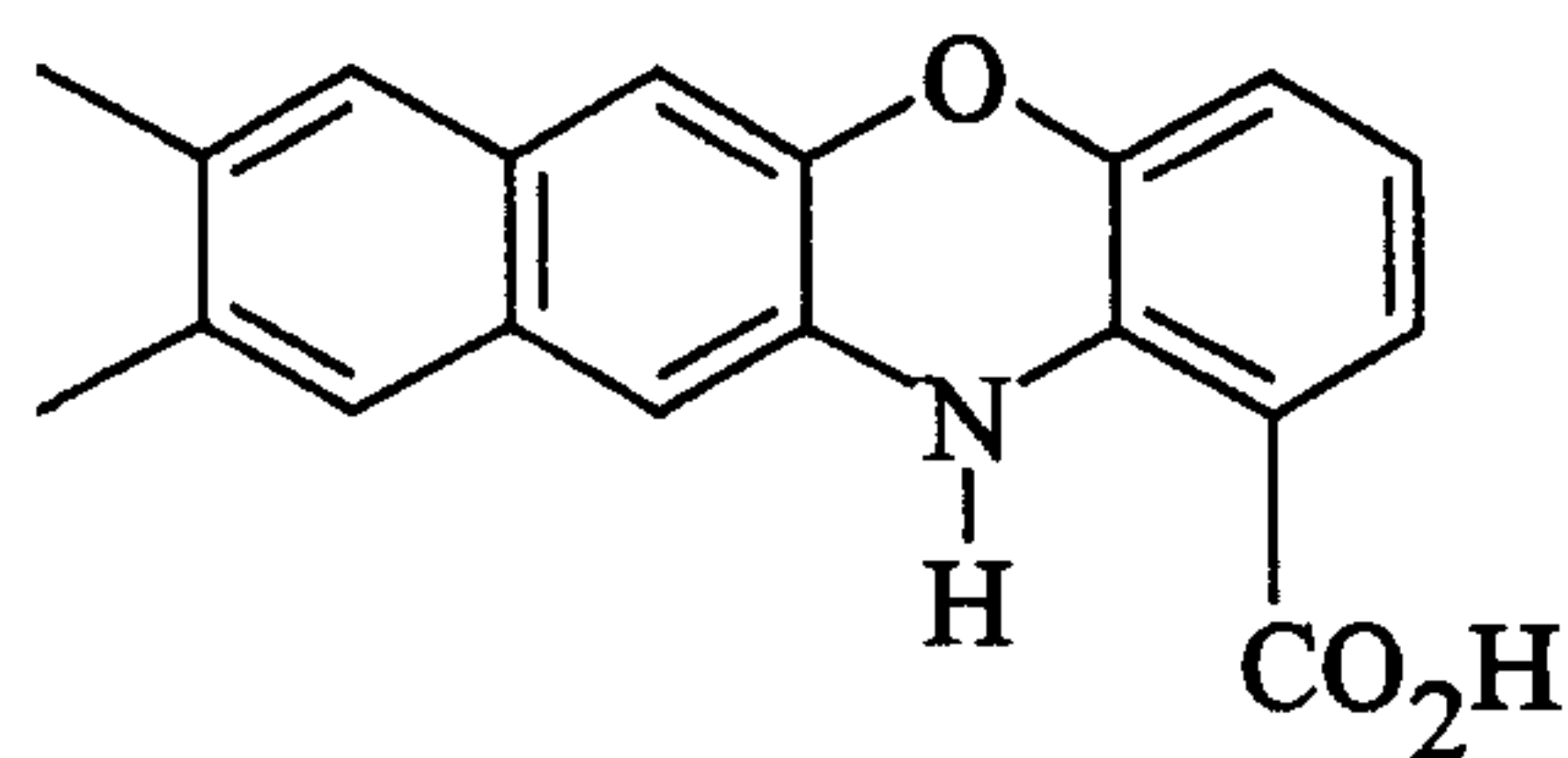


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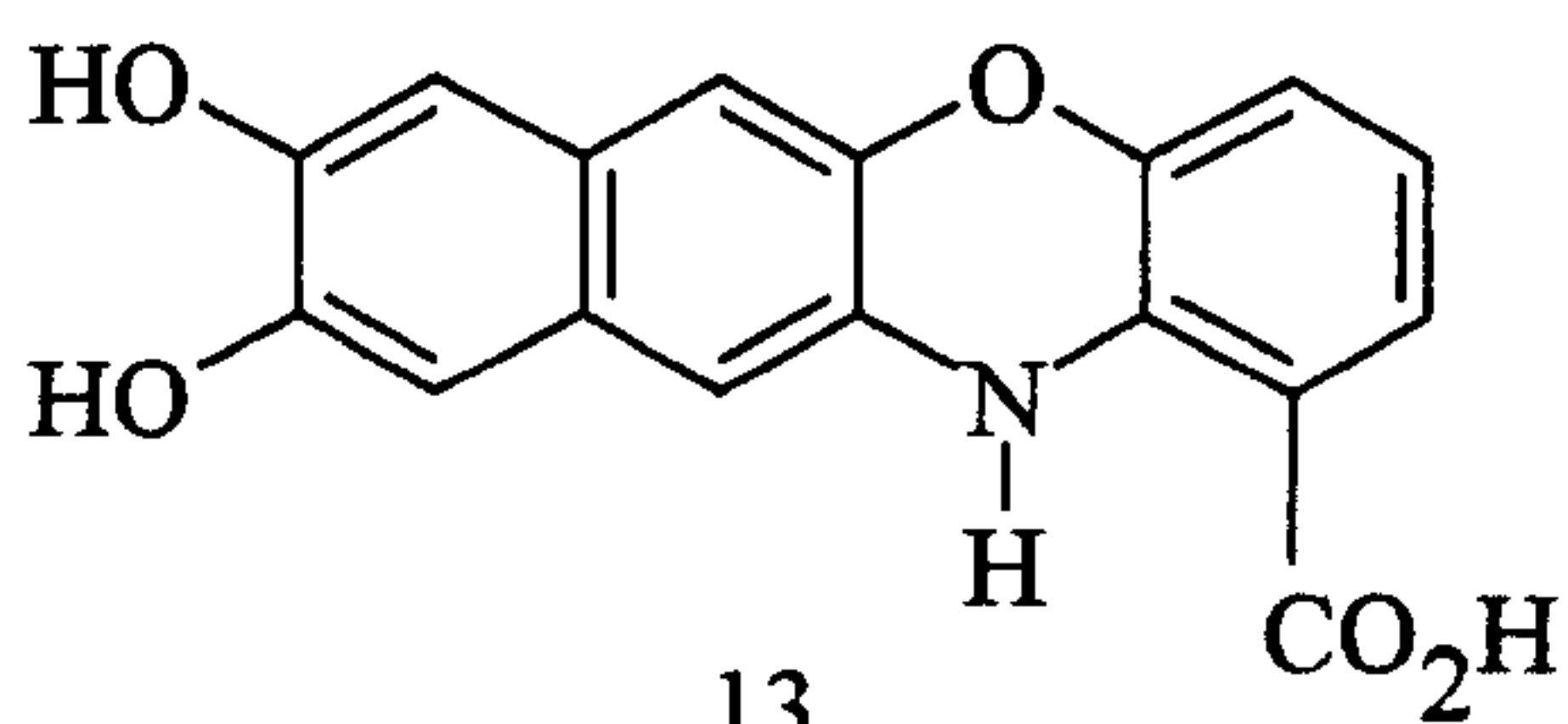
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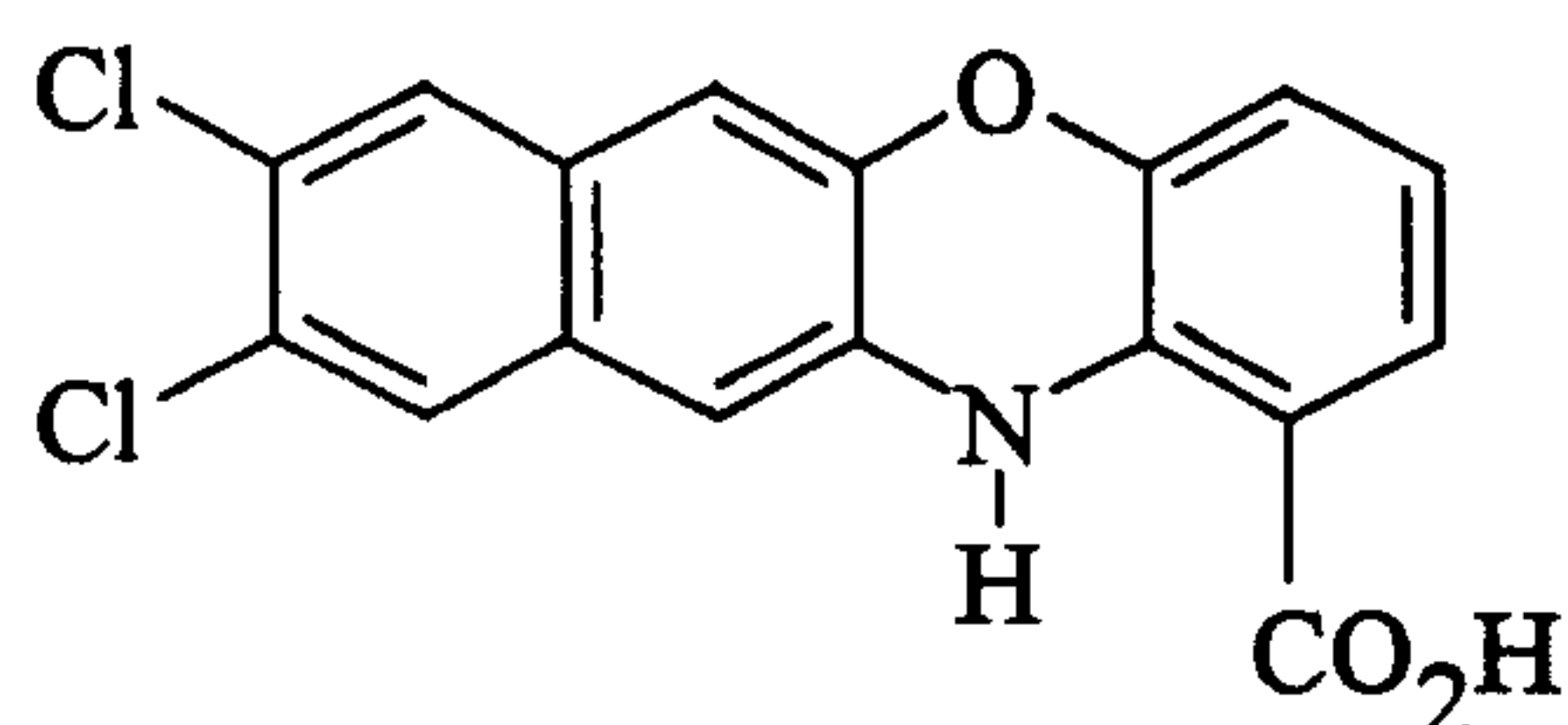
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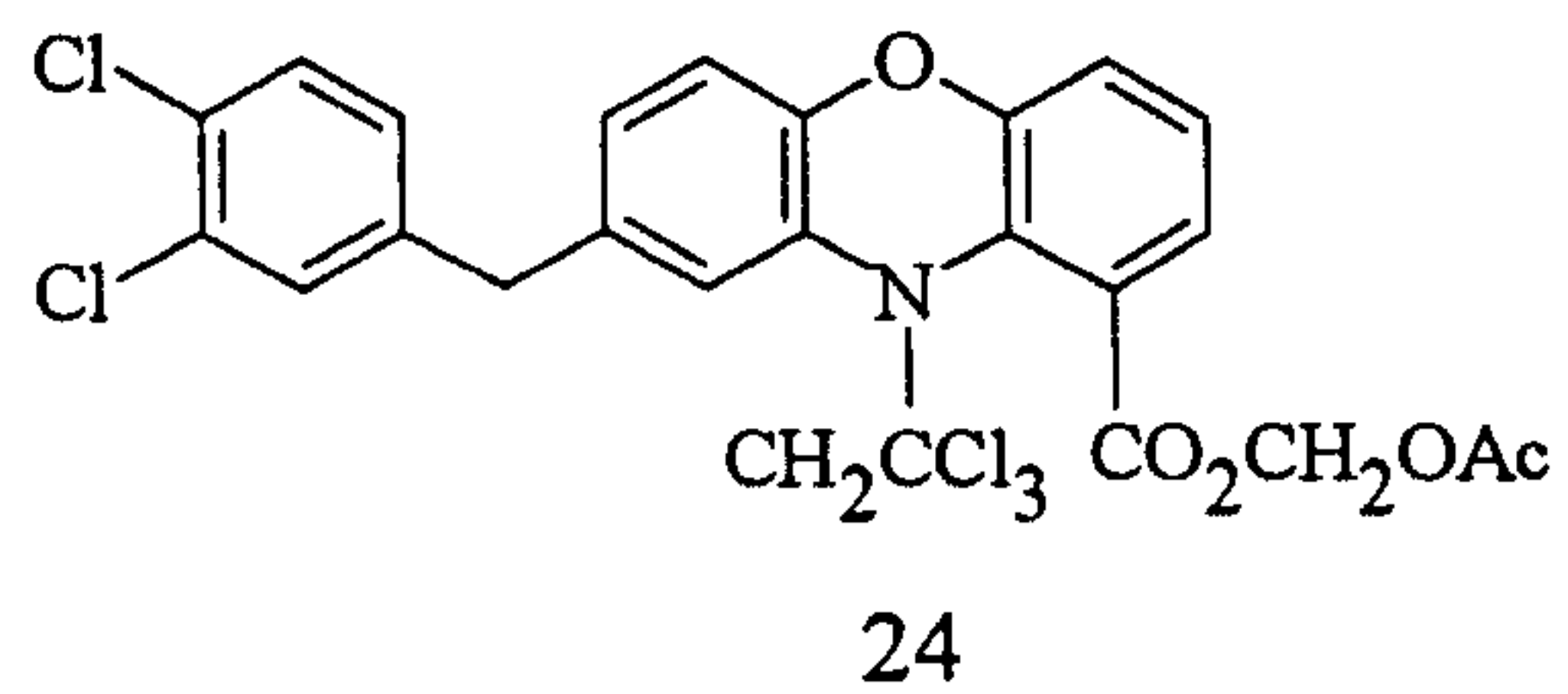
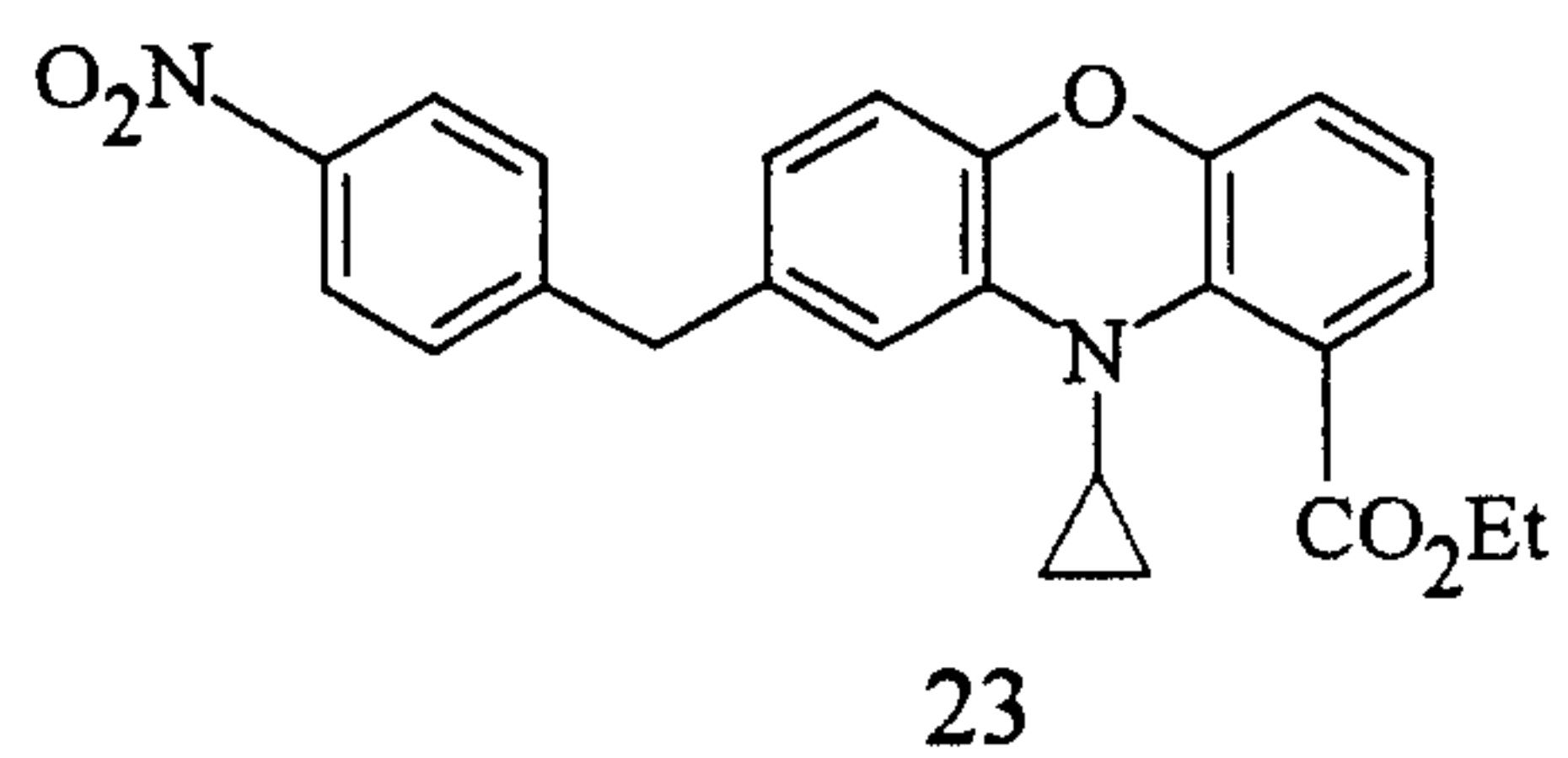
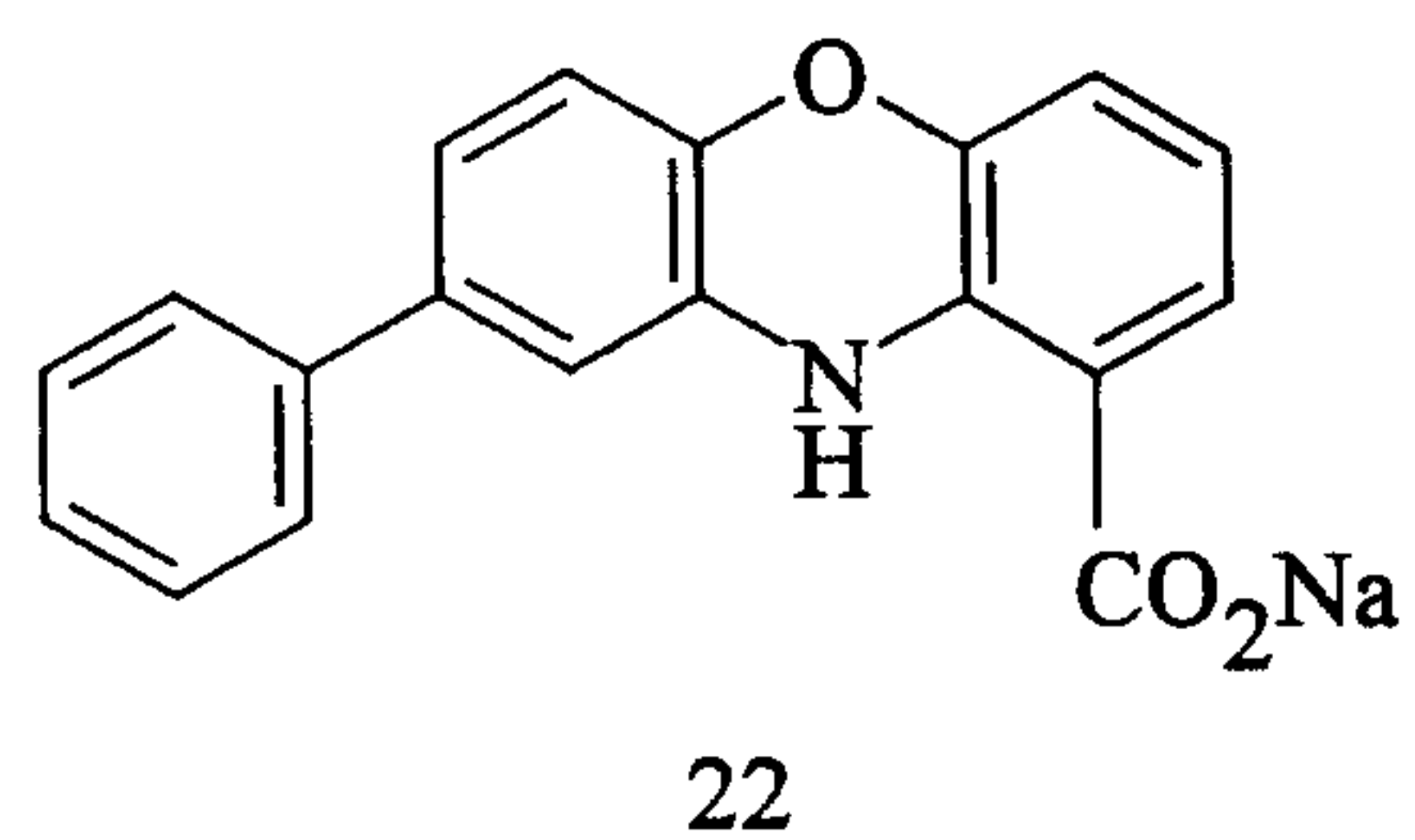
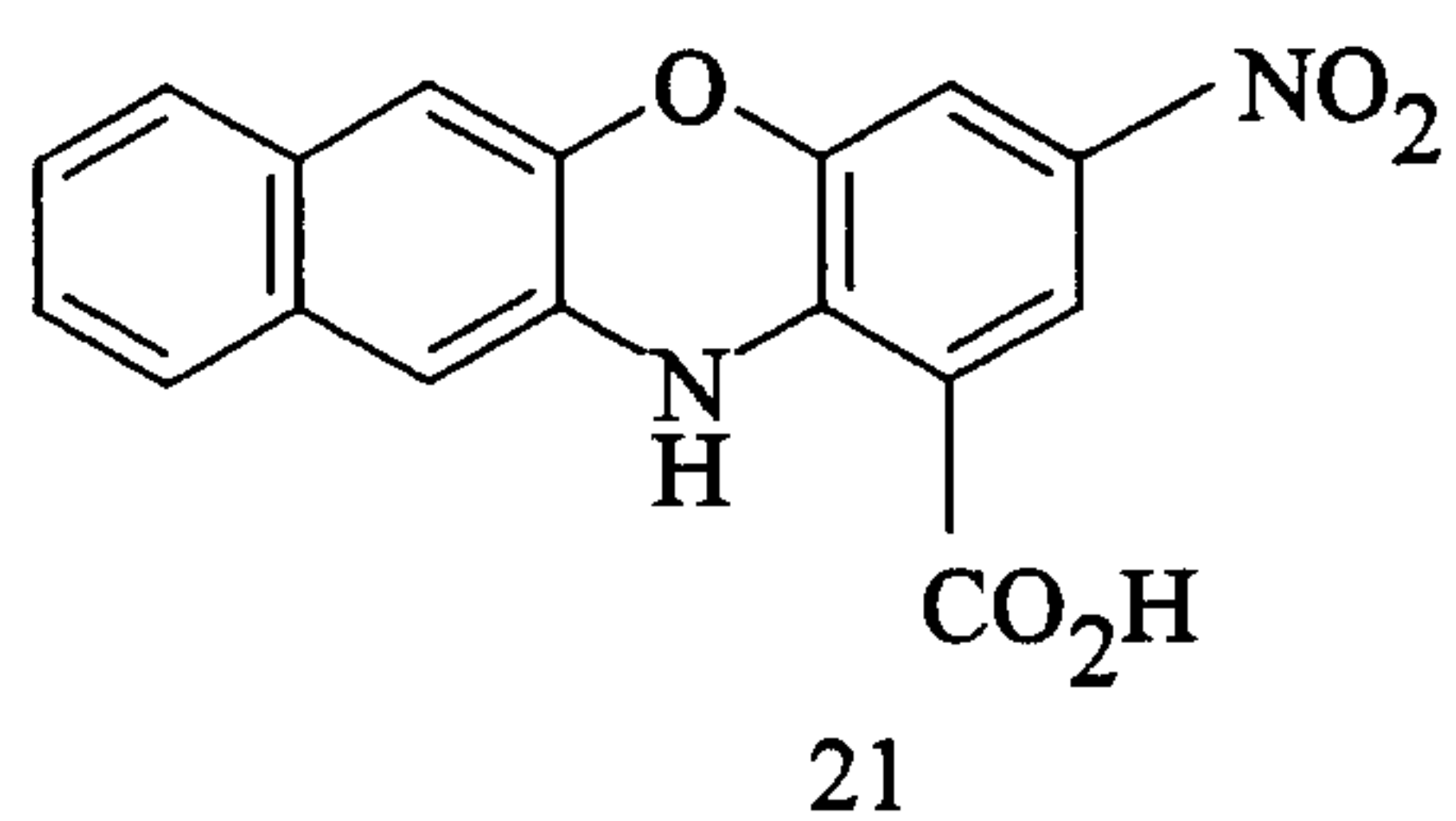
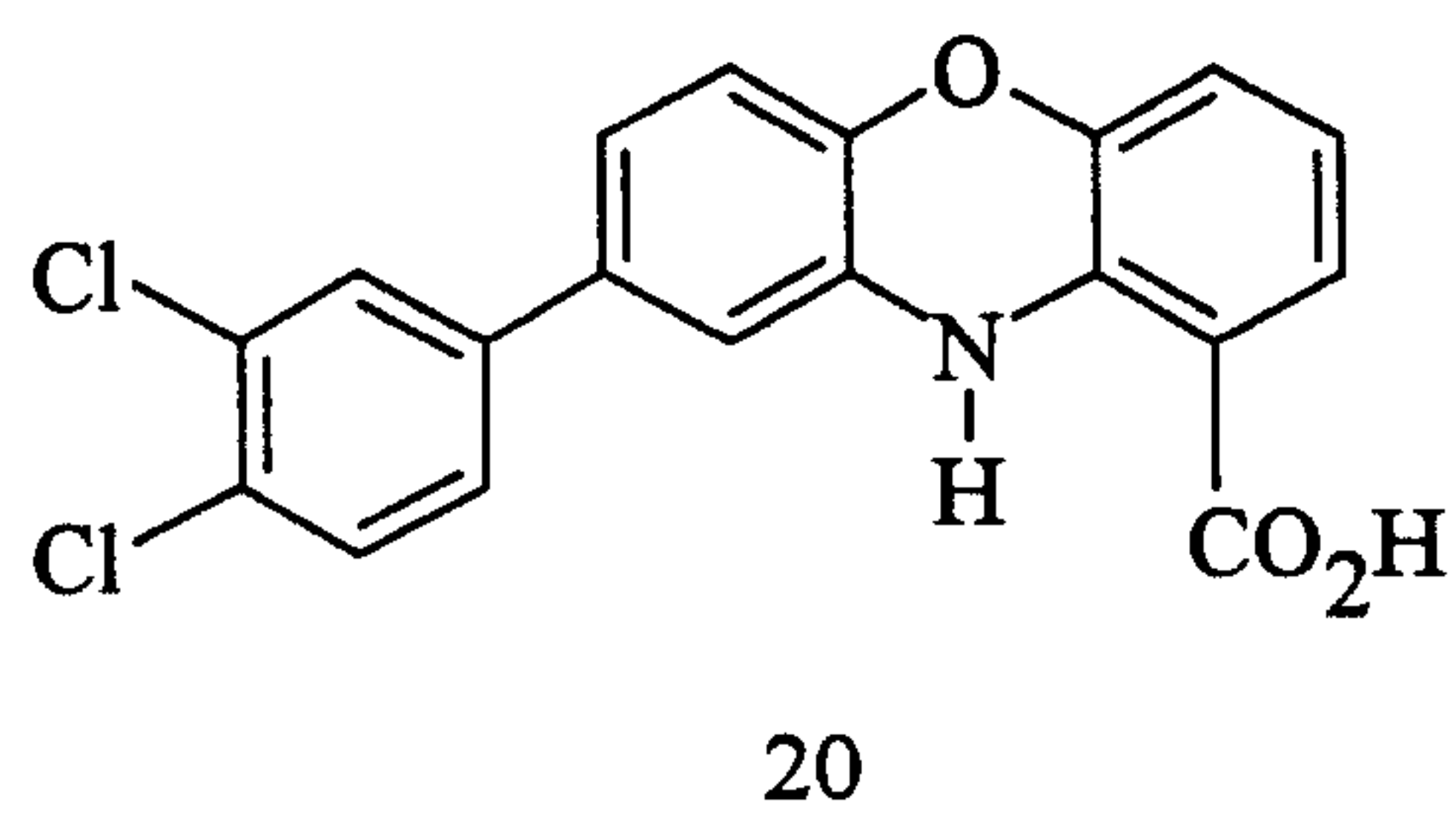
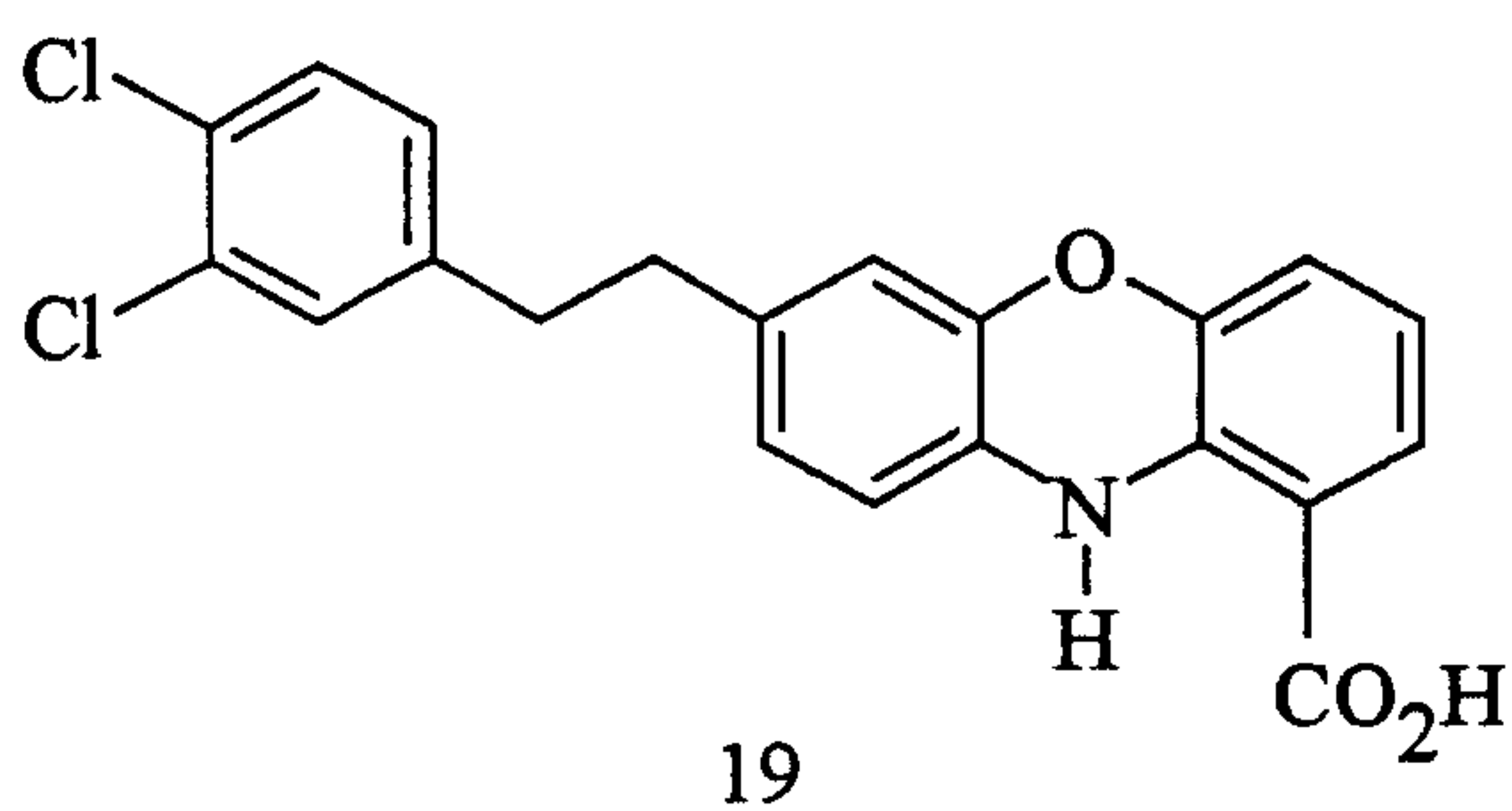
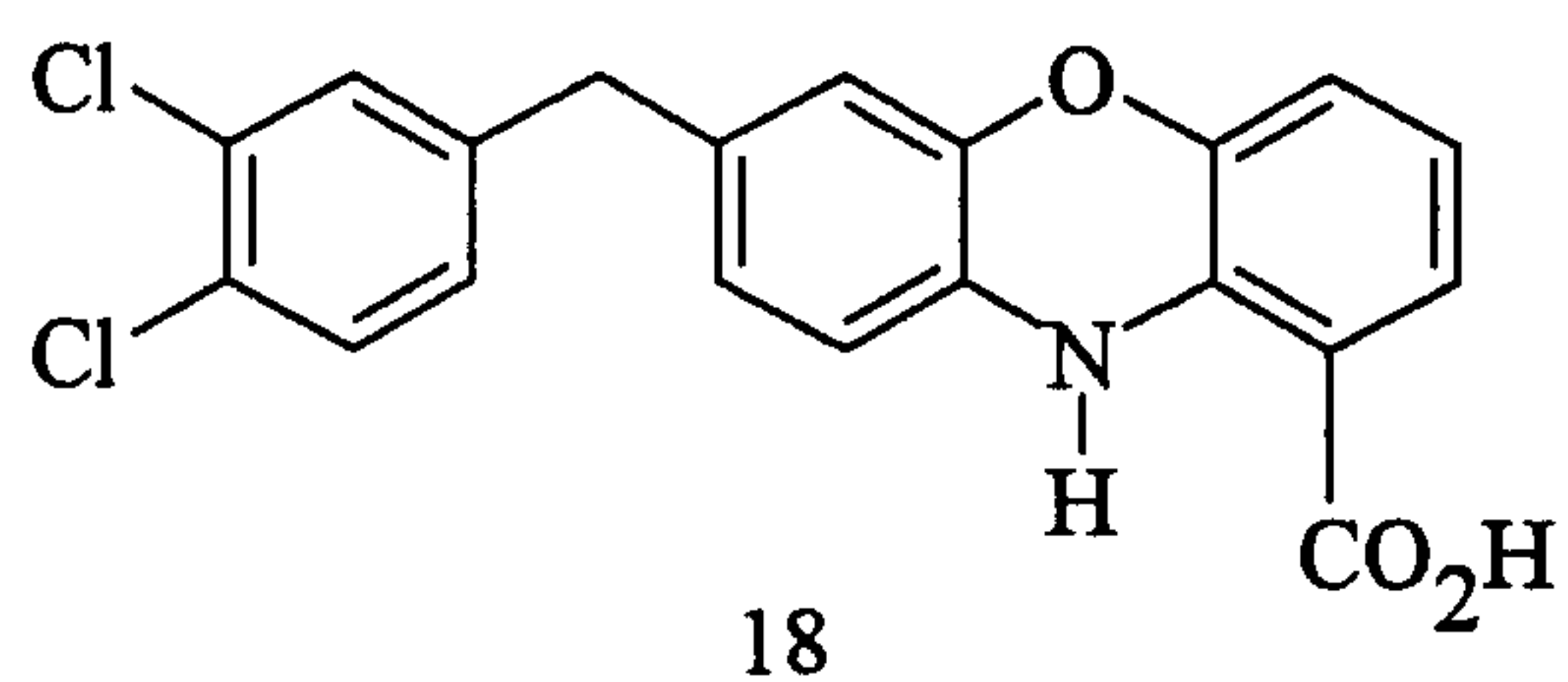
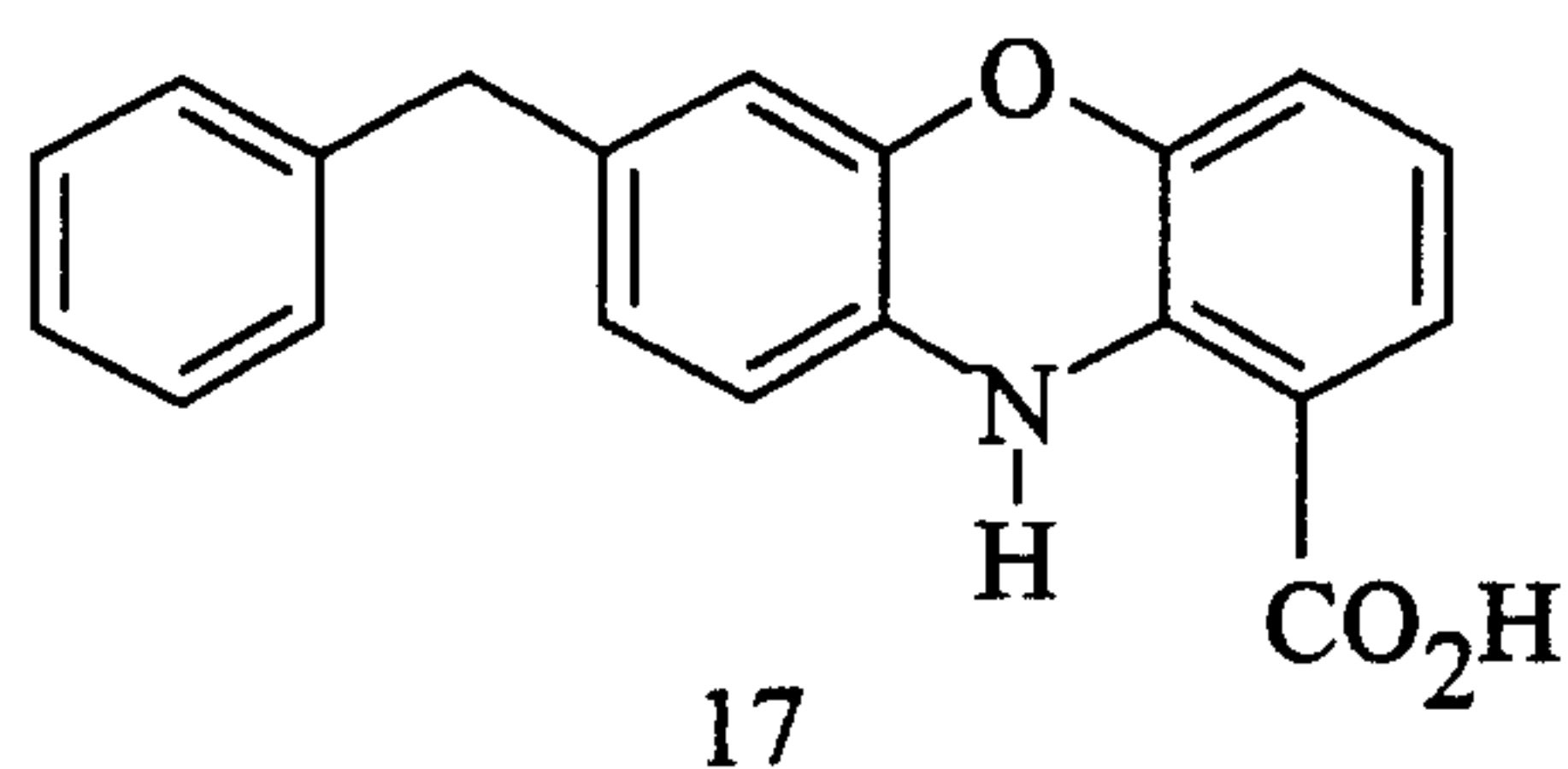
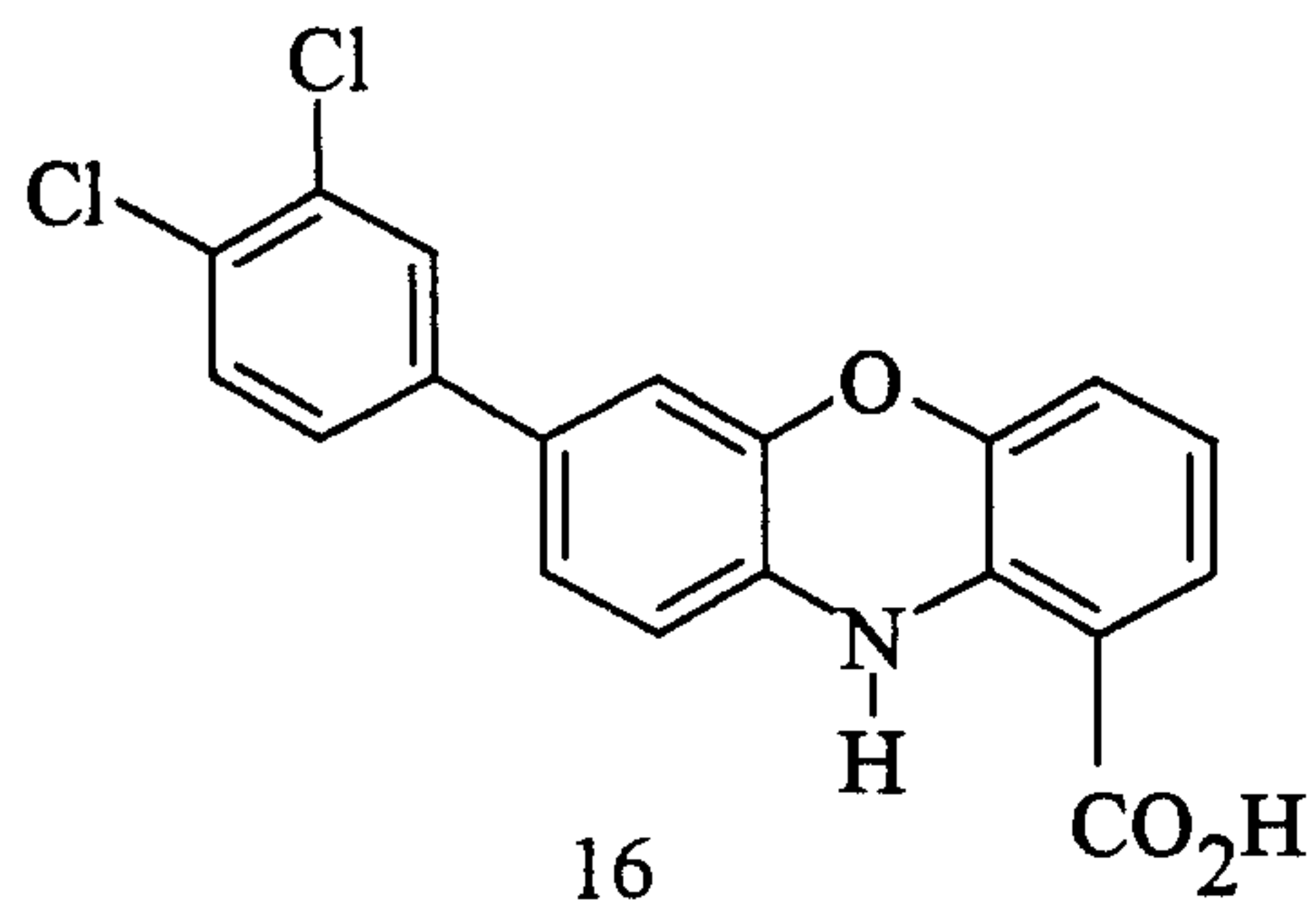
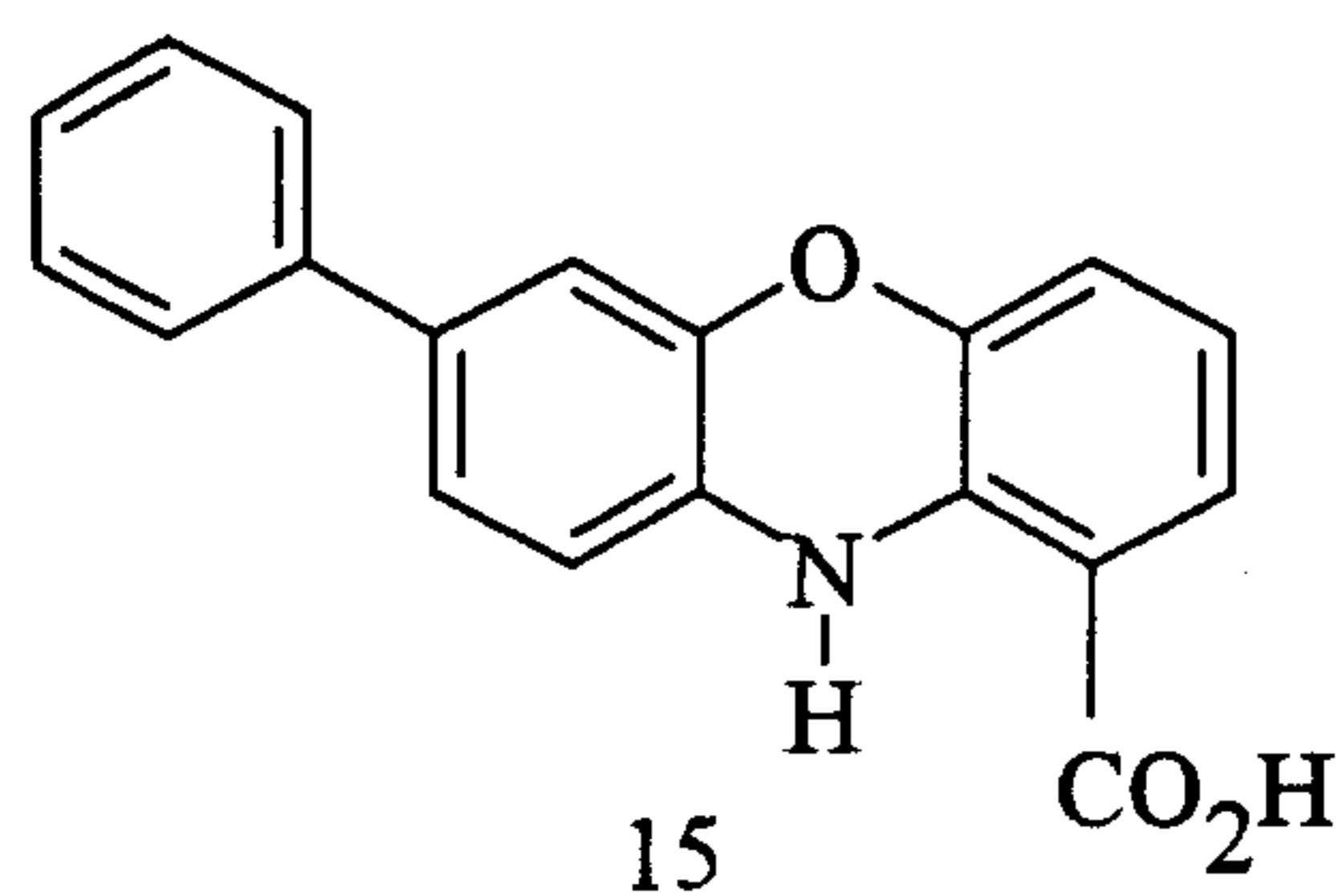
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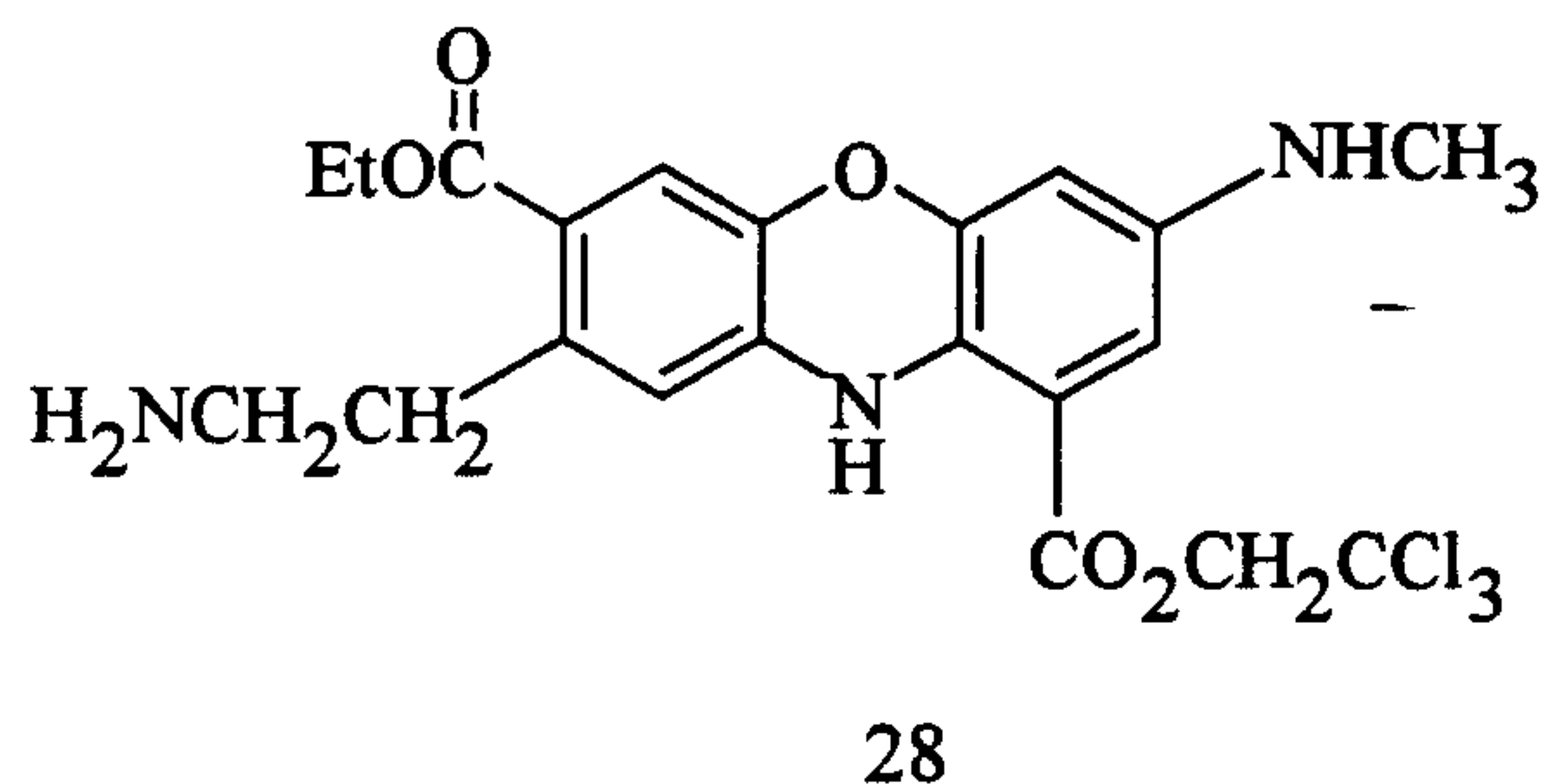
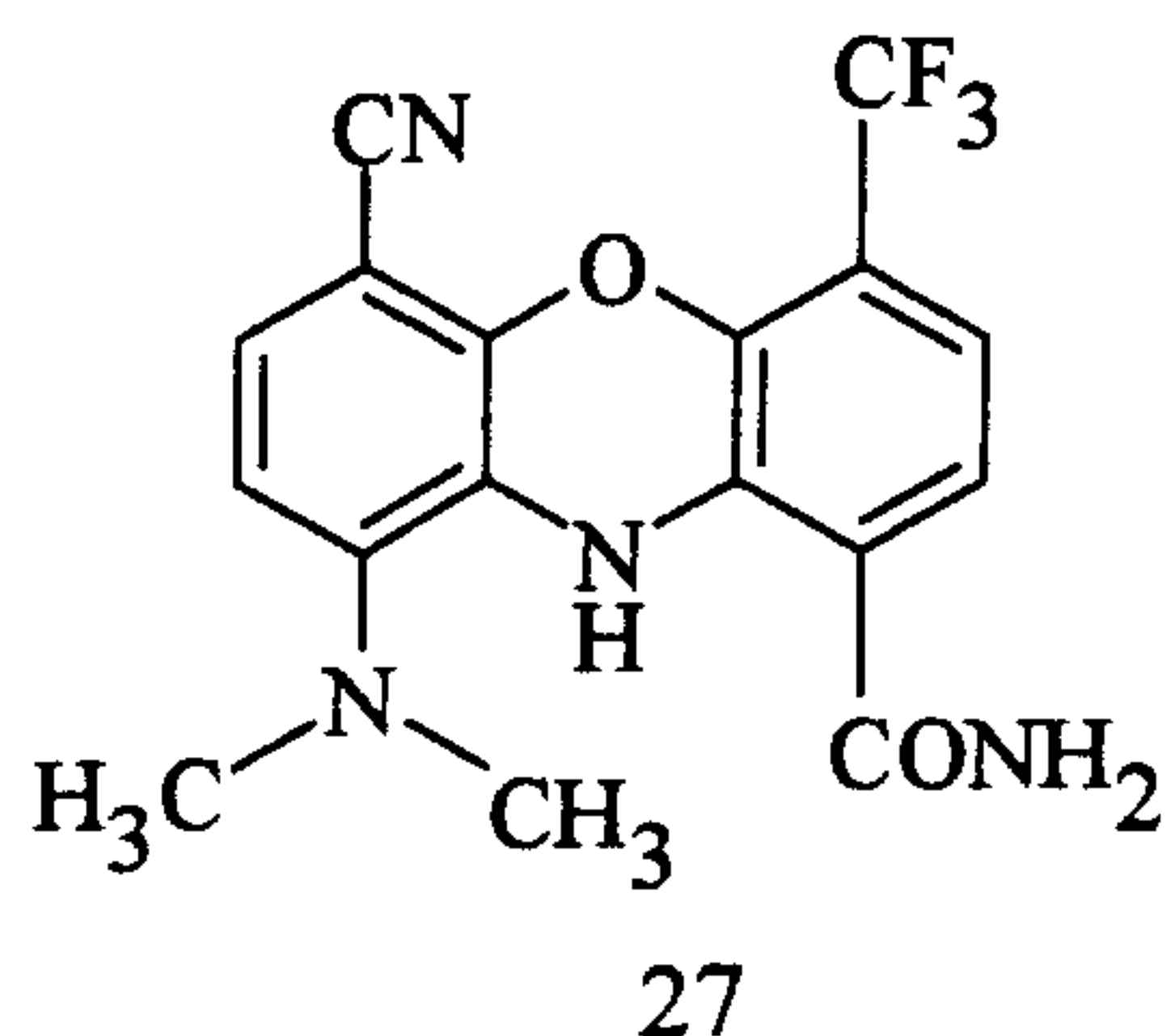
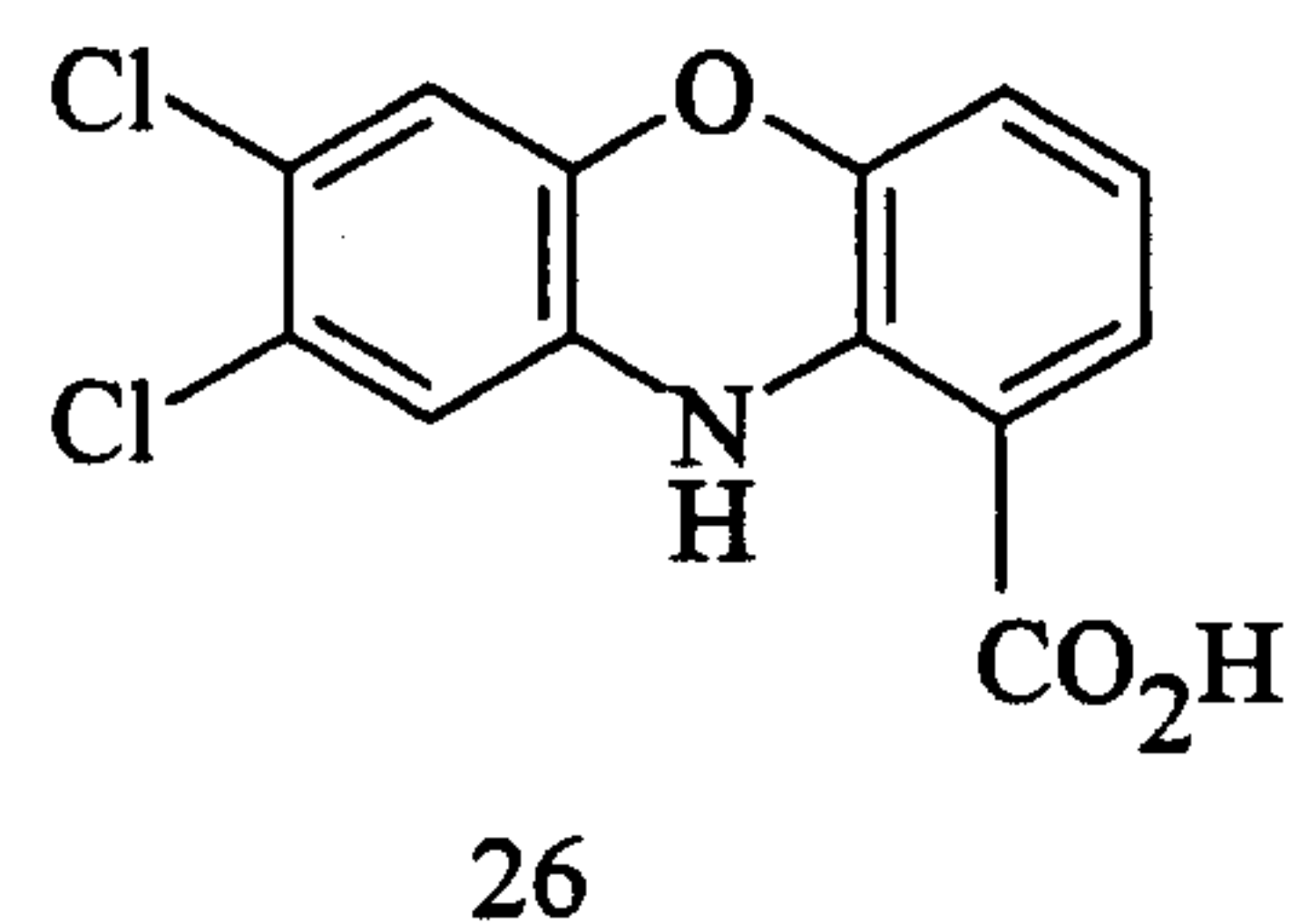
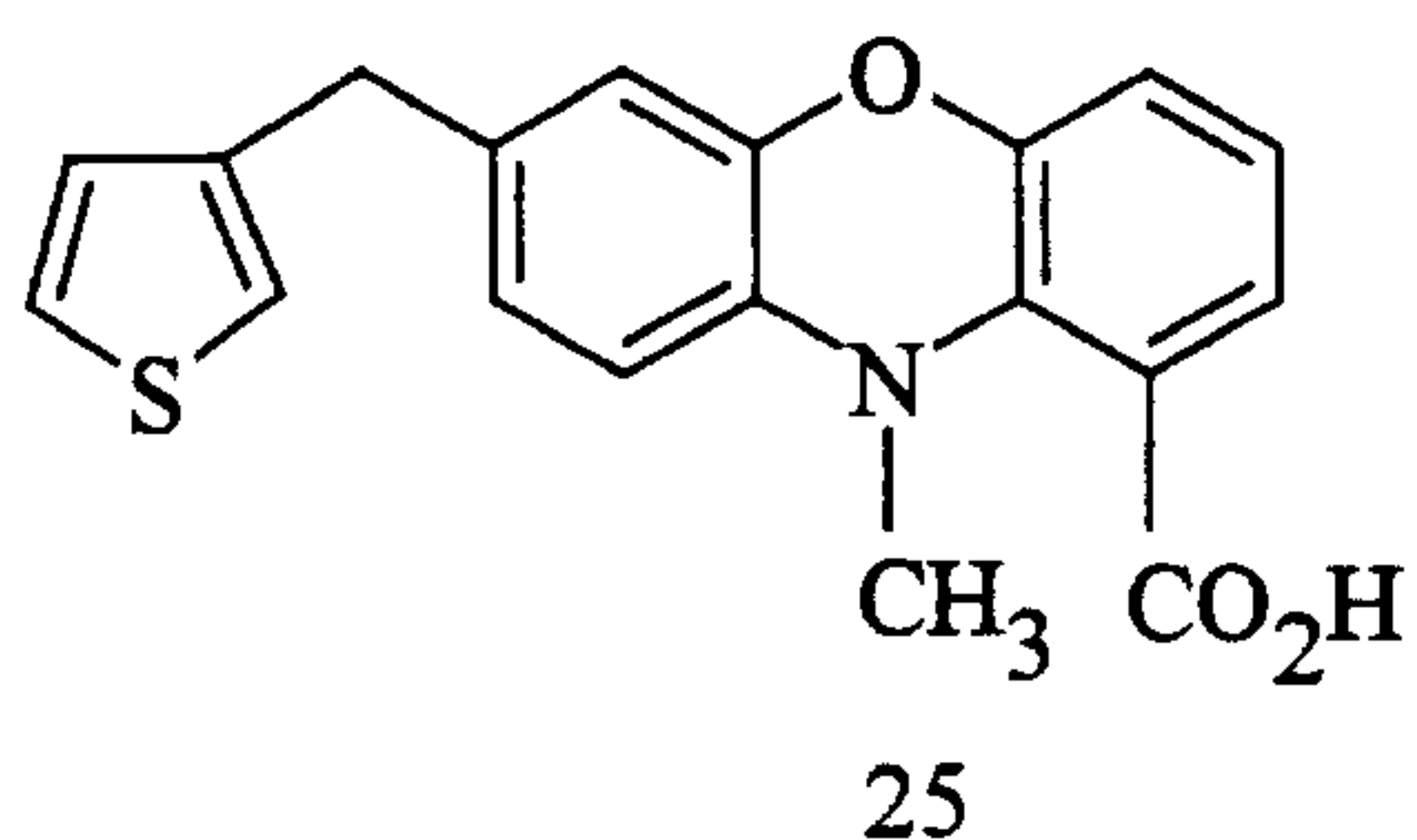
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TABLE 1 (continued)



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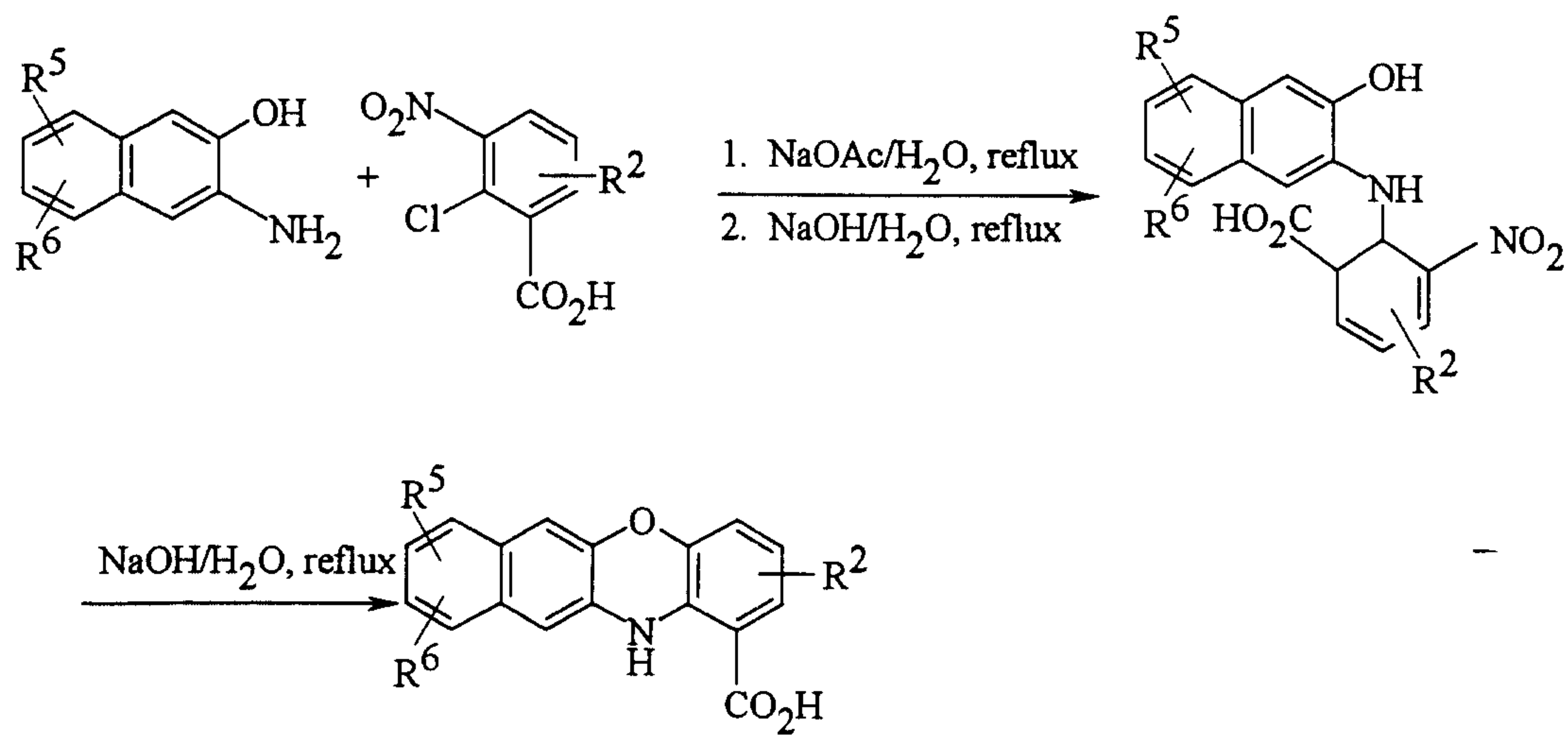
5            Representative compounds of the present invention, which are encompassed by Formula I include, but are not limited to the compounds in Table 1 and their pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salts, the esters, amides, or prodrugs thereof.

10            The invention compounds of Formula I are readily prepared from commercially available reactants, utilizing synthetic methodologies well-known and routinely used by those skilled in the art of synthetic organic chemistry. While the invention compounds can be prepared by any number of alternative processes, typical synthetic routes utilized to prepare illustrative invention compounds are presented in Schemes 1 to 4. In the Schemes, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>6</sup> have the meanings

15            defined above for Formula I.

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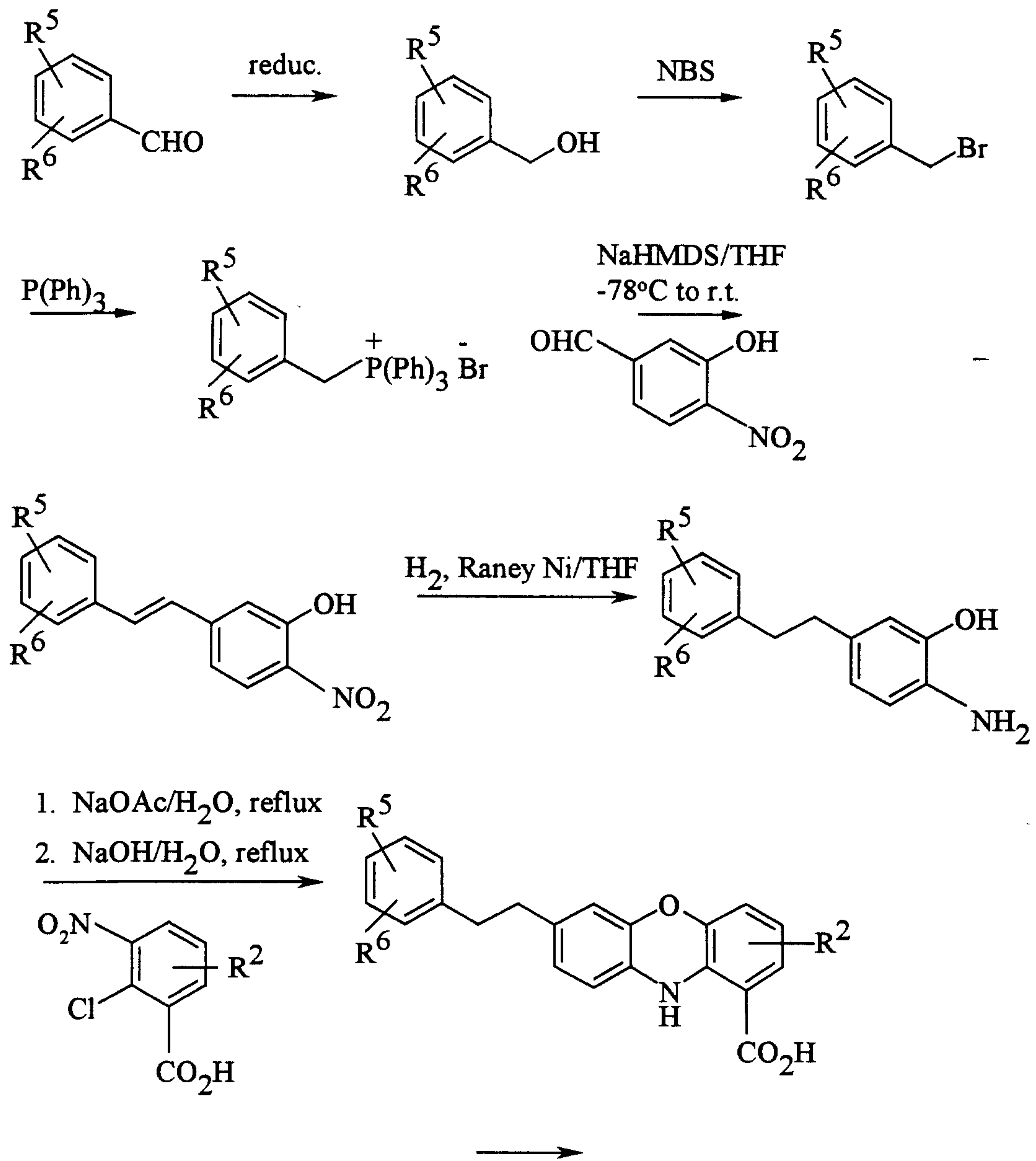
## Scheme 1





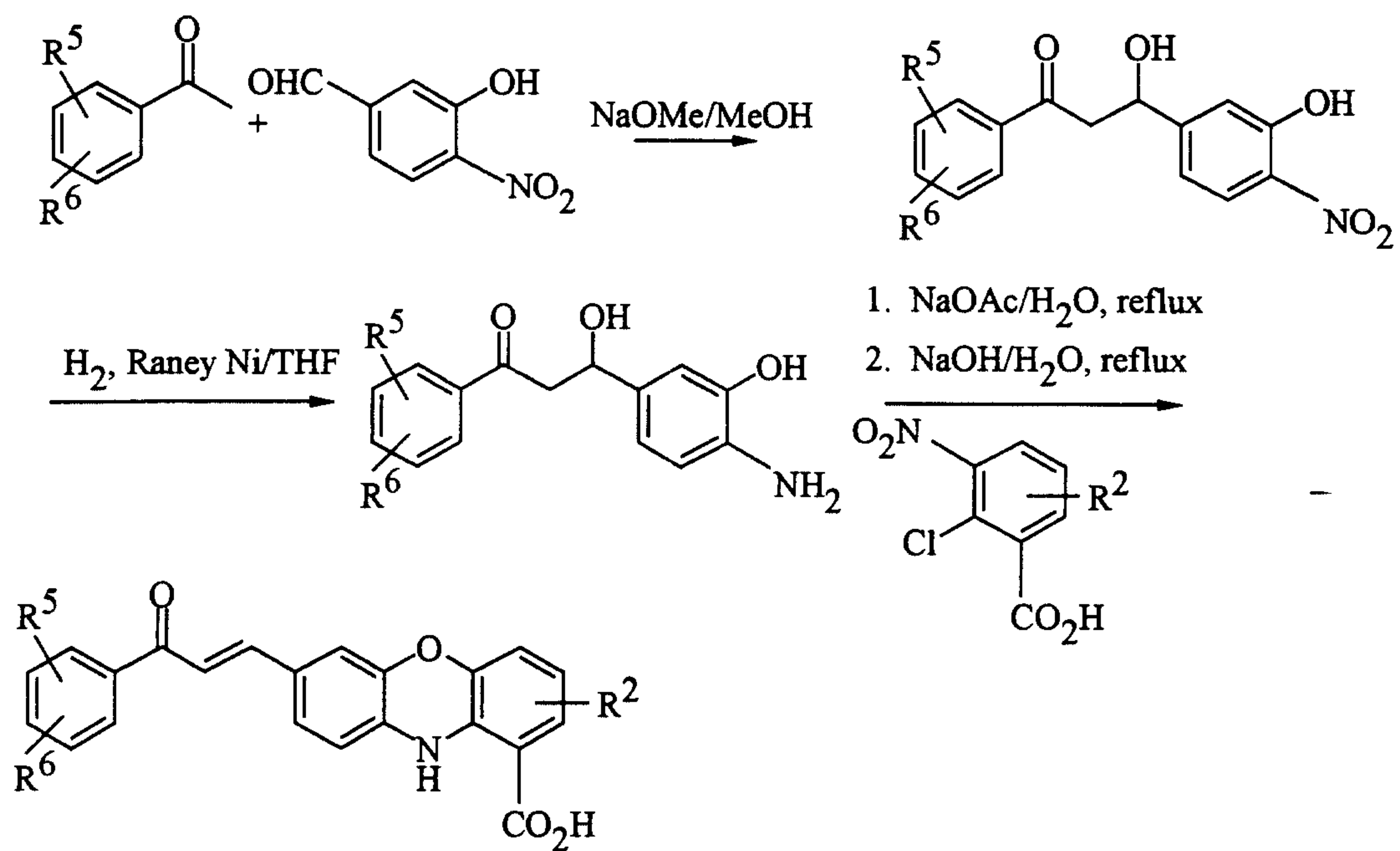
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## Scheme 2



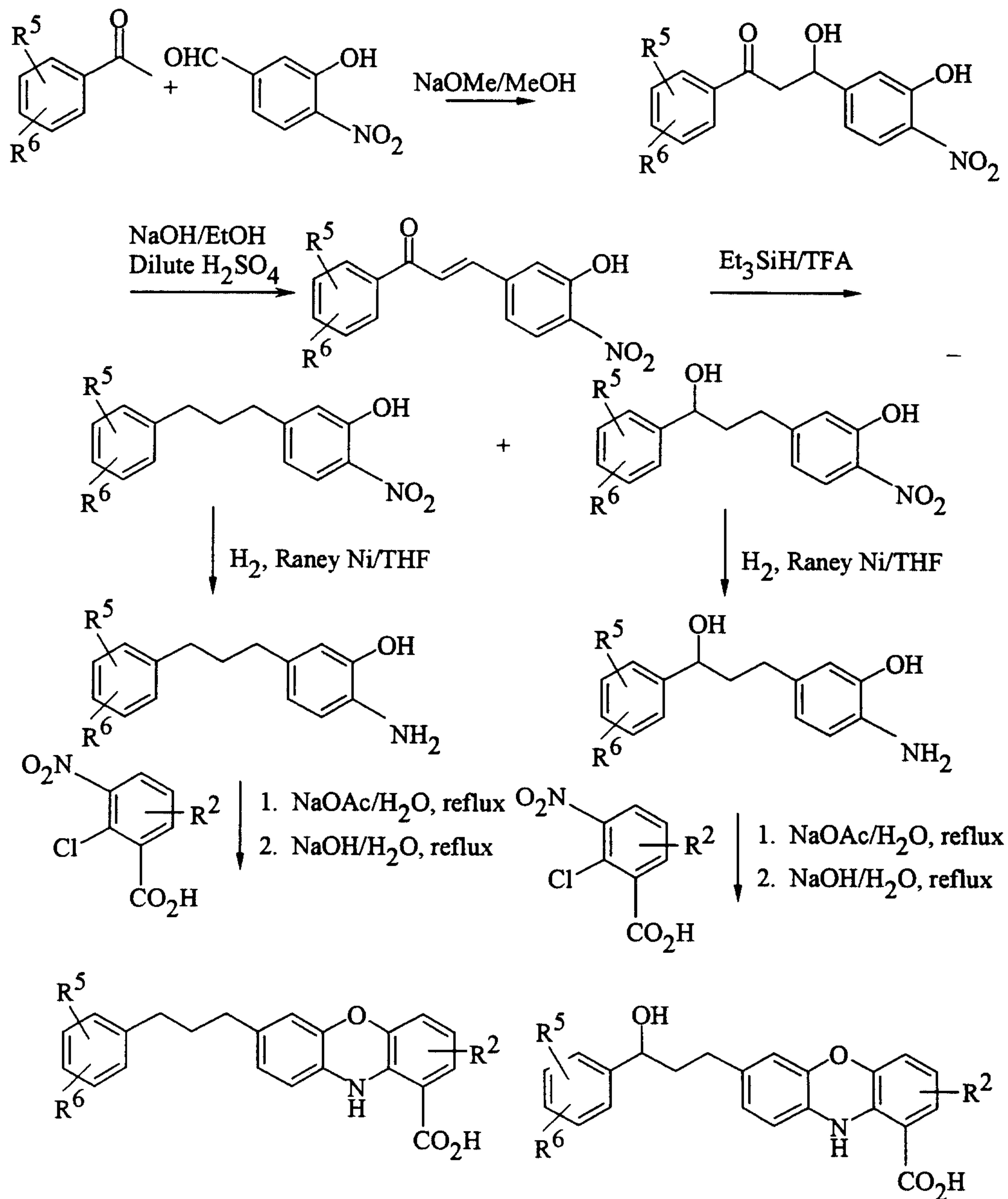
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## Scheme 3



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## Scheme 4



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Scheme 1 involves the coupling of a 3-aminonaphthalen-2-ol with a 2-chloro-3-nitrobenzoic acid to form the corresponding secondary amine, which is subsequently cyclized under basic conditions to form the desired benzo[b]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid.

5           According to Scheme 2, a benzaldehyde is reduced to the corresponding benzyl alcohol (e.g., via a metal hydride) which is then converted to the benzyl bromide (e.g., N-bromosuccinimide). The benzyl bromide can be converted to the phosphonium salt which in turn is converted to the corresponding ylide upon  
10           treatment with a strong base, and the ylide is then treated with the desired 3-hydroxy-4-nitrobenzaldehyde to afford a 5-(2-phenylvinyl)-2-nitrophenol (i.e., Wittig reaction). The 5-(2-phenylvinyl)-2-nitrophenol is reduced to the 2-amino-5-(2-phenylethyl)phenol which is subsequently coupled to a 2-chloro-3-nitrobenzoic acid and cyclized to form the desired 7-(2-phenylethyl)-  
15           phenoxazinecarboxylic acid.

15           Scheme 3 illustrates the formation of various 7-(3-oxo-3-phenylprop-1-enyl)phenoxazinecarboxylic acids. Initially, an acetophenone is coupled with a 3-hydroxy-4-nitrobenzaldehyde to afford the 3-hydroxy-3-(3-hydroxy-4-nitrophenyl)-1-phenylpropan-1-one. This nitro compound is reduced to the amine and the amine is coupled and cyclized (dehydration also results) as above  
20           for Scheme 2 to produce the 7-(3-oxo-3-phenylprop-1-enyl)-phenoxazinecarboxylic acid.

25           Finally, Scheme 4 shows the dehydration of a 3-hydroxy-3-(3-hydroxy-4-nitrophenyl)-1-phenylpropan-1-one to the enone, which is subsequently reduced to produce two products, the 2-nitro-5-(3-phenylpropyl)phenol and the 5-(3-hydroxy-3-phenylpropyl)-2-nitrophenol. Each compound can independently be reduced to the amine and coupled and cyclized as above to afford the final products 7-(3-phenylpropyl)phenoxazinecarboxylic acid and 7-(3-hydroxy-3-phenylpropyl)phenoxazinecarboxylic acid, respectively.

30           The invention also includes radiolabeled compounds of Formula I that are useful for detecting and quantitating amyloid protein deposits. Such radiolabeled compounds are synthesized by standard methods, for example, by using a radiolabeled starting material in any of the foregoing schemes. Typical starting

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materials are those having a  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{19}\text{F}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$ ,  $^{11}\text{C}$ , or other radioactive atom as part of the molecule.

In the first step of the present method of imaging amyloid deposits, a labeled compound of Formula I is introduced into a tissue or a patient in a detectable quantity. The compound is typically part of a pharmaceutical composition and is administered to the tissue or the patient by methods well-known to those skilled in the art.

Those skilled in the art are familiar with the various ways to detect labeled compounds. For example, MRI, positron emission tomography (PET), or single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) can be used to detect radiolabeled compounds. The label that is introduced into the compound will depend on the detection method desired. For example, if PET is selected as a detection method, the compound must possess a positron-emitting atom, such as  $^{11}\text{C}$  or  $^{18}\text{F}$ .

Another example of a suitable label in a compound of Formula I is an atom such as  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$ , or  $^{19}\text{F}$  which can be detected using MRI, which is also sometimes called nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). In addition, the labeled compounds of Formula I may also be detected by MRI using paramagnetic contrast agents.

Another example of detection is electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR). In this case, EPR probes which are well-known in the art, such as nitroxides, can be used.

The imaging of amyloid deposits can also be carried out quantitatively so that the amount of amyloid deposits can be determined.

In the methods of treating disorders related to amyloidosis according to the present invention, disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, a compound of Formula I can be administered either orally, rectally, parenterally (intravenously, intramuscularly, or subcutaneously), intracisternally, intravaginally, intraperitoneally, intravesically, locally (powders, ointments, or drops), or as a buccal or nasal spray. The invention provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound of Formula I mixed with a carrier, diluent, or excipient.

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Compositions suitable for parenteral injection may comprise physiologically acceptable sterile aqueous or nonaqueous solutions, dispersions, suspensions or emulsions, and sterile powders for reconstitution into sterile injectable solutions or dispersions. Examples of suitable aqueous and nonaqueous carriers, diluents, solvents, or vehicles include water, ethanol, polyols (propyleneglycol, polyethyleneglycol, glycerol, and the like), suitable mixtures thereof, vegetable oils (such as olive oil), and injectable organic esters such as ethyl oleate. Proper fluidity can be maintained, for example, by the use of a coating such as lecithin, by the maintenance of the required particle size in the case of dispersions and by the use of surfactants.

These compositions may also contain adjuvants such as preserving, wetting, emulsifying, and dispensing agents. Prevention of the action of microorganisms can be ensured by various antibacterial and antifungal agents, for example, parabens, chlorobutanol, phenol, sorbic acid, and the like. It may also be desirable to include isotonic agents, for example sugars, sodium chloride, and the like. Prolonged absorption of the injectable pharmaceutical form can be brought about by the use of agents delaying absorption, for example, aluminum monostearate and gelatin.

Solid dosage forms for oral administration include capsules, tablets, pills, powders, and granules. In such solid dosage forms, the active compound is admixed with at least one inert customary excipient (or carrier) such as sodium citrate or dicalcium phosphate, or (a) fillers or extenders, as for example, starches, lactose, sucrose, glucose, mannitol, and silicic acid; (b) binders, as for example, carboxymethylcellulose, alginates, gelatin, polyvinylpyrrolidone, sucrose, and acacia; (c) humectants, as for example, glycerol; (d) disintegrating agents, as for example, agar-agar, calcium carbonate, potato or tapioca starch, alginic acid, certain complex silicates, and sodium carbonate; (e) solution retarders, as for example, paraffin; (f) absorption accelerators, as for example, quaternary ammonium compounds; (g) wetting agents, as for example, cetyl alcohol and glycerol monostearate; (h) adsorbents, as for example, kaolin and bentonite; and (i) lubricants, as for example, talc, calcium stearate, magnesium stearate, solid polyethylene glycols, sodium lauryl sulfate, or mixtures thereof. In the case of capsules, tablets, and pills, the dosage forms may also comprise buffering agents.

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Solid compositions of a similar type may also be employed as fillers in soft- and hard-filled gelatin capsules using such excipients as lactose or milk sugar, as well as high molecular weight polyethyleneglycols, and the like.

5 Solid dosage forms such as tablets, dragees, capsules, pills, and granules can be prepared with coatings and shells, such as enteric coatings and others well-known in the art. They may contain opacifying agents, and can also be of such composition that they release the active compound or compounds in a certain part of the intestinal tract in a delayed manner. Examples of embedding compositions which can be used are polymeric substances and waxes. The active compounds  
10 can also be in microencapsulated form, if appropriate, with one or more of the above-mentioned excipients.

Liquid dosage forms for oral administration include pharmaceutically acceptable emulsions, solutions, suspensions, syrups, and elixirs. In addition to the active compounds, the liquid dosage forms may contain inert diluents commonly  
15 used in the art, such as water or other solvents, solubilizing agents and emulsifiers, as for example, ethyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, ethyl carbonate, ethyl acetate, benzyl alcohol, benzyl benzoate, propyleneglycol, 1,3-butyleneglycol, dimethylformamide, oils, in particular, cottonseed oil, groundnut oil, corn germ oil, olive oil, castor oil, and sesame oil, glycerol, tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol,  
20 polyethyleneglycols, and fatty acid esters of sorbitan or mixtures of these substances, and the like.

Besides such inert diluents, the composition can also include adjuvants, such as wetting agents, emulsifying and suspending agents, sweetening, flavoring, and perfuming agents.

25 Suspensions, in addition to the active compounds, may contain suspending agents, as for example, ethoxylated isostearyl alcohols, polyoxyethylene sorbitol and sorbitan esters, microcrystalline cellulose, aluminum metahydroxide, bentonite, agar-agar, and tragacanth, or mixtures of these substances, and the like.

30 Compositions for rectal administrations are preferably suppositories which can be prepared by mixing the compounds of the present invention with suitable nonirritating excipients or carriers such as cocoa butter, polyethyleneglycol or a suppository wax, which are solid at ordinary temperatures but liquid at body

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temperature and therefore, melt in the rectum or vaginal cavity and release the active component.

Dosage forms for topical administration of a compound of this invention include ointments, powders, sprays, and inhalants. The active component is admixed under sterile conditions with a physiologically acceptable carrier and any preservatives, buffers, or propellants as may be required. Ophthalmic formulations, eye ointments, powders, and solutions are also contemplated as being within the scope of this invention.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the compound is labeled and introduced into a patient in a detectable quantity and after sufficient time has passed for the compound to become associated with amyloid deposits, the labeled compound is detected noninvasively inside the patient. In another embodiment of the invention, a labeled compound of Formula I is introduced into a patient, sufficient time is allowed for the compound to become associated with amyloid deposits, and then a sample of tissue from the patient is removed and the labeled compound in the tissue is detected apart from the patient. In a third embodiment of the invention, a tissue sample is removed from a patient and a labeled compound of Formula I is introduced into the tissue sample. After a sufficient amount of time for the compound to become bound to amyloid deposits, the compound is detected.

The administration of the labeled compound to a patient can be by a general or local administration route. For example, the labeled compound may be administered to the patient such that it is delivered throughout the body. Alternatively, the labeled compound can be administered to a specific organ or tissue of interest. For example, it is desirable to locate and quantitate amyloid deposits in the brain in order to diagnose or track the progress of Alzheimer's disease in a patient.

The term "tissue" means a part of a patient's body. Examples of tissues include the brain, heart, liver, blood vessels, and arteries. A detectable quantity is a quantity of labeled compound necessary to be detected by the detection method chosen. The amount of a labeled compound to be introduced into a patient in order to provide for detection can readily be determined by those skilled in the art. For example, increasing amounts of the labeled compound can be given to a patient



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until the compound is detected by the detection method of choice. A label is introduced into the compounds to provide for detection of the compounds.

5 The term "patient" means humans and other animals such as horses, dogs, cats, and sheep. Those skilled in the art are also familiar with determining the amount of time sufficient for a compound to become associated with amyloid deposits. The amount of time necessary can easily be determined by introducing a detectable amount of a labeled compound of Formula I into a patient and then detecting the labeled compound at various times after administration.

10 The term "associated" means a chemical interaction between the labeled compound and the amyloid deposit. Examples of associations include covalent bonds, ionic bonds, hydrophilic-hydrophilic interactions, hydrophobic-hydrophobic interactions, and complexes.

15 The present invention also provides a method of inhibiting the aggregation of amyloid proteins to form amyloid deposits, by administering to a patient in need of inhibition of the aggregation of amyloid protein an amyloid protein inhibiting amount of a compound of Formula I. Those skilled in the art are readily able to determine an amyloid inhibiting amount by simply administering a compound of Formula I to a patient in increasing amounts until the growth of amyloid deposits is decreased or stopped. The rate of growth can be assessed  
20 using imaging or by taking a tissue sample from a patient and observing the amyloid deposits therein.

A patient in need of inhibition of the aggregation of amyloid proteins is a patient having a disease or condition in which amyloid proteins aggregate. Examples of such diseases and conditions include Mediterranean fever, Muckle-  
25 Wells syndrome, idiopathic myeloma, amyloid polyneuropathy, amyloid cardiomyopathy, systemic senile amyloidosis, amyloid polyneuropathy, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis, Alzheimer's disease, Downs syndrome, sickle cell anemia, scrapie, Parkinson's disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, kuru, Gerstmann-Sträussler-Scheinker syndrome, medullary carcinoma of the thyroid,  
30 isolated atrial amyloid,  $\beta_2$ -microglobulin amyloid in dialysis patients, inclusion body myositis,  $\beta_2$ -amyloid deposits in muscle wasting disease, and Islets of Langerhans diabetes type 2 insulinoma.

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The compounds of the present invention can be administered to a patient at dosage levels in the range of about 0.1 mg/day to about 1000 mg/day. For a normal human adult having a body weight of about 70 kg, a dosage in the range of about 0.01 mg/kg to about 100 mg/kg of body weight per day is sufficient. The specific dosage used, however, can vary. For example, the dosage can depend on a number of factors including the requirements of the patient, the severity of the condition being treated, and the pharmacological activity of the compound being used. The determination of optimum dosages for a particular patient is well-known to those skilled in the art.

Armed with the disclosure provided herein (particularly the schemes and the synthetic examples described above) and knowledge common to all who practice in the field, those of ordinary skill in the art will be able to make and use the entire scope of compounds disclosed herein.

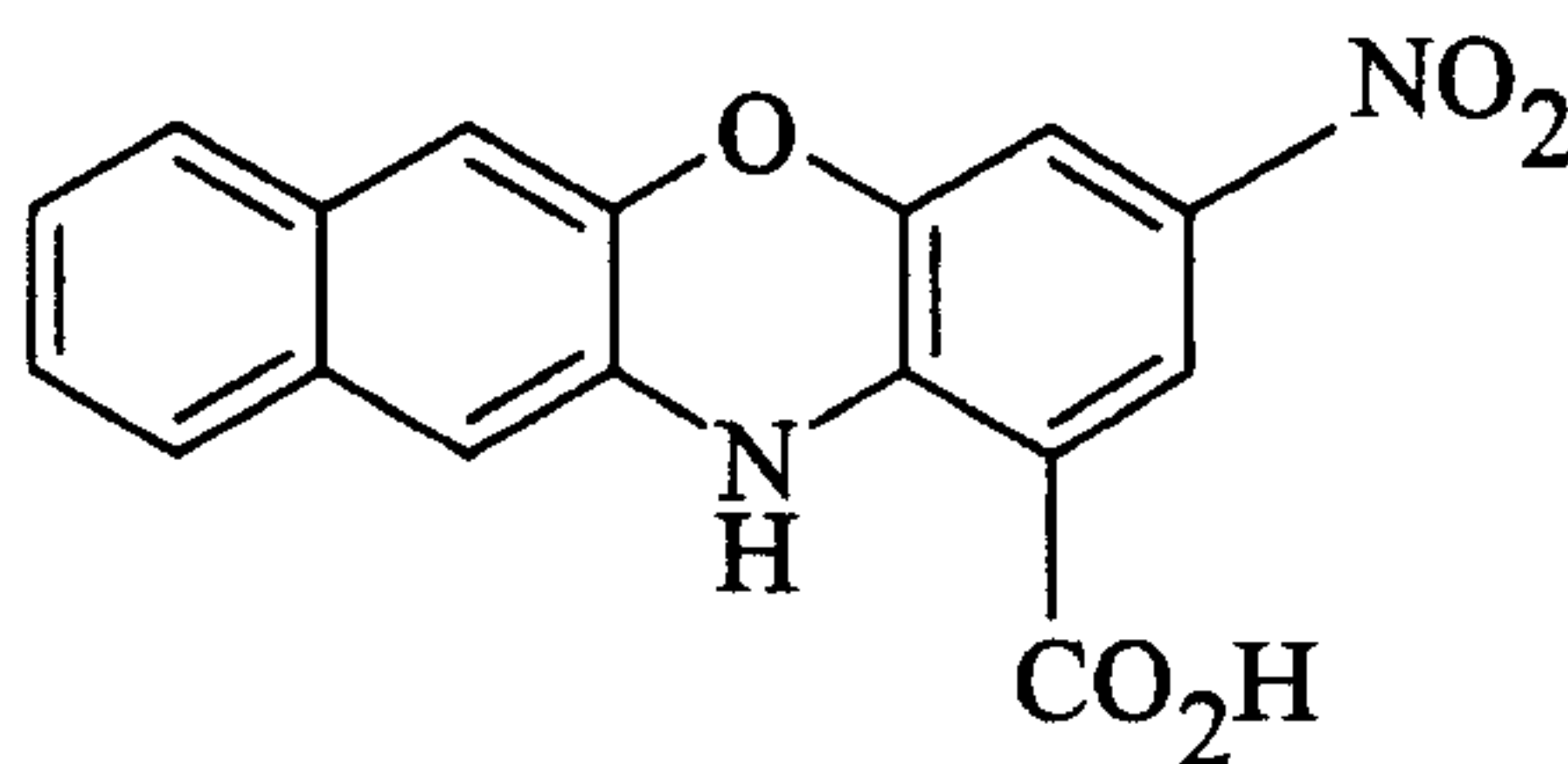
The invention is illustrated further by the following detailed examples which are not to be construed as limiting the invention in scope or spirit to the specific procedures described in them.

The starting materials and various intermediates may be obtained from commercial sources, prepared from commercially available organic compounds, or prepared using well-known synthetic methods.

Representative examples of methods for preparing intermediates of the invention are set forth in the examples below.

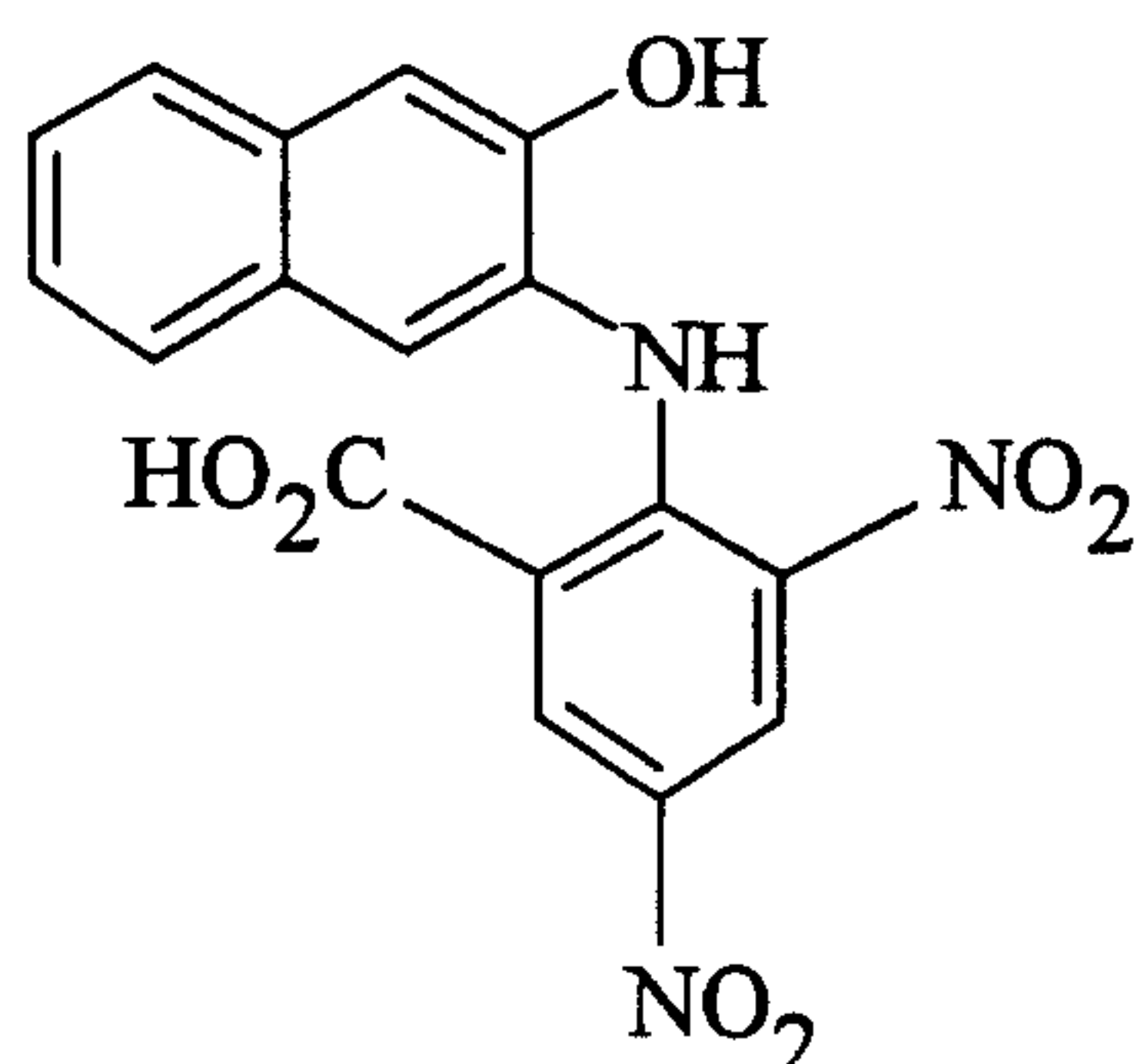
#### EXAMPLE 1

Synthesis of 3-nitrobenzo[b]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**Compound 21**)



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1. **2-[(3-Hydroxy(2-naphthyl))amino]-3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid**



A mixture of 3-aminonaphthalen-2-ol (4.65 g, 0.029 mol), 2-chloro-  
 3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid (7.20 g, 0.029 mol), water (30 mL), and 2N sodium  
 5 acetate (NaOAc) (15 mL) is stirred and heated under reflux for 15 minutes. To the  
 resulting thick paste is added 2N sodium hydroxide (NaOH) (15 mL), and the  
 mixture is stirred and heated for another 15 minutes. The dark purple sodium salt  
 is washed with cold brine. An aqueous solution of the filtrate is acidified with  
 dilute HCl and the free acid precipitates as a dark colored solid. The precipitate is  
 10 triturated in boiling 10% MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O, filtered, rinsed with cold 10% MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O,  
 and dried at room temperature in a vacuum oven overnight to yield an orange  
 solid (9.00 g, 0.024 mol, 84%) as the desired product; mp 154-156°C.

Analysis for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>·0.75 H<sub>2</sub>O:

Calcd: C 53.34; H 3.29; N 10.98.

15 Found: C 53.00; H 2.94; N 10.58.

2. **3-Nitrobenzo[b]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid**

A mixture of 2-[(3-hydroxy(2-naphthyl))amino]-3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid  
 (8.50 g, 0.023 mmol), water (30 mL), and 2N sodium hydroxide (20 mL) is stirred  
 and heated under reflux overnight. The resulting dark purple sodium salt is  
 20 washed with cold brine and filtered. An aqueous solution of the salt is acidified  
 with dilute HCl and the free acid precipitates as a dark colored solid. The filtrate is  
 acidified with dilute HCl and the free acid precipitates as a dark colored solid. The  
 precipitate is triturated in boiling 10% MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O, filtered, rinsed with cold 10%  
 MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O, and dried at room temperature in a vacuum oven overnight to yield a  
 25 brown solid (0.68 g, 0.002 mol, 7%) as the desired product (**compound 21**);

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mp &gt;230°C.

Analysis for  $C_{17}H_{10}N_2O_5 \cdot 0.29 H_2O$ :

Calcd: C 62.35, H 3.26, N 8.55.

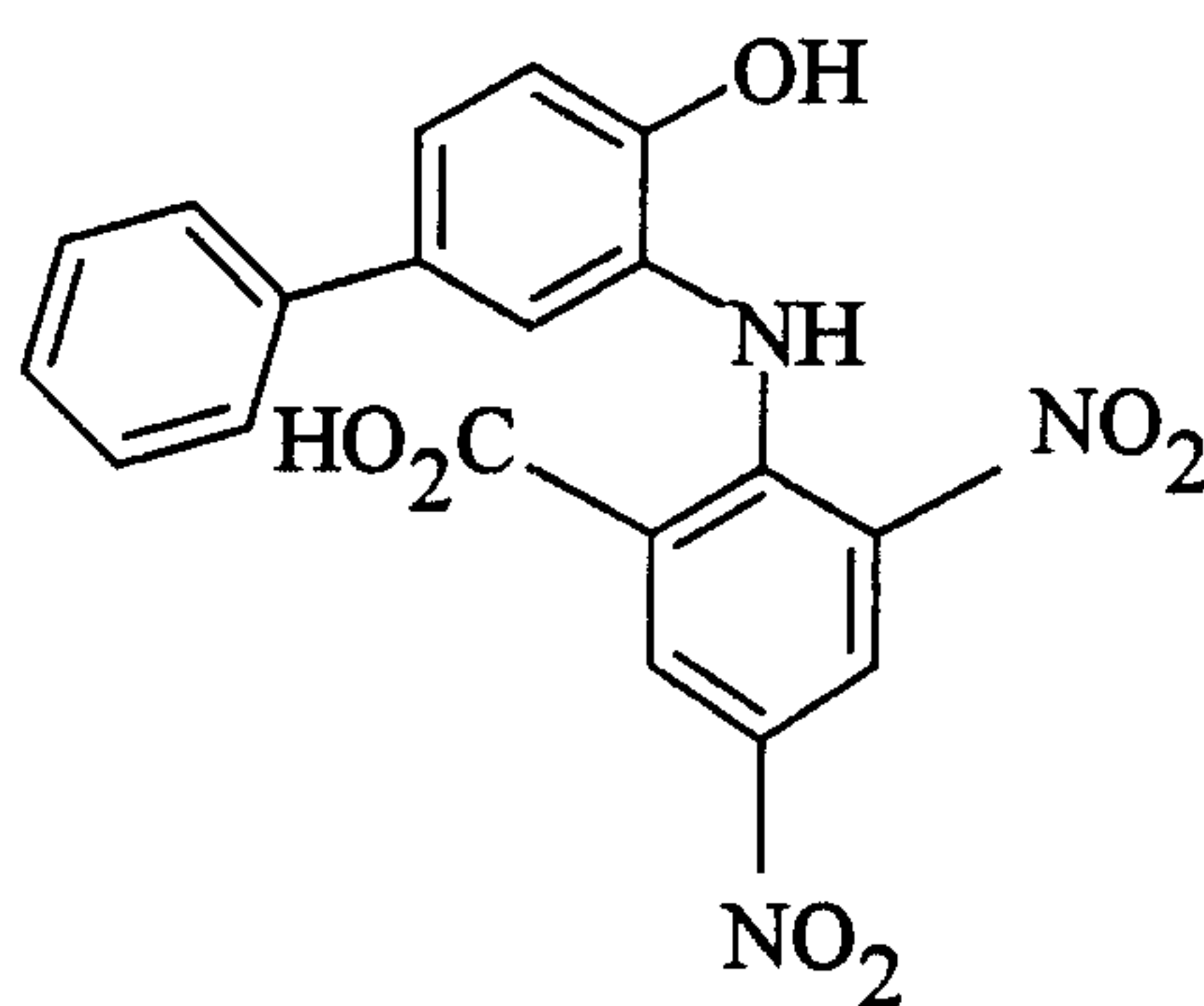
Found: C 61.96, H 2.95, N 8.96.

5

## EXAMPLE 2

Synthesis of 3-nitro-8-phenylphenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**Compound 2**)

## 1. 2-[(2-Hydroxy-5-phenylphenyl)amino]-3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid



The title compound is prepared from 2-amino-4-phenylphenol (5.59 g, 0.03 mol), 2-chloro-3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid (7.45 g, 0.03 mol), water (30 mL), 2N NaOAc (15 mL), and 2N NaOH (15 mL) using the procedure of Example 1, Step 1 as a red solid (9.37 g, 0.023 mol, 78%); mp 215-217°C.

Analysis for  $C_{19}H_{13}N_3O_7 \cdot 1.13 H_2O$ :

Calcd: C 54.90; H 3.70, N 10.11.

Found: C 54.51, H 3.57, N 9.84.

## 2. 3-Nitro-8-phenylphenoxazinecarboxylic acid

2-[(2-Hydroxy-5-phenylphenyl)amino]-3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid (8.82 g, 0.022 mmol), water (50 mL), and 10N NaOH (10 mL) are stirred and heated under reflux overnight. The reaction is worked up as in Example 1, Step 2, to afford the final product (**compound 2**) as a brown solid (5.75 g, 0.017 mol, 75%); mp >250°C.

Analysis for  $C_{19}H_{12}N_2O_5 \cdot 0.10 H_2O$ :

Calcd: C 65.18; H 3.51, N 8.00.

Found: C 64.79, H 3.30, N 8.18.

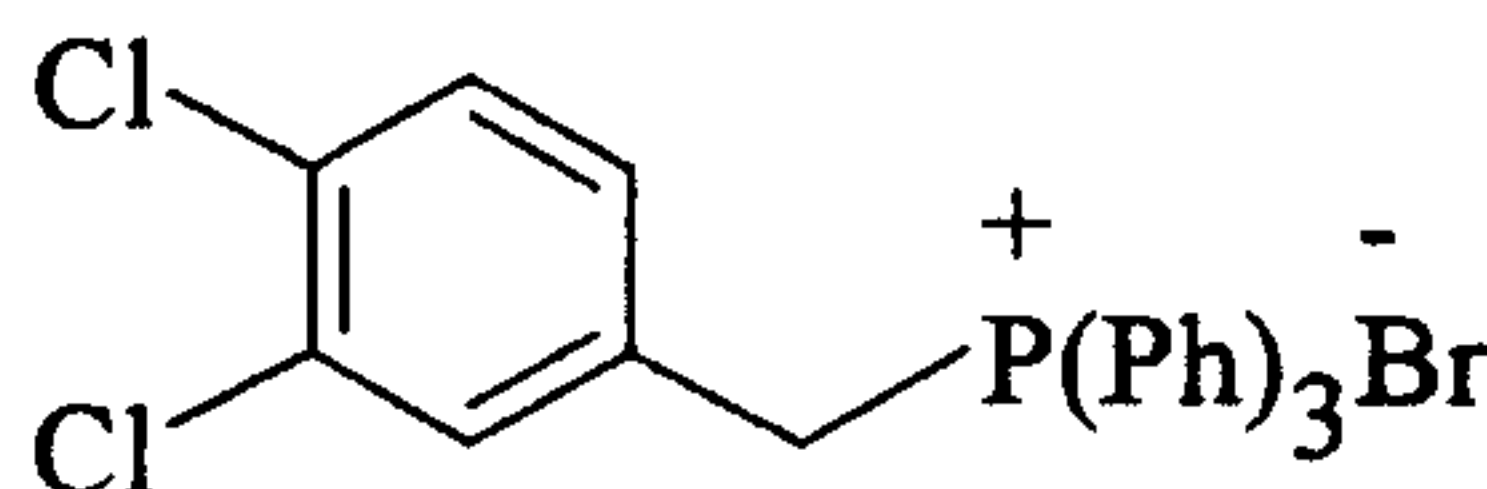
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## EXAMPLE 3

Synthesis of 7-[2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)ethyl]-3-nitrophenoxazinecarboxylic acid  
(Compound 5)

1. Bromo[(3,4-dichlorophenyl)methyl]triphenylphosphorane

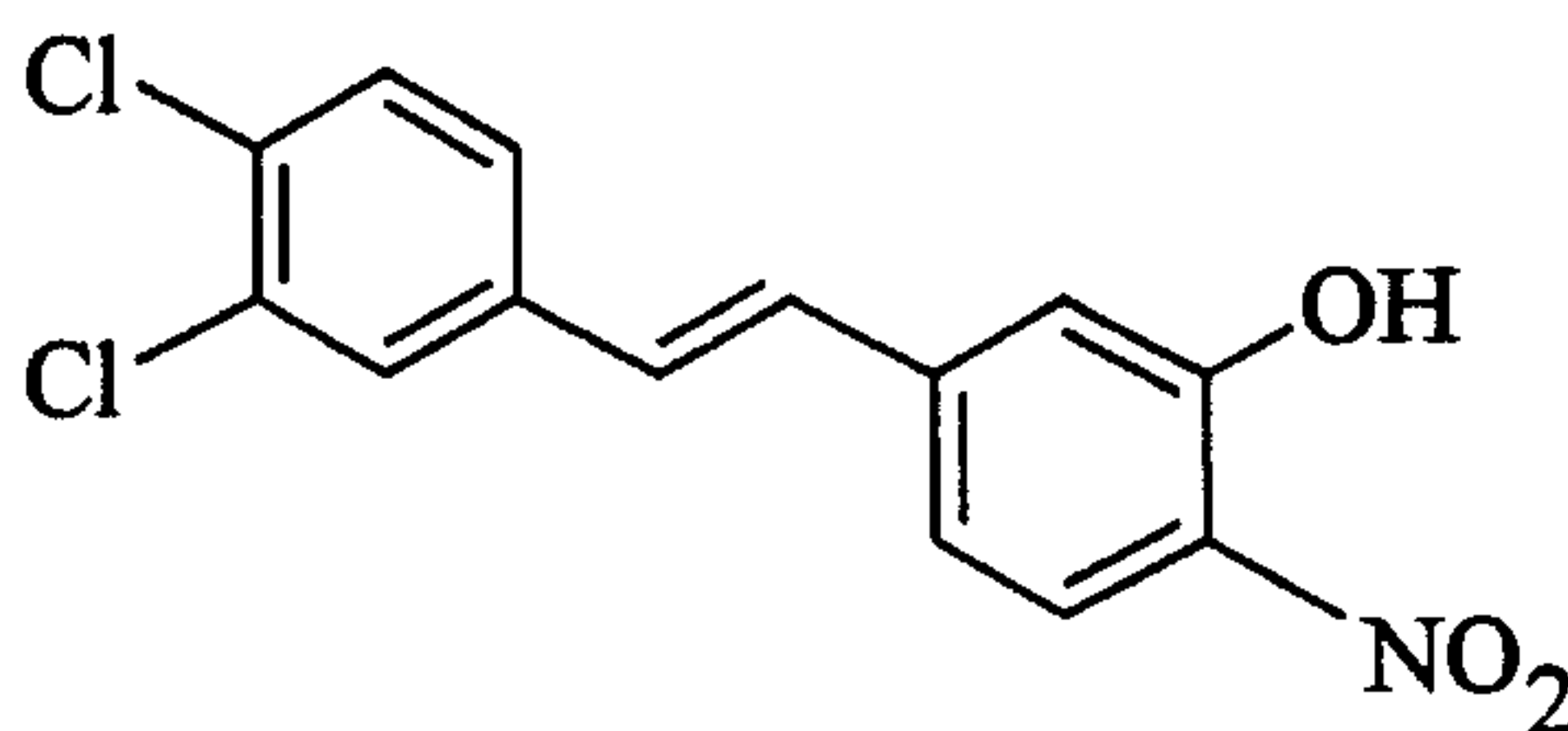


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A mixture of 4-bromomethyl-1,2-dichlorobenzene (2.40 g, 0.01 mol), and triphenylphosphine (5.24 g, 0.02 mol) in toluene (30 mL) is stirred for 16 hours at room temperature. The solid is filtered, rinsed with toluene, and oven dried to yield a white powder (3.95 g, 0.0078 mol, 78%) as the desired product. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (δ ppm): 7.89-7.61 (m, 15H), 7.50 (d, J=2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (dt, J=8.3 Hz, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 5.20 (d, J=15.9 Hz, 2H).

10

2. 5-[2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)vinyl]-2-nitrophenol



15

A solution of bromo[(3,4-dichlorophenyl)methyl]triphenylphosphorane (11.54 g, 22.98 mmol) in dry THF (250 mL) is cooled to -78°C. Sodium hexamethyldisilazane (NaHDMS) (1.0 M/THF, 50.33 mL, 50.33 mol) is added dropwise to maintain the temperature at -78°C. After stirring for 20 minutes, a solution of 3-hydroxy-4-nitrobenzaldehyde (4.22 g, 25.28 mmol) in THF (50 mL) is added dropwise. The resulting mixture is allowed to warm to room temperature within 3 hours. The mixture is then quenched with saturated ammonium chloride (NH<sub>4</sub>Cl) and extracted with ethyl acetate (EtOAc). The organic layers are then washed with 0.1N HCl solution, H<sub>2</sub>O, and brine, respectively. The solution is dried over sodium sulfate (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated in vacuo to give a light brown oil. Purification by flash chromatography (silica gel, 15% EtOAc/hexane) yields 4.29 g (13.8 mmol, 60%) of the desired product; mp 105-106°C.

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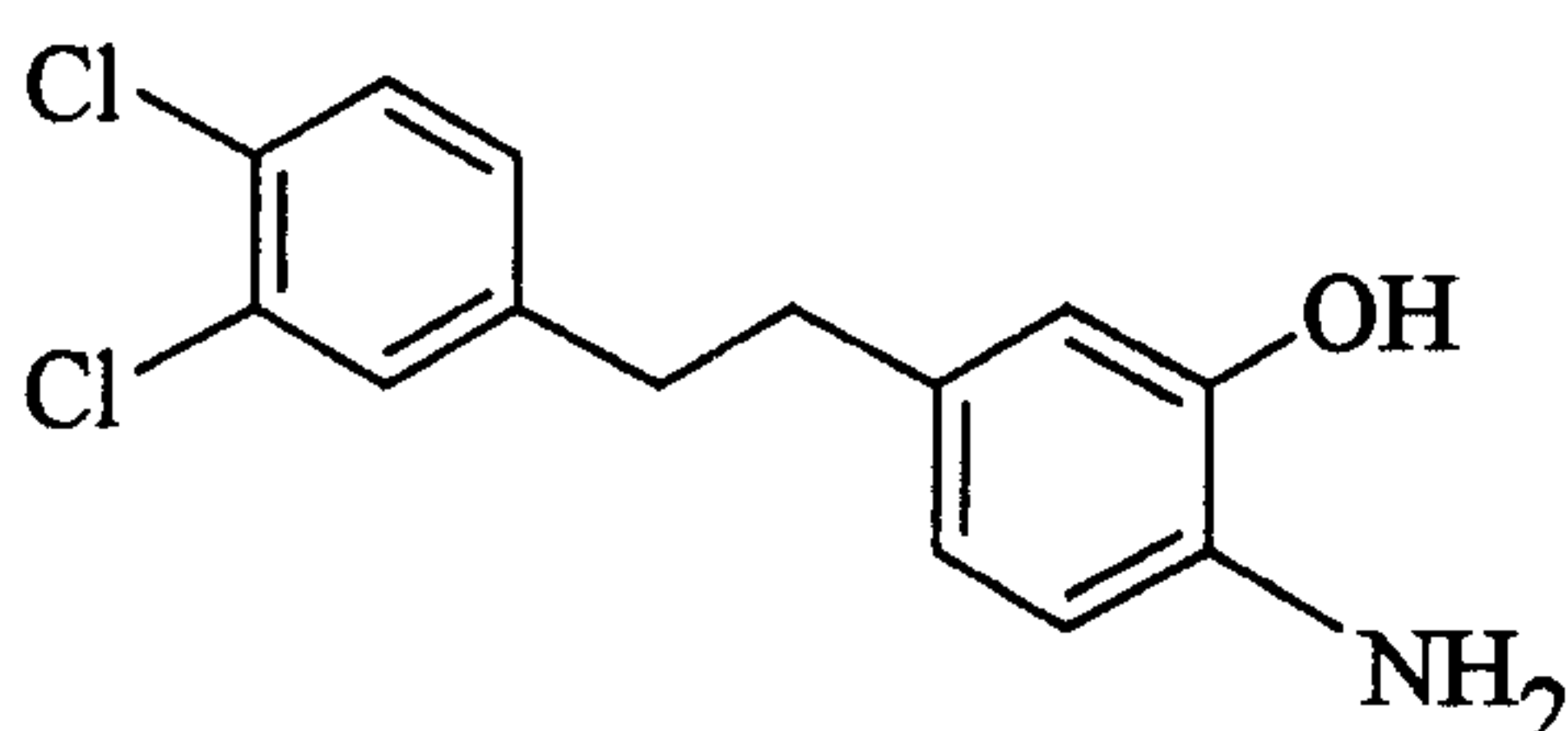
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Analysis for  $C_{14}H_9N_1O_3Cl_2 \cdot 0.08 EtOAc$ :

Calcd: C 54.23; H 3.06; N 4.42.

Found: C 54.33; H 3.04; N 4.02.

**3. 2-Amino-5-[2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)ethyl]phenol**



5

A sample of 5-[2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)vinyl]-2-nitrophenol (4.17 g, 13.45 mmol) in THF (100 mL) is reduced in the presence of Raney Nickel (1 g) at 22°C to 29°C ( $\Delta P = 4.3$  psi). The reaction mixture is filtered, and the filtrate is concentrated in vacuo to give a brown solid, 3.5 g (12.4 mmol, 92%) of the desired product; mp 147-149°C.

10

Analysis for  $C_{14}H_{13}N_1O_1Cl_2$ :

Calcd: C 59.59; H 4.64; N 4.96.

Found: C 59.68; H 4.60; N 4.71.

**4. 7-[2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)ethyl]-3-nitrophenoxazinecarboxylic acid**

15

A mixture of 2-amino-5-[2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)ethyl]phenol (0.73 g, 2.59 mmol), 2-chloro-3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid (0.68 g, 2.59 mmol), water (3 mL), and 2N sodium acetate (1.3 mL) is stirred and heated under reflux for 5 hours. To the resulting thick paste is added 2N sodium hydroxide (15 mL) and the mixture is stirred and heated for another 3 hours. The reaction mixture is acidified with dilute HCl and the free acid forms as a dark precipitate. The precipitate is filtered off and washed with  $H_2O$ . Purification by flash chromatography (silica gel, toluene:EtOAc:AcOH [30:5:1]) yields 0.21 g (0.47 mmol, 18%) of the desired product (**compound 5**); mp >250°C.

20

Analysis for  $C_{21}H_{14}N_2O_5Cl_2 \cdot 0.3$  toluene  $\cdot 0.25 H_2O$ :

25

Calcd: C 58.12; H 3.57; N, 5.87.

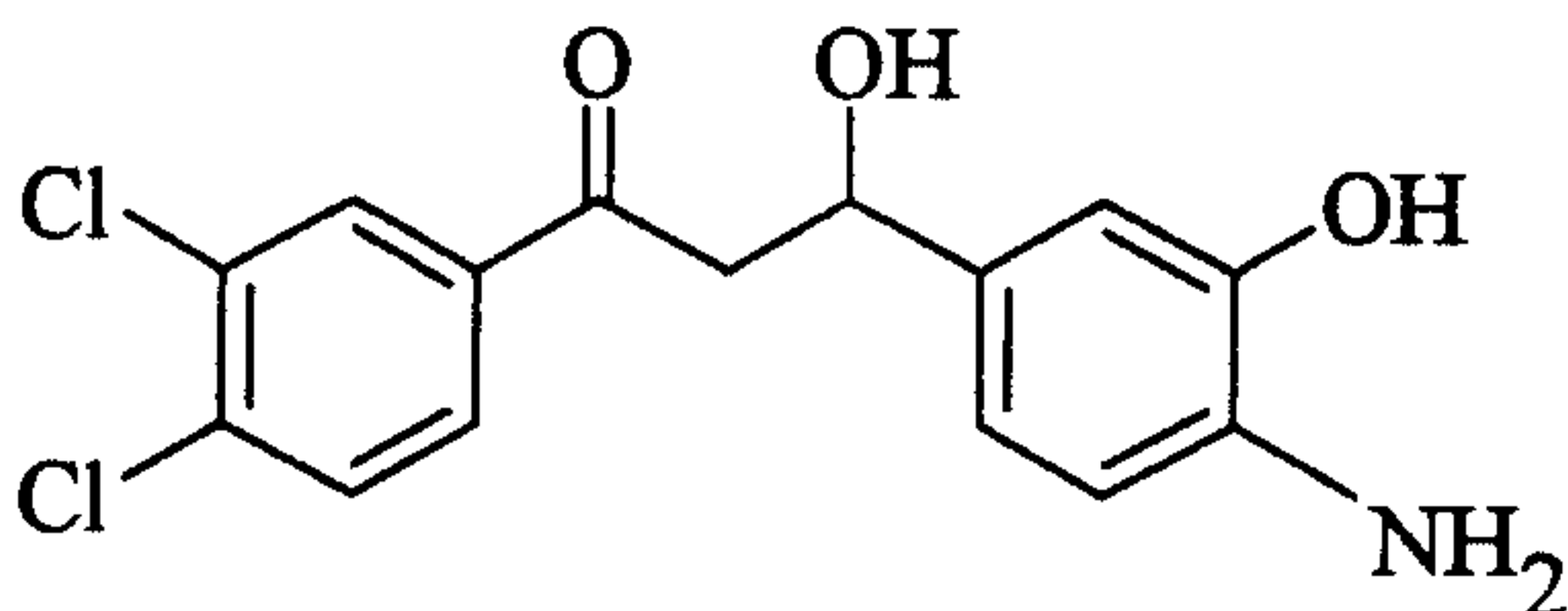
Found: C 57.77; H 3.29; N 5.52.

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## EXAMPLE 4

Synthesis of 7-[3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-oxoprop-1-enyl]-  
3-nitrophenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**Compound 6**)

5 **1. 1-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-hydroxy-3-(3-hydroxy-4-nitrophenyl)-  
propan-1-one**



Sodium hydroxide (4.88 g, 0.122 mmol) is dissolved in water (80 mL) and 95% EtOH (80 mL) and cooled to 0°C with an ice-H<sub>2</sub>O bath.

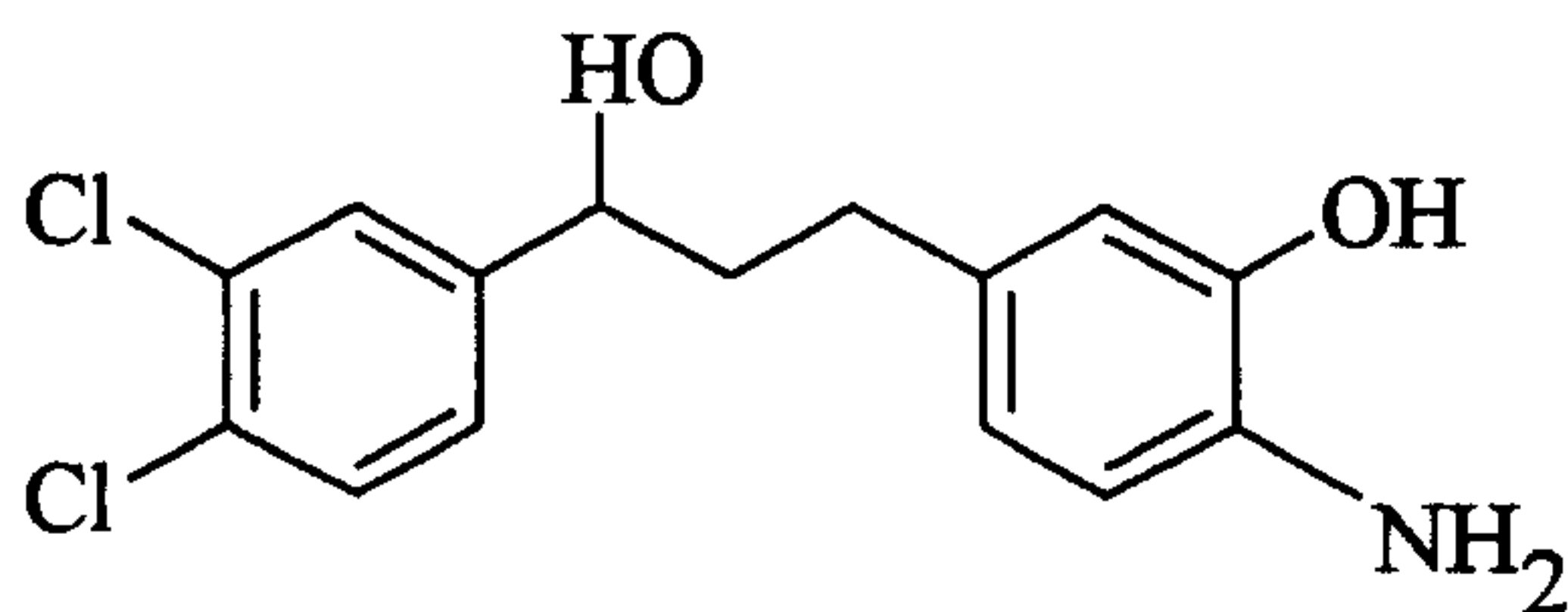
10 1-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)ethanone (23.10 g, 0.122 mol) is added in one portion. After the addition, the mixture is warmed to 15°C. 3-hydroxy-4-nitrobenzaldehyde (20.42 g, 0.122 mol) is then added with rigorous stirring. After stirring for 5 minutes, the reaction mixture is diluted with 95% EtOH (300 mL). The resulting tan mixture is stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture is acidified with 3N HCl and stirred for 30 minutes. The resulting  
15 yellow solid is filtered off, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, washed with 5% MeOH/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and oven dried (40°C) to yield a yellow solid (25.00 g, 0.074 mol, 61%) of the title compound; mp 163-166°C.

Analysis for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>9</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>:

Calcd: C 50.59; H 3.11; N 3.93.

20 Found: C 50.61; H 2.81; N 3.81.

**2. 2-Amino-5-[3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]phenol**



The title compound is prepared from 1-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-hydroxy-3-(3-hydroxy-4-nitrophenyl)propan-1-one (6.5 g, 18.25 mmol) in the presence of

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Raney Nickel (4.0 g) in THF (100 mL) at 25°C ( $\Delta P = 6.3$  psi) using the procedure described in Example 5, Step 3. The reaction mixture is concentrated in vacuo and dried in an oven vacuum (30°C) to give a brown solid (5.9 g, 18.08 mmol, 99%) of the desired product. MS: 326.0 ( $M^+$ ).  $^1H$  NMR ( $\delta$  ppm): 9.87 (s, 1H),  
 5 8.08 (d,  $J=2$  Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dd,  $J=8.3$  Hz, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d,  $J=8.3$  Hz, 1H),  
 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.53 (d,  $J=8.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.48 (d,  $J=8.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.08 (d,  $J=4.2$  Hz,  
 1H), 4.82 (ddd,  $J=4.2, 4.2, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.38 (s, 2H), 3.32 (dd,  $J=8.8, 16.6$  Hz,  
 1H), 3.02 (dd,  $J=4.4, 15.4$  Hz, 1H). —

3. **7-[3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-oxoprop-1-enyl]-  
 10 3-nitrophenoxazinecarboxylic acid**

The title compound is prepared from 2-amino-5-[3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]phenol (2.00 g, 6.13 mmol), 2-chloro-3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid (1.51 g, 6.13 mmol), water (5 mL), 2N sodium acetate (3 mL), and 2N sodium hydroxide (3 mL) using the procedure described in Example 5, Step 4. This  
 15 procedure yields a dark solid (0.5 g, 1.06 mmol, 17%) as the desired product (**compound 6**); mp  $>200^\circ C$ .

Analysis for  $C_{22}H_{12}N_2O_6Cl_2 \cdot 0.05 H_2O$ :

Calcd: C 55.96; H 2.58; N 5.93.

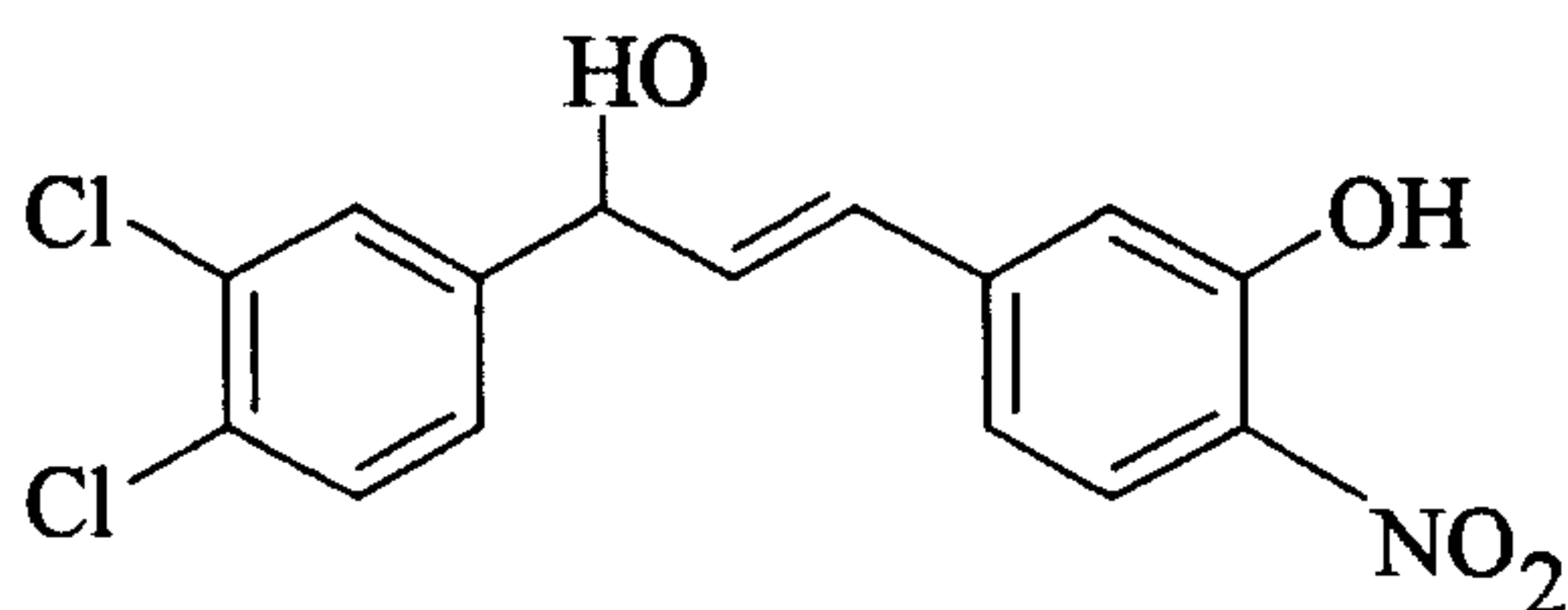
Found: C 55.57; H 2.85; N 6.07.

20

EXAMPLE 5

Synthesis of 7-[3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)propyl]-3-nitrophenoxazine carboxylic acid (**Compound 7**)

1. **5-[3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-hydroxyprop-1-enyl]-2-nitrophenol**



25

A solution of 1-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-hydroxy-3-(3-hydroxy-4-nitrophenyl)propan-1-one (15.0 g, 42.12 mmol), 15% of NaOH (100 mL), and EtOH (200 mL) is heated to reflux for 30 minutes and then cooled to room



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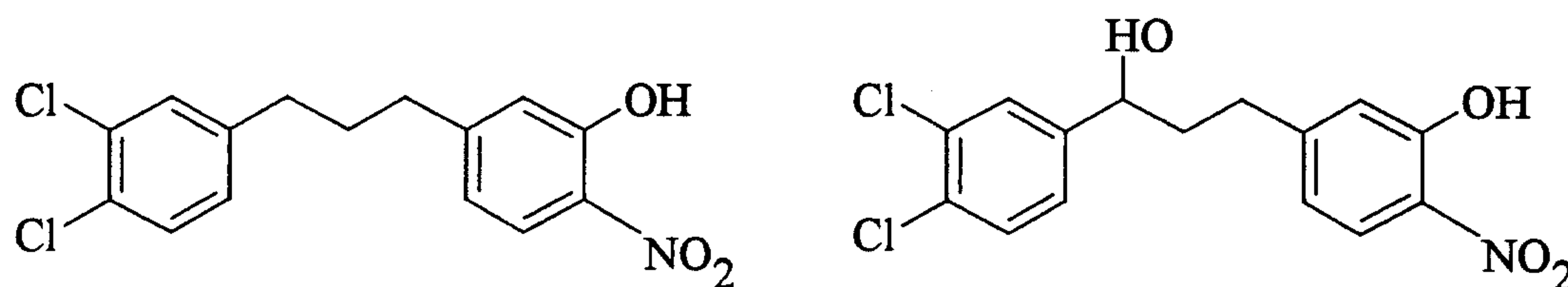
temperature and allowed to stir overnight. The reaction mixture is acidified with 10% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and stirred for 30 minutes. The precipitate is filtered off, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, then 95% EtOH, and oven dried (40°C) to yield a red solid (13.7 g, 40.51 mmol, 96%) of the title compound; mp 178-180°C.

5 Analysis for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>9</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>·0.4 H<sub>2</sub>O:

Calcd: C 52.17; H 2.86; N 4.06.

Found: C 51.78; H 2.62; N 3.68.

2. **5-[3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)propyl]-2-nitrophenol and 5-[3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]-2-nitrophenol**



A solution of 5-[3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-hydroxyprop-1-enyl]-2-nitrophenol (5.97 g, 17.65 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>SiH (8.2 g, 70.62 mmol) in TFA (70 mL) is stirred at room temperature for 10 days. The reaction mixture is concentrated to dryness, and the resulting residue is dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL) and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer is dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to give a brown oil. Purification by flash chromatography (silica gel, 1% MeOH/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) affords 3.8 g (11.65 mmol, 66%) of the desired product:

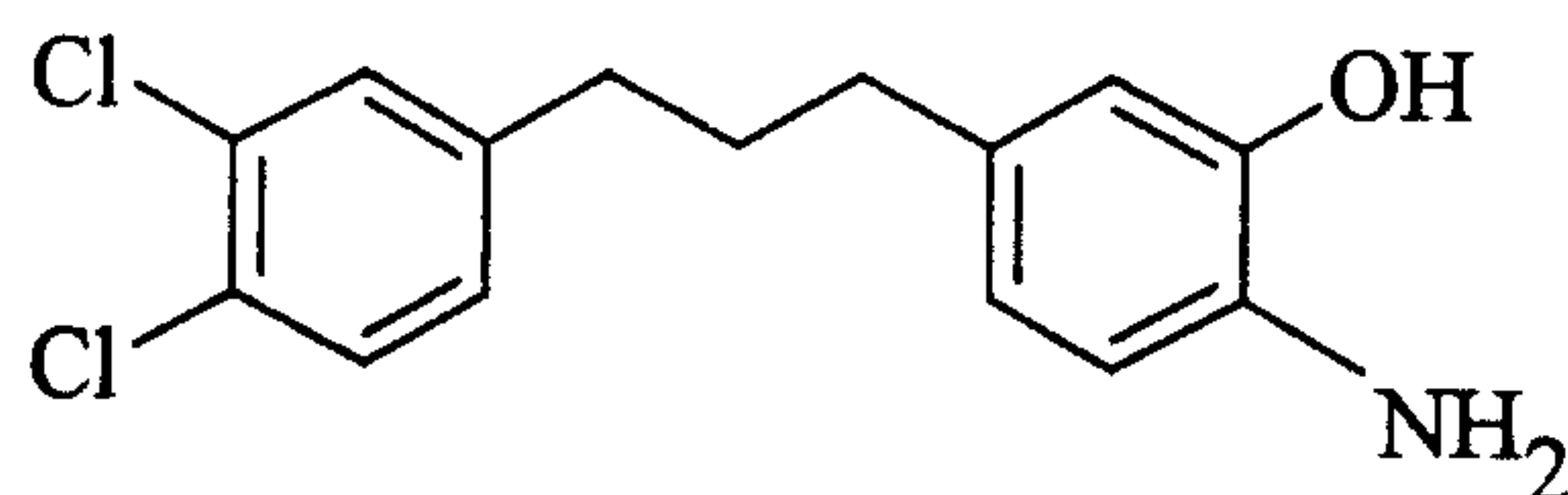
15 5-[3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)propyl]-2-nitrophenol. MS: 321.9 (M<sup>+</sup>) and 2.0 g (5.8 mmol, 33%) of 5-[3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]-2-nitrophenol; mp 90-93°C.

20 Analysis for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>1</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:

Calcd: C 58.34; H 4.39; N 4.07.

Found: C 52.38; H 3.97; N 3.91.

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**3. 2-Amino-5-[3-(3, 4-dichlorophenyl)propyl]phenol**

The title compound is prepared from 5-[3-(3, 4-dichlorophenyl)propyl]-  
2-nitrophenol (7.0 g, 21.46 mmol) and Raney Nickel (3.0 g) in THF (100 mL) at  
5 24°C to 28°C ( $\Delta P = 38.1$  psi) using the procedure described in Example 5, Step 3.  
Purification by flash chromatography (silica gel, 20%, 50%, 80% EtOAc/Hexane)  
affords a white solid (1.16 g, 3.92 mmol, 18%) of the desired product;  
mp 79-82°C.

HRMS analysis for  $C_{15}H_{15}N_1O_1Cl_2$ :

10 Calcd: 296.0609.

Found: 296.0621 ( $\Delta = 4.05$  ppm).

**4. 7-[3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)propyl]-3-nitrophenoxazine carboxylic acid**

The title compound is prepared from 2-amino-5-[3-(3,4-  
dichlorophenyl)propyl]phenol (1.11 g, 3.75 mmol), 2-chloro-3,5-dinitrobenzoic  
15 acid (0.93 g, 3.75 mmol), water (3 mL), 2N sodium acetate (2 mL), and 2N  
sodium hydroxide (2 mL) using the procedure described in Example 5, Step 4.  
This procedure yields a dark solid (1.50 g, 3.27 mmol, 87%) as the desired  
product (**compound 7**); mp 215-217°C.

20 Analysis for  $C_{22}H_{16}N_2O_5Cl_2 \cdot 0.45 H_2O \cdot 0.05 C_7H_3N_2O_6Cl$  (2-chloro-  
3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid):

Calcd: C 55.96; H 3.58; N 6.13.

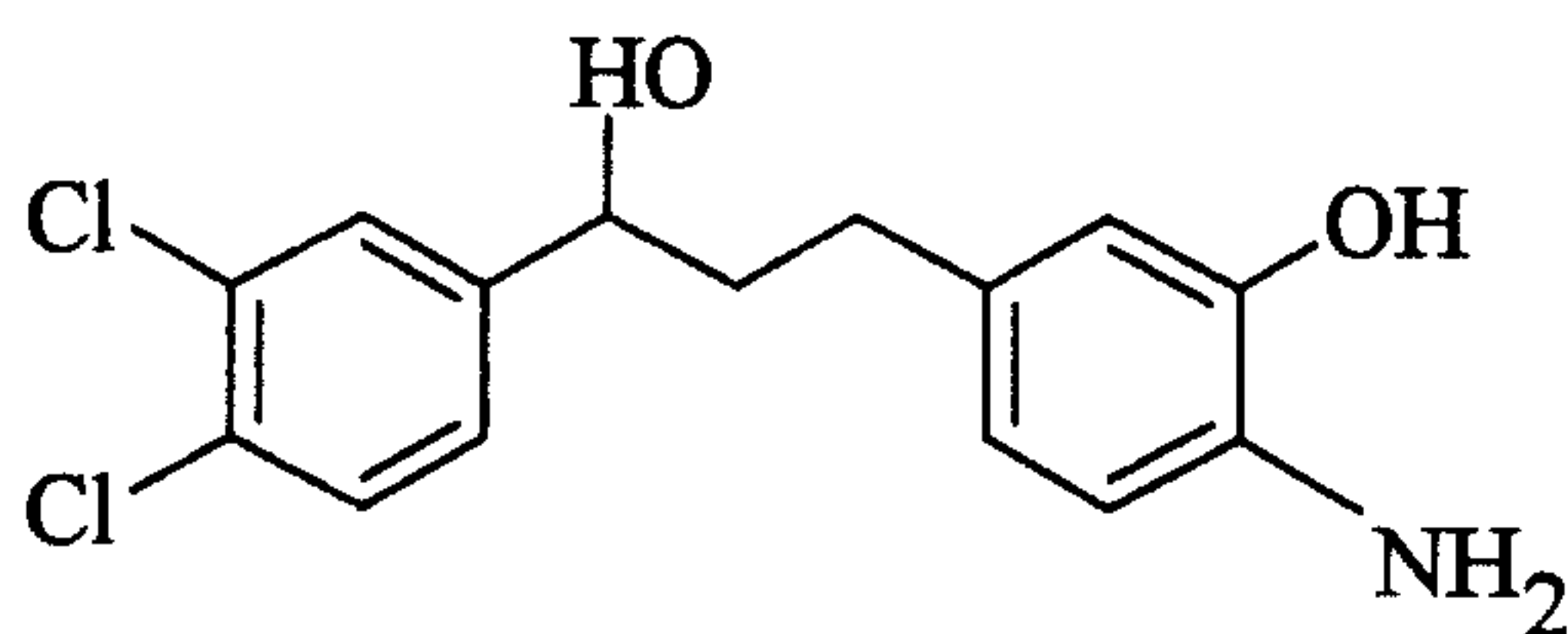
Found: C 55.60; H 3.20; N 5.88.

**EXAMPLE 6**

25 Synthesis of 7-[3-(3, 4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]-3-nitrophenoxazine  
carboxylic acid (**Compound 8**)

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1. **2-Amino-5-[3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]phenol**



The title compound is prepared from 5-[3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]-2-nitrophenol (2.0 g, 5.86 mmol) is Raney Nickel (0.5 g) in THF (50 mL) at 24°C to 25°C ( $\Delta P = 38.3$  psi) using the procedure described in Example 5, Step 3. This procedure yields an orange solid (1.43 g, 4.58 mmol, 79%) of the desired product; mp 121-123°C.

Analysis for  $C_{15}H_{15}N_1O_2Cl_2$ :

Calcd: C 57.71; H 4.84; N 4.49.

10 Found: C 57.40; H 4.71; N 4.35.

2. **7-[3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]-3-nitrophenoxazine carboxylic acid**

The title compound is prepared from 2-amino-5-[3,4-dichlorophenyl]-3-hydroxypropyl]phenol (2.39 g, 7.66 mmol), 2-chloro-3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid (1.89 g, 7.66 mmol), water (6 mL), 2N sodium acetate (4 mL), and 2N sodium hydroxide (4 mL) using the procedure described in Example 5, Step 4. This procedure affords a dark solid (3.40 g, 7.15 mmol, 93%) as the desired product (**compound 8**); mp 218-220°C.

20 Analysis for  $C_{22}H_{16}N_2O_6Cl_2 \cdot 0.75 H_2O \cdot 0.05 C_7H_3N_2O_6Cl$  (2-Chloro-3,5-dinitro-benzoic acid):

Calcd: C 53.57; H 3.55; N 5.87.

Found: C 53.20; H 3.25; N 5.85.

EXAMPLE 7

25 Synthesis of 3-Amino-7-[3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)propyl]phenoxazine carboxylic acid (**Compound 9**)

The title compound is prepared from 7-[3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)propyl]-3-nitrophenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**compound 8**) (0.86 g, 1.87 mmol) and Raney

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Nickel (0.2 g) in THF (50 mL) at 24°C to 26°C ( $\Delta P = 13.3$  psi) using the procedure described in Example 5, Step 3. This procedure yields a dark solid (0.13 g, 0.3 mmol, 16%) of the desired product (**compound 9**); mp 213-216°C.

Analysis for  $C_{22}H_{18}N_2O_3Cl_2 \cdot 0.55 H_2O$ :

5 Calcd: C 60.16; H 4.38; N 6.38.

Found: C 59.77; H 4.20; N 6.03.

### EXAMPLE 8

The following compounds are prepared essentially according to the procedures described in Examples 1-7 and shown in Schemes 1-4:

- 10 (a) Phenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**compound 1**);  
 (b) 3-Nitrophenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**compound 3**);  
 (c) 3-(Phenylmethoxy)phenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**compound 4**);  
 (d) 9-Chloro-8-(trifluoromethyl)benzo[b]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid  
 (**compound 10**);
- 15 (e) Benzo[b]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**compound 11**);  
 (f) 8,9-Dimethylbenzo[b]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**compound 12**);  
 (g) 8,9-Dihydroxybenzo[b]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**compound 13**);  
 (h) 8,9-Dichlorobenzo[b]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**compound 14**);  
 (i) 7-Phenylphenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**compound 15**);
- 20 (j) 7-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)phenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**compound 16**);  
 (k) 7-Benzylphenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**compound 17**);  
 (l) 7-[(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)methyl]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid  
 (**compound 18**);  
 (m) 7-[2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)ethyl]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid  
 25 (**compound 19**); and  
 (n) 8-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)phenoxazinecarboxylic acid (**compound 20**).

As noted above, the compounds of Formula I are useful because of their ability to inhibit amyloid protein aggregation. The inhibitory activity of the invention compounds has been determined in several biological assays routinely  
 30 utilized by those skilled in the art to measure such amyloid inhibition.

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Representative invention compounds have been evaluated in the following amyloid assays.

**1. BASSR (Beta-Amyloid Self-Seeding Radioassay)**

An assay for inhibitors of self-seeded amyloid fibril growth

5

**Materials:**

Stock Solutions:

*Assay Buffer* — 50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.5, 100 mM NaCl, 0.02% NaN<sub>3</sub>, 1 M urea (filter and store at 4°C)

10

*Soluble A $\beta$  (1-40) peptide* (Bachem, Torrance, CA) — 2.2 mg/mL in deionized H<sub>2</sub>O (is stored in aliquots at -20°C; is kept on ice when thawed) will self-seed after 1 week storage. Typically, the solution is stored until no lag phase is seen in the assay.

15

*<sup>125</sup>I-labeled A $\beta$  (1-40)* — 150K to 350K cpm/ $\mu$ L in 100% acetonitrile - 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) — 1%  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol (aliquots stored at -20°C). <sup>125</sup>I-labeled A $\beta$  (1-40) is made in accordance with the procedure set forth by LeVine H., III, in *Neurobiol. Aging*, 1995;16:755, which is hereby incorporated by reference, or this reagent may be purchased from Amersham, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

20

*Final assay conditions:* 30  $\mu$ M soluble A $\beta$  (1-40) in deionized water in assay buffer + 20K to 50K cpm <sup>125</sup>I-labeled A $\beta$  (1-40) per assay. Compound to be tested is dissolved in dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), typically 5 to 50 mM stock, such that the final concentration of DMSO is <1% v/v in the assay.

25

**Assay:** Reaction mixture for 50 assays (on ice) is comprised of 0.1 to 0.2  $\mu$ L of <sup>125</sup>I-labeled A<sup>125</sup>I-labeled A $\beta$  (1-40) + 1  $\mu$ L of soluble A $\beta$  (1-40) + 13.5  $\mu$ L assay buffer per assay. The following are the amounts of the components of the reaction mixture sufficient for 50 assay wells.

30

5-10  $\mu$ L <sup>125</sup>I-labeled A $\beta$  (1-40) dried down  
675  $\mu$ L assay buffer

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50  $\mu$ L soluble  $A\beta$  (1-40)Assay Method:

- 1) The reaction mixture of above is prepared by mixing components and storing on ice.
- 5 2) 14.5  $\mu$ L of the reaction mixture is pipetted into each of 50 wells on a polypropylene U-bottom 96-well microtiter plate on ice (Costar 3794).
- 10 3) 1.7  $\mu$ L of diluted compound to be tested is added to each well in a column of eight, including solvent control. Serial 3-fold dilutions from 1 mM (100  $\mu$ M final) in assay buffer - urea = 7 dilutions + zero. Each 96-well plate can therefore accommodate 11 samples + 1 Congo Red control (0.039-5  $\mu$ M final in 2-fold steps).
- 15 4) The plate with aluminum film (Beckman 538619) is sealed and incubated for 10 minutes on ice.
- 5) The temperature is raised to 37°C and incubated for 3 to 5 hours (depending on the lot of the peptide).
- 20 6) The aluminum film is removed and 200  $\mu$ L/well of ice cold assay buffer with urea is added. The radiolabeled fibrils are collected by vacuum filtration through 0.2  $\mu$ m pore size GVWP filters in 96-well plates (Millipore MAGV N22, Bedford, MA). The radioactivity of the filters is determined by using standard methods well-known to those skilled in the art.

**2. BASST (Beta-Amyloid Self-seeding, ThioflavinT)**

An assay for inhibitors of self-seeded amyloid fibril growth

25

**Materials:**Stock Solutions:

*Assay Buffer* — 50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.5, 100 mM NaCl,  
0.02% NaN<sub>3</sub>, 1 M urea (filter and store at 4°C)

30

*Soluble  $A\beta$  (1-40)* — 2.2 mg/mL in deionized H<sub>2</sub>O (is stored in aliquots at -20°C; is kept on ice when thawed) will self-seed after 1 week

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storage. Typically, the solution is stored until no lag phase is seen in the assay.

*Final assay conditions:* 30  $\mu\text{M}$  soluble  $A\beta$  (1-40) in deionized water in assay buffer. Compound to be tested is dissolved in DMSO, typically 5 to 50 mM stock, such that the final concentration of DMSO is <1% v/v in the assay.

**Assay:** Reaction mixture for 50 assays (on ice) is comprised of 1  $\mu\text{L}$  of soluble  $A\beta$  (1-40) + 13.5  $\mu\text{L}$  assay buffer per assay. The following are the amounts of the components of the reaction mixture that result in each of the 50 assay wells.

50  $\mu\text{L}$  soluble  $A\beta$  (1-40)

675  $\mu\text{L}$  assay buffer

Assay Method:

- 1) The reaction mix above is prepared by mixing the components and storing on ice.
- 2) 14.5  $\mu\text{L}$  of reaction mixture is pipetted into each of 50 wells of a polystyrene U-bottom, 96-well microtiter plate (Corning 25881-96) on ice.
- 3) 1.7  $\mu\text{L}$  of diluted compound to be tested is added to each well in a column of eight, including solvent control. Serial 3-fold dilutions from 1 mM (100  $\mu\text{M}$  final) in assay buffer - urea = 7 dilutions + zero. Each 96-well plate can therefore accommodate 11 samples + 1 Congo Red control (0.039-5  $\mu\text{M}$  final in 2-fold steps).
- 4) The plate with aluminum film is sealed and incubated for 10 minutes on ice.
- 5) The temperature is raised to 37°C and incubated for 3 to 5 hours (depending on the lot of the peptide).
- 6) The aluminum film is removed and 250  $\mu\text{L}$ /well of 5  $\mu\text{M}$  thioflavin T (ThT) [T-3516, Sigma-Aldrich] is added in 50 mM glycine-NaOH, pH 8.5. Fluorescence is read on a plate reader (ex = 440 nm/20 nm ; em = 485 nm/20 nm) within 5 minutes.

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**3. BAPA (Beta-Amyloid Peptide Aggregation)**

This assay is used to provide a measure of inhibition by a compound against the aggregation behavior of the beta amyloid peptide.

5 The purpose of this assay is to provide a higher volume method of assaying the amount of beta amyloid aggregation using an endpoint assay based on filtration. In this assay, hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP) is used to break down the initial amyloid peptide to a monomer state and a concentration of 33  $\mu\text{M}$  is used, a concentration which is high enough so that aggregation will occur at pH 6.0 in several hours.

10 Method:

 **$\beta$ -Amyloid Peptide Aggregation, pH 6.0 (BAPA)**

To a 96-well plate (Costar 3794) is added 25  $\mu\text{L}$  50 mM Phosphate Buffer (pH 6.0), 10  $\mu\text{L}$  0.5 mg/mL  $\text{A}\beta$  (1-40) peptide in 20% HFIP + 0.1  $\mu\text{L}$ /assay radioiodinated  $^{125}\text{I}$   $\text{A}\beta$  (1-40) [ $^{125}\text{I}$   $\text{A}\beta$ (1-40)], and 15 1  $\mu\text{L}$  of the compound to be tested, starting at 50 mM with a concentration of DMSO <1%. The reaction is incubated for 2 to 4 hours at room temperature. The reaction is stopped with 200  $\mu\text{L}$  of 50 mM phosphate buffer, pH 6.0, and filtered through a 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  96-well filter plate (Millipore MAGU N22). The filter plate is washed with 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of the same phosphate buffer. Aggregation is detected on a Microbeta counter after impregnating the filters with 20 Meltilex (1450-441) and is corrected for background.

**4. BATYM ASSAY**Methods:

25 Required  $\text{A}\beta$  (1-42) (California Peptide) is dried from its hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP) stock solution. The  $\text{A}\beta$  (1-42) is dissolved in DMSO and then mixed with phosphate buffered saline (PBS) (pH 7.4). The mixed  $\text{A}\beta$  (1-42) solution is filtered with a GVWP 0.22  $\mu\text{m}$  syringe filter (Millipore, Bedford, MA). The compound to be tested in DMSO (50 times concentrate) is put 30 into each well (0.5  $\mu\text{L}$ /well) of a 96-well plate. The  $\text{A}\beta$  (1-42) solution is added



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into each well (25  $\mu\text{L}$ /well). The plate is centrifuged at 1000 g for 5 minutes and incubated at 37°C for 1 day (A $\beta$  1-42; final concentration 100  $\mu\text{M}$ ).

5 After incubation Thioflavin T (ThT) (30  $\mu\text{M}$ ) solution in glycine-NaOH buffer (pH 8.5, 50 mM) is added into each well (250  $\mu\text{L}$ /well), fluorescence is measured (ex = 440/20 nm, em = 485/20 nm) using a fluorescence plate reader. The inhibitory activity is calculated as the reduction of fluorescence with the following formula:

$$\text{Inhibition (\%)} = \frac{\{F(\text{A}\beta) - F(\text{A}\beta + \text{compound})\}}{\{F(\text{A}\beta) - F(\text{solvent} - \text{compound})\}} \times 100.$$

10 The IC<sub>50</sub>s are calculated by a curve-fitting program using the equation given below. The data is obtained from two different experiments in triplicate.

$$F(x) = 100 - 100 / \{1 + (\text{IC}_{50} / 10^x)^n\};$$

x = concentration of tested compound (M),

IC<sub>50</sub> = (M),

15 n = Hill coefficient.

The results of these assays for compounds of the present invention are shown in Table 2.

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TABLE 2

Example No.	Compound No.	BASSR (IC <sub>50</sub> = $\mu$ M)	BASST (IC <sub>50</sub> = $\mu$ M)	BATYM (IC <sub>50</sub> = $\mu$ M)	BAPA (IC <sub>50</sub> = $\mu$ M)
1	21	12, 11, 10	1	6.7	67
2	2	100, 60, 70, 60	1	4.15	5
3	5	60, >100 (ppt)	3, 1	7.89 (P) 3.02 (Q)	0.9 (Q) -
4	6	21, 22, 25	1	4.61	>100
5	7	30 (ppt), 20, 6	0.5	1.88	>100
6	8	>100, 100, 100	0.6	4.18	100
7	9	60, >100	3	8.75	86
8b	3	8	13, 40, 23, 23, 40, 13		62, >100 (BAPA2)
8c	4	14	8.4, 45, 45, 8.44		50, >50 (BAPA2)

ppt = Precipitate and indicates that a precipitate formed at the indicated concentration

5 The above data establishes that representative invention compounds are active in standard assays used to measure inhibition of protein aggregation. The compounds exhibit excellent specificity, for example, as shown in the BASST assay, as well as the BATYM assay. The compounds are thus useful to clinically inhibit amyloid protein aggregation and to image amyloid deposits for diagnostic use. The compounds will be used in the form of pharmaceutical formulations, and the following examples illustrate typical compositions.

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## EXAMPLE 9

## Tablet Formulation

Ingredient	Amount
Compound of Example 1	50 mg
Lactose	80 mg
Cornstarch (for mix)	10 mg
Cornstarch (for paste)	8 mg
Magnesium Stearate (1%)	2 mg
	150 mg

The compound of Example 1 (Compound 21) is mixed with the lactose  
 and cornstarch (for mix) and blended to uniformity to a powder. The cornstarch  
 5 (for paste) is suspended in 6 mL of water and heated with stirring to form a paste.  
 The paste is added to the mixed powder, and the mixture is granulated. The wet  
 granules are passed through a No. 8 hard screen and dried at 50°C. The mixture is  
 lubricated with 1% magnesium stearate and compressed into a tablet. The tablets  
 are administered to a patient at the rate of 1 to 4 each day for prevention of  
 10 amyloid protein aggregation and treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

## EXAMPLE 10

**Parenteral Solution**

In a solution of 700 mL of propylene glycol and 200 mL of water for  
 injection is added 20.0 g of Compound No. 7 (Example 5). The mixture is stirred  
 15 and the pH is adjusted to 5.5 with hydrochloric acid. The volume is adjusted to  
 1000 mL with water for injection. The solution is sterilized, filled into 5.0 mL  
 ampoules, each containing 2.0 mL (40 mg of Compound No. 7), and sealed under  
 nitrogen. The solution is administered by injection to a patient suffering from  
 medullary carcinoma of the thyroid and in need of treatment.

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## EXAMPLE 11

**Patch Formulation**

Ten milligrams of Compound No. 13 (Example 8g) is mixed with 1 mL of propylene glycol and 2 mg of acrylic-based polymer adhesive containing a resinous cross-linking agent. The mixture is applied to an impermeable backing (30 cm<sup>2</sup>) and applied to the upper back of a patient for sustained release treatment of amyloid polyneuropathy.

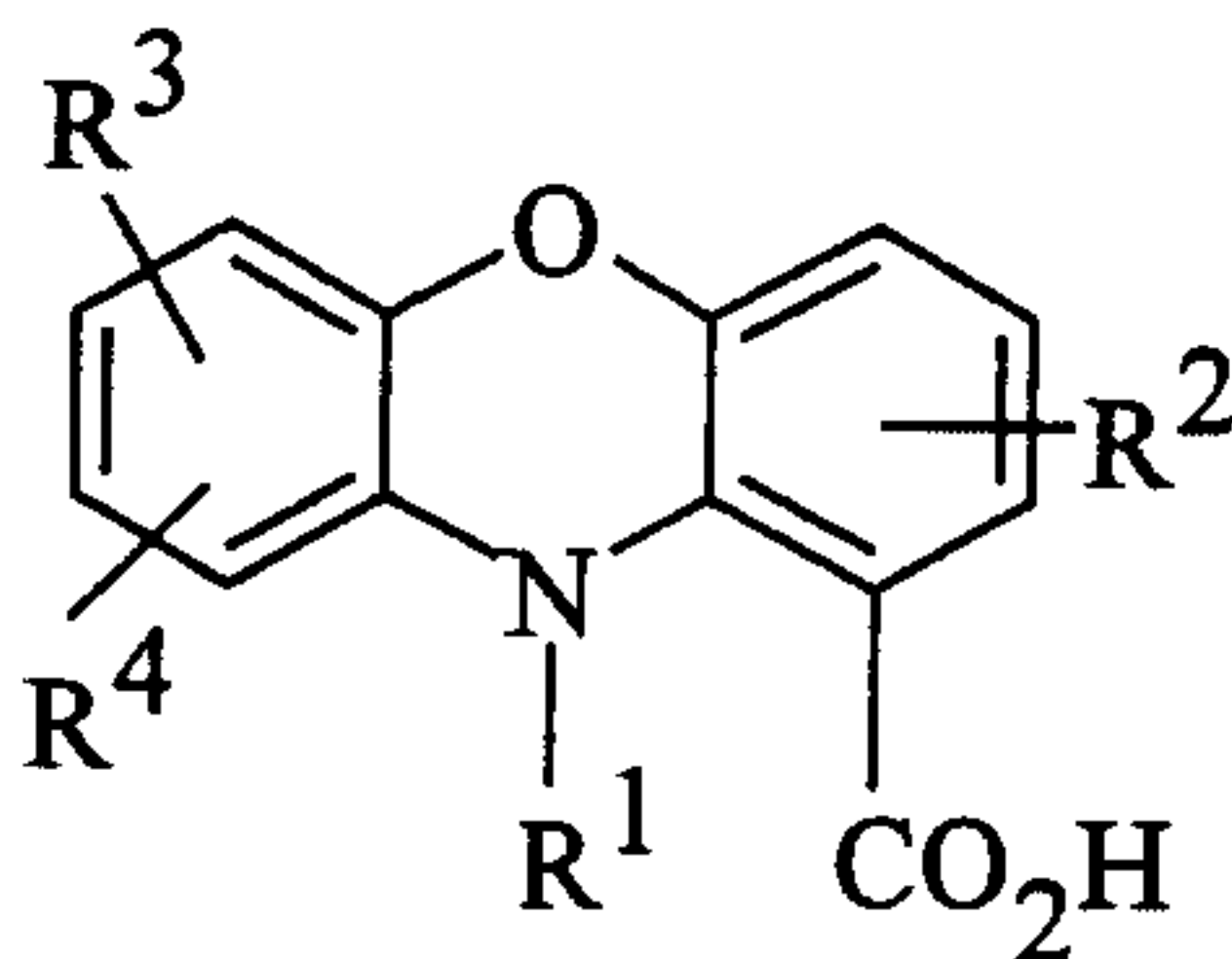
The invention and the manner and process of making and using it are now described in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, to make and use the same. It is to be understood that the foregoing describes preferred embodiments of the present invention and that modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit or scope of the present invention as set forth in the claims. To particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as invention, the following claims conclude this specification.

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## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the Formula I



5 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof,

wherein:

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, or cycloalkyl;

10 R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen; lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, aryl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, arylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxy, cyano, carboxy, alkoxy carbonyl, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, or mono- or dialkylamino;

15 R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> independently are hydrogen, lower alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, carboxy, alkoxy carbonyl, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino, or lower alkyl or lower alkenyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from oxo, halogen, hydroxy, carboxy, carbamoyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino, or

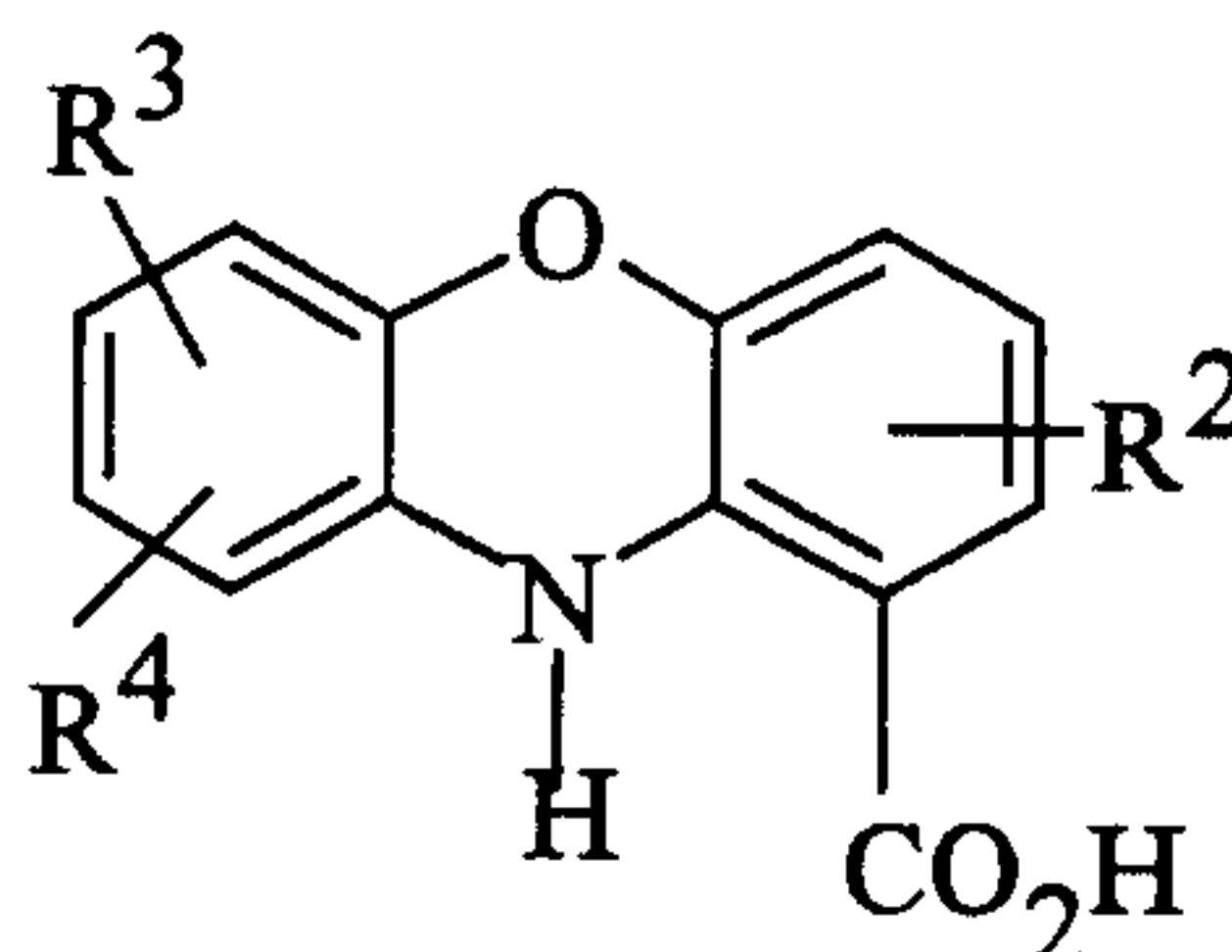
20 aryl or heteroaryl optionally substituted independently with up to three groups selected from halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy, carboxy, alkoxy carbonyl, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino, carbamoyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxy carbonylalkyl, sulfamoyl, or  
25 carbonylamino, or

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$R^3$  and  $R^4$  together form a carbocyclic group containing from five to seven members, up to two of which members are optionally heteroatoms selected from oxygen and nitrogen, where the carbocyclic group is optionally substituted with one or two groups selected from halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, mono- or dialkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, or a heterocyclic group.

5

2. A compound of the Formula II



II

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof,

10

wherein:

$R^2$  is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, aryl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, arylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxy, cyano, carboxy, alkoxy carbonyl, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, or mono- or dialkylamino;

15

$R^3$  and  $R^4$  independently are hydrogen, lower alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, carboxy, alkoxy carbonyl, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino, or lower alkyl or lower alkenyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from oxo, halogen, hydroxy, carboxy, carbamoyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino, or

20

aryl or heteroaryl optionally substituted independently with up to three groups selected from halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy, carboxy, alkoxy carbonyl, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino, carbamoyl,

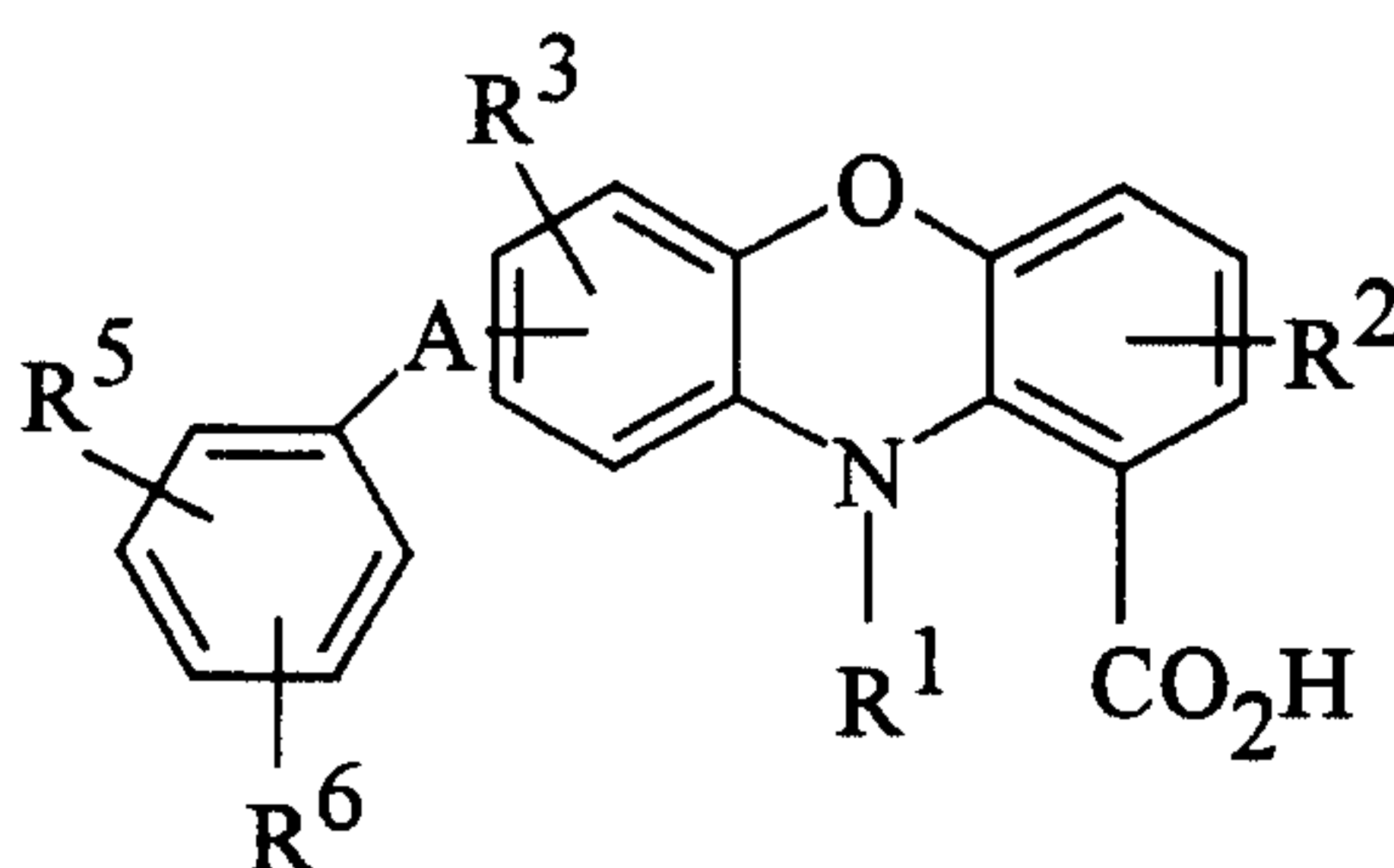
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carboxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, sulfamoyl, or  
 carbonylamino, or

$R^3$  and  $R^4$  together form a carbocyclic group containing from five to  
 seven members, up to two of which members are optionally  
 heteroatoms selected from oxygen and nitrogen, where the  
 carbocyclic group is optionally substituted with one or two groups  
 selected from halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, mono- or  
 dialkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, or a heterocyclic group.

3. A compound of the Formula III



and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs  
 thereof,

wherein:

A is absent, or is

lower alkyl or lower alkenyl unsubstituted or substituted with one  
 or two groups independently selected from oxo, halogen, hydroxy,  
 carboxy, carbamoyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino;

$R^1$  is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

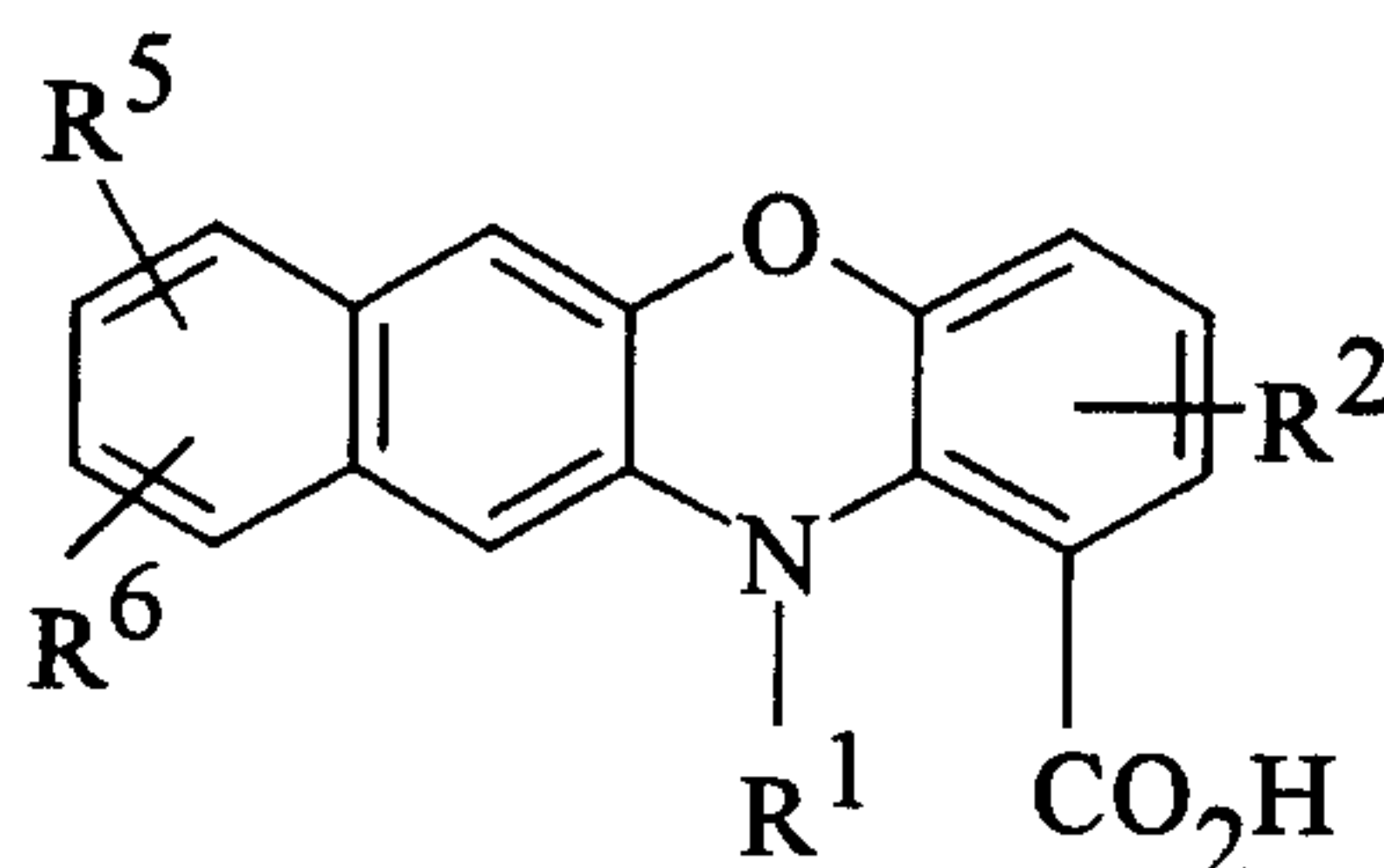
$R^2$ ,  $R^5$ , and  $R^6$  are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy,  
 halogen, hydroxy, aryl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl,  
 arylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxy, cyano, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl,  
 carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, or mono- or  
 dialkylamino; and

$R^3$  is hydrogen, lower alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, hydroxy, cyano,  
 carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, nitro,  
 trifluoromethyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino, or

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lower alkyl or lower alkenyl unsubstituted or substituted with one,  
 two or three groups independently selected from oxo,  
 halogen, hydroxy, carboxy, carbamoyl, amino, mono- or  
 dialkylamino, or  
 5 aryl or heteroaryl optionally substituted independently with up to  
 three groups selected from halogen, lower alkyl, lower  
 alkoxy, hydroxy, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, cyano, nitro,  
 trifluoromethyl, amino, mono- or dialkylamino, carbamoyl,  
 carboxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, sulfamoyl, or  
 10 carbonylamino.

4. A compound of the formula



and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs  
 thereof,

15 wherein:

$R^1$  is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and

20  $R^2$ ,  $R^5$ , and  $R^6$  are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy,  
 halogen, hydroxy, aryl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl,  
 arylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxy, cyano, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl,  
 carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, or mono- or  
 dialkylamino.

5. A compound according to Claim 1, which is selected from:

Phenoxazinecarboxylic acid;

3-Nitrophenoxazinecarboxylic acid;

25 3-(Phenylmethoxy)phenoxazinecarboxylic acid;

9-Chloro-8-(trifluoromethyl)benzo[b]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid;

Benzo[b]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid;



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- 8,9-Dimethylbenzo[b]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid;  
 8,9-Dihydroxybenzo[b]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid;  
 8,9-Dichlorobenzo[b]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid;  
 7-Phenylphenoxazinecarboxylic acid;  
 5 7-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)phenoxazinecarboxylic acid;  
 7-Benzylphenoxazinecarboxylic acid;  
 7-[(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)methyl]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid;  
 7-[2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)ethyl]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid;  
 8-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)phenoxazinecarboxylic acid;  
 10 3-Nitrobenzo[b]phenoxazinecarboxylic acid;  
 3-Nitro-8-phenylphenoxazinecarboxylic acid;  
 7-[2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)ethyl]-3-nitrophenoxazinecarboxylic acid;  
 7-[3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-oxoprop-1-enyl]-  
     3-nitrophenoxazinecarboxylic acid;  
 15 7-[3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)propyl]-3-nitrophenoxazine carboxylic acid;  
 7-[3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]-3-nitrophenoxazine  
     carboxylic acid; and  
 3-Amino-7-[3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)propyl]phenoxazine carboxylic acid.
6. A method of treating Alzheimer's disease, the method comprising  
 20 administering to a patient having Alzheimer's disease a therapeutically  
 effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.
7. A method of inhibiting the aggregation of amyloid proteins to form  
 amyloid deposits, the method comprising administering to a patient in  
 need of inhibition of the aggregation of amyloid protein an amyloid  
 25 protein aggregation inhibiting amount of a compound of Claim 1.
8. A method of imaging amyloid deposits, the method comprising:  
 a. introducing into a patient a detectable quantity of a labeled  
     compound according to Claim 1;  
 b. allowing sufficient time for the labeled compound to become  
 30 associated with amyloid deposits; and

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- c. detecting the labeled compound associated with the amyloid deposits.
- 
- 9. The method of Claim 10 wherein the patient has or is suspected to have Alzheimer's disease.
- 
- 5 10. The method of Claim 10 wherein the labeled compound is a radio labeled compound.
- 
- 11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the labeled compound is detected using MRI.