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NO DRAWINGS

- (21) Application No. 1197/68 (22) Filed 9 Jan. 1968
- (31) Convention Application No. 608 997 (32) Filed 13 Jan. 1967 in
- (33) United States of America (US)
- (31) Convention Application No. 694 771 (32) Filed 7 Dec. 1967 in
- (33) United States of America (US)
- (45) Complete Specification published 4 Nov. 1970
- (51) International Classification C 07 d 5/04, 7/04, 87/28, 27/04, 29/12, 51/70; C 07 c 63/52, 69/76, 103/10; A 61 k 27/00



ERRATA

SPECIFICATION No. 1,211,134

- Page 2, line 27, for "hydroxyl" read "hydroxy"
- Page 2, line 33, for "R¹⁵" read "R¹⁶"
- Page 3, line 25, for "thiether" read "thioether"
- Page 5, line 53, for "R² and R¹⁰" read "R² or R¹⁰"
- Page 7, line 34, for "Carboxynaphthalene" read "Carboxynaphthalene"
- Page 11, line 53, for "dimethoxyoxyethane" read "dimethoxyethane"
- Page 12, line 2, for "evolution" read "evolution"
- Page 18, line 19, for "naphthylacetates" read "naphthylacetate"
- Page 18, line 59, for "methoxycarbonylmethyl" read "methoxycarbonylmethyl"
- Page 23, line 54, for "methyl" read "methylene"
- Page 29, line 39, for "R⁵" read "R⁶"
- Page 31, line 19, for "R¹³" read "R¹⁶"
- Page 33, line 3, for "Claim 24" read "Claim 34"
- Page 37, line 1, for "accoding" read "according"

THE PATENT OFFICE
5th January 1971

8B2A3 8B2Y 8B3AX 8B3B2A2 8B3BX 8B3C2 8B3Y
8B4

(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO NAPHTHALENE DERIVATIVES

(71) We, SYNTEX CORPORATION, a Panamanian Corporation of Apartado Postal 7386, Panama, Panama, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement: —

SEE ERRATA SHEET ATTACHED

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- (52) Index at acceptance



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 P3B12B P3B19B P4 P7 P8

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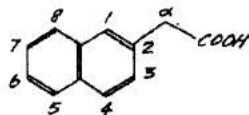
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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO NAPHTHALENE DERIVATIVES

(71) We, SYNTEX CORPORATION, a Panamanian Corporation of Apartado Postal 7386, Panama, Panama, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to novel compositions useful as anti-inflammatory, analgesic, anti-pyretic and anti-pruritic agents. It also relates to novel methods for treating conditions marked by inflammation, pain, pyrexia, and pruritus. It further relates to novel compounds which are thus useful and to methods for their preparation, as well as to certain novel intermediates thereof.

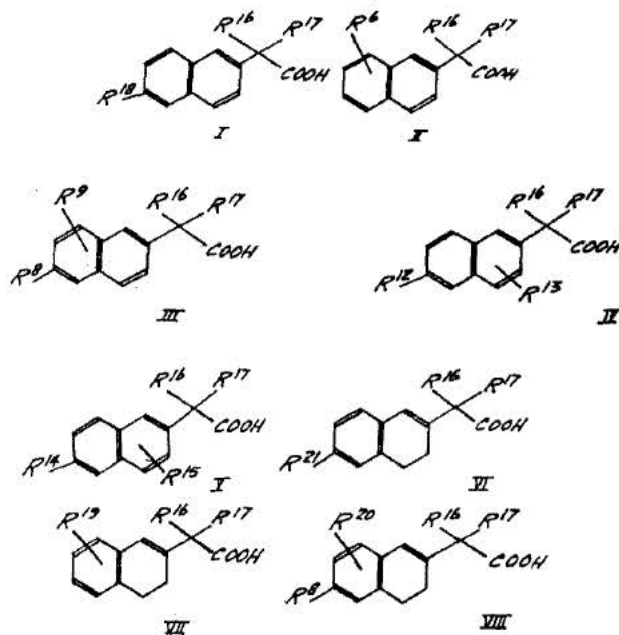
The present compounds are derivatives of 2-naphthylacetic acid, a compound which can be represented by the formula:



The arabic numerals and the alpha symbol indicate the positions used herein in the nomenclature of 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives.

The present invention provides compounds applicable for effecting treatment of inflammation, pain, pyrexia, and pruritus, as well as associative conditions thereof, by administering an effective quantity of a 2-naphthylacetic acid derivative as hereinafter defined or the corresponding amide, ester, hydroxamic acid or addition salt thereof, which salt is derived from a pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic base.

These thus useful 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives can be represented by the following general formulae:



wherein each of R^6 (at position 1, 4, 7 or 8) and R^{19} (as position 1, 7 or 8) is alkyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, hydrolyzable ester, oxyether or thioether, provided that when R^{15} and R^{17} are hydrogen or one of R^{16} and R^{17} is methyl or ethyl, R^{19} (when at position 1) is other than hydroxy;

R^8 is alkyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, hydrolyzable ester, oxyether or thioether;

each of R^9 (at position 1, 4, 7 or 8) and R^{20} (at position 1, 7 or 8) is alkyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, hydrolyzable ester, oxyether or thioether, provided that when R^8 is hydroxy, oxyether or thioether, R^9 or R^{20} is the identical group or alkyl, fluoro, chloro or hydrolyzable ester; provided that when one of R^9 or R^{20} is hydroxyl, oxyether or thioether, R^8 is the identical group or alkyl, fluoro, chloro, or hydrolyzable ester;

each of R^{12} and R^{13} (at position 1 or 4) is hydroxy, oxyether or thioether;

each of R^{13} (at position 1 or 4) and R^{14} is alkoxy or alkylthio, provided when R^{12} or R^{13} is alkoxy or alkylthio, R^{13} or R^{14} respectively is a different alkoxy or alkylthio group;

one of R^{15} and R^{17} is hydrogen, the other being hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, difluoro-methyl, fluoro or chloro; or

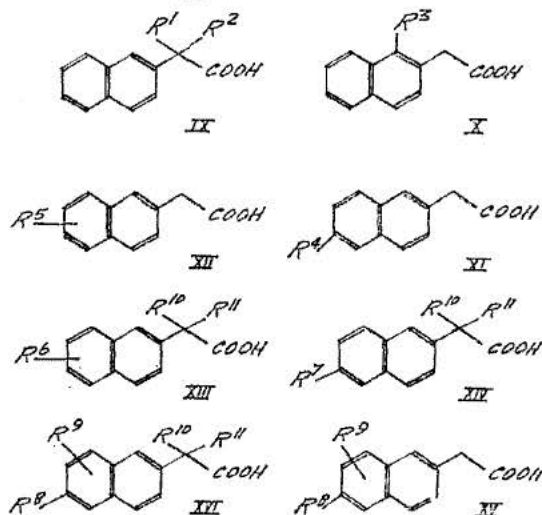
R^{16} and R^{17} taken together are alkylidene, halomethylene or ethylene;

R^{18} is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxymethyl, alkoxyethyl, vinyl, ethynyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, thioether, formyl, carboxy, alkoxy-carbonyl, acetyl, cyano or aryl;

R^{21} is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, thioether or aryl; provided that at least one of R^{16} , R^{17} , and R^{21} is other than hydrogen; provided that when one of R^{16} and R^{17} is methyl or ethyl, R^{21} is other than hydrogen; or a

corresponding amide, ester, hydroxamic acid or pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof.

Several classes of novel naphthylacetic acid derivatives of general formulae I—VIII include those of the following general formulae:



wherein one of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen and the other is difluoromethyl, fluoro or chloro; or

R^1 and R^2 taken together are alkylidene, halomethylene, or ethylene;

R^3 is trifluoromethyl, hydrolyzable ester, difluoromethoxy, alkoxy-methoxy, 4'-alkoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, tetrahydrofuran-2'-yloxy, tetrahydropyran-2'-yloxy, or thioether;

R^4 is cycloalkyl, hydroxymethyl, alkoxyethyl, trifluoromethyl, vinyl, ethynyl, a hydrolyzable ester, alkoxy-methoxy, alkylthiomethylthio, difluoromethoxy, alkoxy-methylthio, alkylthiomethoxy, difluoromethylthio, formyl, carboxy, alkoxy-carbonyl, acetyl, cyano, or aryl;

each of R^5 (at position 4, 7 or 8) and R^6 (at position 1, 4, 7 or 8) is alkyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, hydrolyzable ester, oxyether or thioether; provided that R^5 (when at position 7) is other than alkyl;

R^7 is alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxymethyl, alkoxyethyl, trifluoromethyl, vinyl, ethynyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, thioether, formyl, carboxy, alkoxy-carbonyl, acetyl, cyano or aryl;

each of R^8 and R^9 (at position 1, 4, 7 or 8) is alkyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, hydrolyzable ester, oxyether or thioether; provided that when one of R^8 or R^9 is hydroxy, oxyether or thioether, the other is the identical group or alkyl, fluoro, chloro or hydrolyzable ester;

one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen, the other being methyl, ethyl, difluoromethyl, fluoro or chloro; or

R^{10} and R^{11} taken together are alkylidene, halomethylene, or ethylene; provided that when one of R^{10} or R^{11} is methyl or ethyl, R^6 (when at position 1 or 7) is other than alkyl; or

a corresponding amide, ester, hydroxamic acid or pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof.

By the terms which define an "alkyl" grouping are meant lower molecular weight, branched, or straight chain hydrocarbon groups of six or less carbon atoms, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, tertbutyl, pentyl and hexyl. By the term "cyclo-alkyl" is meant cyclic hydrocarbon groups of three to seven carbon atoms, such as cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl.

By the term "alkoxy" is intended a straight or branched chain hydrocarbon ether group of six or less carbon atoms, including methoxy, ethoxy, 2-propoxy, butoxy and 3-pentoxy.

5 By the terms which define an "alkoxymethyloxy" grouping are meant methylether groups substituted with one alkoxy group; typical alkoxymethyloxy groups include methoxymethyloxy, ethoxymethyloxy and isopropoxymethyloxy. 5

By the term "alkylthio" is intended straight or branched chain hydrocarbon thioether groups of six or less carbon atoms, including methylthio, ethylthio, propylthio, 2-propylthio, 2-butylthio, pentylthio and 3-hexylthio.

10 The term "alkylthiomethyloxy" as used herein denotes methylether groups substituted with an alkylthio group; typical alkylthiomethyloxy groups include methylthiomethyloxy, 2-propylthiomethyloxy and pentylthiomethyloxy. 10

The term "alkylthiomethylthio" as used herein denotes methylthio ether groups substituted with an alkylthio group, including methylthiomethylthio and ethylthiomethylthio. 15

By the terms which define an "alkoxymethylthio" grouping are meant methylthio ether groups substituted with one alkoxy group, such as methoxymethylthio, ethoxymethylthio and 2-propoxymethylthio.

20 By the term "aryl" is intended unsubstituted and *p*-mono substituted phenyl derivatives, such as phenyl, *p*-tolyl, *p*-fluorophenyl, *p*-chlorophenyl, *p*-hydroxyphenyl, *p*-methoxyphenyl and *p*-ethylphenyl. 20

By the term "halomethylene" is meant mono- or dihalomethylene groups wherein halo is fluoro or chloro. The preferred halomethylenes includes fluoromethylene, difluoromethylene, fluorochloromethylene, and chloromethylene.

25 The term "hydrolyzable ester" as used herein denotes those hydrolyzable ester groups conventionally employed in the art, preferably those derived from hydrocarbon carboxylic acids or their salts. The term "hydrocarbon carboxylic acid" defines both substituted and unsubstituted hydrocarbon carboxylic acids. These acids can be completely saturated or possess varying degrees of unsaturation (including aromatic), can be of straight chain, branched chain, or cyclic structure and, preferably, contain from one to twelve carbon atoms inclusive. In addition, they can be substituted by functional groups, for example, hydroxy, alkoxy containing up to six carbon atoms inclusive, acyloxy containing up to twelve carbon atoms inclusive, nitro, amino and halogeno, attached to the hydrocarbon backbone chain. Typical hydrolyzable esters thus included within the scope of the term and the present invention are acetate, propionate, butyrate, valerate, caproate, enanthate, caprylate, pelargonate, acrylate, undecenoate, phenoxyacetate, benzoate, phenylacetate, diphenylacetate, diethylacetate, trimethylacetate, *t*-butylacetate, trimethylhexanoate, methylneopentylacetate, cyclohexylacetate, cyclopentylpropionate, adamantate, glycolate, methoxyacetate, hemisuccinate, hemiadipate, 40

hemi- β , β -dimethylglutarate, acetoxyacetate, 2-chloro-4-nitrobenzoate, aminoacetate, diethylaminoacetate, piperidinoacetate, β -chloropropionate, trichloroacetate and β -chlorobutyrate. 40

The term "oxyether" as used herein denotes those ether groups conventionally employed in the art, preferably those derived from normal chain, branched chain, aromatic hydrocarbons and oxo heterocyclic hydrocarbons. The term "hydrocarbon" defines both saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbons. Those designated hydrocarbons are optionally substituted with groups such as hydroxy, alkoxy, halo and alkylthio. Preferably the hydrocarbons contain from one to twelve carbon atoms inclusive. Typical oxyethers thus include alkoxy, difluoromethoxy, alkoxymethyloxy, alkylthiomethyloxy, tetrahydrofuran-2'-yloxy, tetrahydropyran-2'-yloxy, and 4'-alkoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy. 50

55 The term "thioether" as used herein denotes those ether groups conventionally employed in the art, preferably those derived from normal chain, branched chain, cyclic and aromatic hydrocarbons. The term "hydrocarbon" defines both substituted and unsubstituted hydrocarbons. These hydrocarbons are optionally substituted with groups such as hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio and halo. Preferably the hydrocarbons contain from 1 to 12 carbon atoms. Typical thioethers thus include alkylthio, difluoromethylthio, alkoxymethylthio and alkylthiomethylthio. 55

60 Also included within the scope of the present invention are the corresponding amides, esters, hydroxamic acids, and addition salts of the present 2-naphthylacetic acids. 60

In the preferred embodiment of this invention, the amides, esters, hydroxamic acids, or addition salts of the present 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives are the preferred derivatives when the 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives are substituted with tetrahydro-

furan-2'-yloxy, tetrahydropyran-2'-yloxy, 4'-alkoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, alkyl-methylenedioxy, alkylthiomethyleneoxy, alkoxyethylthio, or alkylthiomethylthio.

The amides of the present novel compound may be derived from conventional bases, such as ammonia, methylamine, ethylamine, methylethylamine, dimethylamine, diethylamine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, piperazine, N-ethylpiperazine, morpholine, di-(methoxymethylene)amine, isopropylamine, aniline and N-methyl-N-cyclopentylamine. The amides may be prepared by conventional means known to the art, for example, by treating the naphthylacetic acid derivative with thionyl chloride or phosphorus pentachloride, and then treating the resulting acid chloride of the naphthylacetic acid derivative with an excess of ammonia or an amine.

The esters may also be prepared by conventional techniques, such as by preparing the acid chloride of the 2-naphthylacetic acid derivative and then allowing the acid chloride to react with an alkanol, such as methanol or ethanol; or by treating the 2-naphthylacetic acid derivative with a diazoalkane, for example, diazomethane or diazoethane; or with an alkanol of 1 to 12 carbon atoms inclusive, for example, methanol, ethanol, butanol, or 3-pentanol, in the presence of an acid catalyst such as borontrifluoride or *p*-toluenesulphonic acid.

The hydroxamic acid derivatives can be prepared by treating the 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives with hydroxylamine (usually as the hydrochloride salt) in the presence of base, such as sodium methoxide, in an alkanol solvent, such as methanol or ethanol.

The addition salts can be prepared by conventional techniques from pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic bases, including metal salts such as sodium, potassium, calcium or aluminium, as well as organic amine salts, such as triethylamine, 2-dimethylamino ethanol, 2-diethylamino ethanol, lysine, arginine, histidine, caffeine, procaine, N-ethylpiperidine and hydrabamine.

Of the compounds of Formulae I—VIII of this invention (defined above), the preferred derivatives are those wherein each of R⁶ (at position 1, 4, 7 or 8) and R¹⁹ (at position 1, 7 or 8) is fluoro, chloro, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, methoxy, methoxymethyloxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, difluoromethylthio, or methoxymethylthio;

each of R⁸, R⁹ (at position 1, 4, 7 or 8) and R²⁰ (at position 1, 7 or 8) is fluoro, chloro, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, methoxy, methoxymethyloxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, difluoromethylthio, or methoxymethylthio; provided that when one of R⁸ and R⁹ or one of R⁸ and R²⁰ is methoxy, methoxymethyloxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, difluoromethylthio or methoxymethylthio, the other is the identical group, or methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, fluoro or chloro;

each of R¹² and R¹³ (at position 1 or 4) is methoxy, difluoromethoxy, methoxymethyloxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, difluoromethylthio or methoxymethylthio and each of R¹³ (at position 1 or 4) and R¹⁴ is methoxy or methylthio; provided that R¹³ or R¹⁴ is a different substituent than R¹² or R¹³ respectively;

one of R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ is hydrogen, the other being hydrogen, methyl or difluoromethyl; or

R¹⁰ and R¹⁷ taken together are methylene or difluoromethylene;

R¹⁸ is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, cyclopropyl, trifluoromethyl, vinyl, ethynyl, fluoro, chloro, methoxy, methoxymethyloxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, methoxymethylthio, or difluoromethylthio;

R²¹ is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, cyclopropyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, methoxy, methoxymethyloxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, methoxymethylthio, or difluoromethylthio; and

a corresponding amide, ester, hydroxamic acid or addition salt thereof.

When one of R¹ and R² and R¹⁰ and R¹¹ or R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ is methyl, ethyl, difluoromethyl, fluoro or chloro, the present 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives have an asymmetric carbon atom, the α -carbon atom of the acetic acid moiety. Accordingly, these compounds can exist as enantiomorphs. Each of the optical isomers of the present 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives is included within the present invention. In some instances, one enantiomorph exhibits greater anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antipyretic and antipruritic activity, than the other enantiomorph.

The present 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives that exist as enantiomorphs can be administered as mixtures of enantiomorphs or as resolved enantiomorphs.

The optical isomers can be resolved by conventional means, such as selective biological degradation; or by the preparation of diastereo-isomer salts of the 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives with an alkaloid, such as cinchonidine, and the separation of the

diastereo-isomers by fractional crystallization. The separated diastereo-isomer salts are acid cleaved to yield the respective optical isomers of the 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives.

5 The above compounds have high therapeutic value in the treatment of various inflammatory conditions, such as of the skin, eyes, respiratory tract, bones, and internal organs, contact dermatitis, allergic reactions, and rheumatoid arthritis. In those cases in which the above conditions include pain, pyrexia, and pruritus, coupled with the inflammation, the present compounds are useful for relief of these associative conditions as well as the principal condition. The present compounds are in addition, however, 10 useful for treating pain, pyrexia, pruritus, and other syndromes thereof *per se*, such as those arising from bone fracture, toothache, bacterial and virus infection, contact with poisonous material, neuralgia, neuritis, lacerations, contusions and abrasions.

15 The preferred manner of oral administration provides the use of convenient daily dosage regimen which can be adjusted according to the degree of affliction. Generally, a daily dose of from 0.1 mg. to 20 mg. of the active compound per kilogram of body weight is employed. Most conditions respond to treatment comprising a dosage level in a range of 1 mg. to 5 mg. per kilogram of body weight per day. For such oral administration, a pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic composition is formed by the incorporation of any of the normally employed excipients. These compositions take the form of solutions, suspensions, tablets, pills, capsules, powders and sustained release formulations. 20

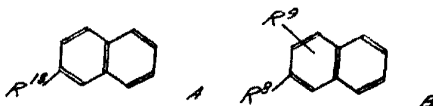
In addition, these compounds can be administered in conjunction with other medicinal agents depending upon the specific condition being treated.

25 Thus, for example, a measure of anti-inflammatory activity according to the carrageenin induced edema assay of Winter *et al.*, *Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine* III, 544 (1962) shows 6-ethyl-2-naphthylacetic acid and 6-methoxy-2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid to have three times and greater than six times the activity of phenylbutazone, respectively. Similar standard assays to measure analgesic and anti-pyretic activities show 6-methoxy-2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid to have three times and seven times the activity of aspirin in these two respective categories. 30

The above compounds of the present invention can be readily prepared from known starting compounds.

35 One such method by which they can be prepared involves the reaction of an unsubstituted or substituted naphthalene with acetyl chloride in nitrobenzene in the presence of about three molar equivalents of aluminium chloride to afford the corresponding 2-acetylnaphthalene derivative. The resulting derivative is heated with morpholine in the presence of sulphur at 150°C; the resulting product is refluxed with concentrated hydrochloric acid to furnish the corresponding 2-naphthylacetic acid derivative. 40

The naphthalenes that are used in the above process can be illustrated by the following general formulae:



wherein R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} are as defined above.

45 The naphthalenes of formulae A and B are known in the art. Moreover, they can be prepared by conventional means. For example, 1,2-dimethoxybenzene is treated with succinic anhydride and aluminium chloride in a hydrocarbon solvent to afford 4 - (3',4' - dimethoxyphenyl) - 4 - oxobutanoic acid. This is reduced by treatment with sodium borohydride, dehydroxylated by treating with palladium charcoal catalyst and hydrogen to furnish 4 - (3',4' - dimethoxyphenyl) butanoic acid. The corresponding acid chloride is prepared such as by treatment with thionyl chloride, and the acid chloride is treated with aluminium chloride to afford 6,7 - dimethoxy - 1 - tetralone. 50 The tetralone is reduced and hydrogenolyzed by the means means described above to furnish 6,7 - dimethoxytetralin which is dehydrogenated by treating with palladium charcoal catalyst to afford 2,3 - dimethoxy naphthalene. By utilizing 1 - methyl - 3 - fluorobenzene in the above process, 5 - fluoro - 7 - methyl - 1 - tetralone and 5 - methyl - 7 - fluoro - 1 - tetralone (as intermediates) and 1 - methyl - 3 - fluoro naphthalene and 1 - fluoro - 3 - methyl naphthalene are prepared. The mixture of naphthalenes are separated by conventional means, such as vacuum distillation. 55

2-Alkyl, 2-cycloalkyl, or 2-aryl substituted naphthalenes, the naphthalenes of Formula A wherein R¹⁸ is alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl, can be prepared from 2-tetralone by treating the latter with an equivalent of an alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl magnesium bromide in an ether to obtain the corresponding 2-alkyl-, 2-cycloalkyl-, or 2-aryl-3,4-dihydronaphthalene which is dehydrogenated by heating with palladium charcoal catalyst to afford the corresponding 2-alkyl, 2-cycloalkyl, or 2-aryl naphthalene.

2-Vinyl naphthalene is prepared by refluxing 2-ethylnaphthalenes with a molar equivalent of N-bromosuccinimide in a halohydrocarbon solvent, such as chloroform, methylene chloride, dichloroethane, carbontetrachloride, 1,4-dichlorobutane, chlorobenzene, chloroethane, chlorocyclohexane or dichlorobenzene, in light and in the presence of a trace amount of peroxide, such as benzoyl peroxide, *t*-butylperoxide, or peroxyacetic acid, to afford 2-(α -bromoethyl)-naphthalene. The latter is dehydrobrominated by treating with lithium carbonate in dimethylformamide to afford 2-vinylnaphthalene.

2-Ethylnaphthalene can be prepared from 2-vinylnaphthalene by brominating the latter in a halo hydrocarbon solvent and then debrominating the resulting 2-(α,β -dibromoethyl)naphthalene by conventional means, such as by treatment with sodium amide in liquid ammonia, to furnish the 2-ethylnaphthalene.

2-Cyclopropylnaphthalene can be prepared from 2-vinylnaphthalene by refluxing with diiodomethane in the presence of zinc: copper couple.

2-Cyclobutylnaphthalene can be prepared from 2-naphthylmagnesium bromide by treating the latter with cyclobutanone to furnish 2-(1'-hydroxycyclobutyl)-naphthalene, which is hydrogenolyzed with hydrogen in the presence of "Raney" nickel to furnish 2-cyclobutylnaphthalene. "Raney" is a Trade Mark.

2-Cyclopentylnaphthalene can be prepared by heating naphthalene with cyclopentyl benzene sulphonate. 2-Cyclohexylnaphthalene can be similarly prepared by employing cyclohexyl benzene sulphonate.

2-Acetylnaphthalene can be prepared by treating 2-(α -bromoethyl)-naphthalene, prepared as described above, with sodium acetate in acetic acid to afford 2-(α -ethanoyloxyethyl)-naphthalene which upon base hydrolysis furnishes the 2-(α -hydroxyethyl)-naphthalene. The latter may be oxidized with an equivalent of chromium trioxide in glacial acetic acid or 8N sulphuric acid to furnish 2-acetylnaphthalene.

2-Carboxylnaphthalene is prepared from 2-acetylnaphthalene by treating the latter with aqueous sodium hypochlorite. The 2-carboxy group is esterified by conventional means, described herein, to furnish 2-alkoxycarbonylnaphthalenes. By treating the latter with one equivalent of an alkali metal hydroxide, treating the resulting product with diborane in an ether, such as diglyme, (dimethoxydiethyleneglycol), 2-hydroxymethylnaphthalene is prepared.

The 2-hydroxymethyl group can be esterified and etherified by conventional means employed to esterify and etherify primary hydroxy groups.

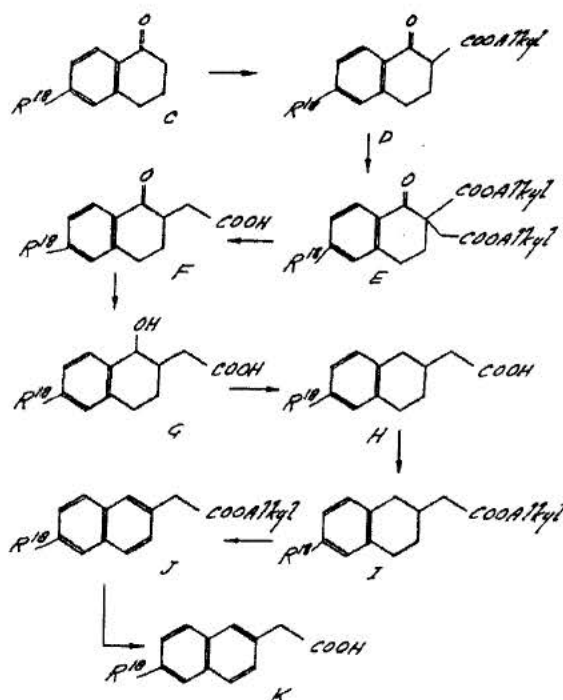
2-Formylnaphthalene can be prepared from 2-hydroxymethylnaphthalene by treating the latter with manganese dioxide in a halohydrocarbon solvent.

2-Cyanonaphthalenes can be prepared by refluxing 2-formylnaphthalene with hydroxylamine hydrochloride and sodium acetate in ethanol to furnish the corresponding oxime which is refluxed with acetic anhydride in the presence of an acid catalyst to furnish 2-cyanonaphthalene.

Alternatively, the above substituents can be introduced on a naphthylacetic acid ester derivative by using an ethyl or vinyl substituted naphthylacetic acid ester derivative as a starting material.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the starting materials are not substituted with trifluoromethyl, difluoromethoxy, difluoromethylthio, methylmethylenedioxy, alkoxyethylthio, alkylthiomethoxy, alkylthiomethylthio, tetrahydropyran-2'-yloxy, tetrahydrofuran-2'-yloxy, or 4'-alkoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy groups, but rather, such groups are introduced on the 2-naphthalene acetic acid derivative *via* one of the final steps.

Another method of preparing the present compounds employs unsubstituted and substituted 1-tetralones and can be illustrated by the following reaction sequence:

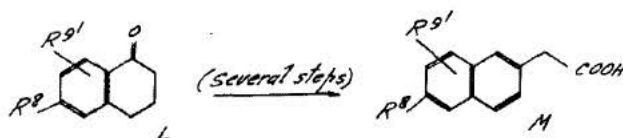


wherein alkyl and R¹⁸ are defined as above.

5 The 1-tetralones, the compounds of Formula C, are heated with two or more equivalents of a dialkyl carbonate, such as diethyl carbonate, in the presence of one or more equivalents of an alkali metal hydride, such as sodium hydride, or potassium hydride, in a hydrocarbon solvent, such as hexane, cyclohexane, heptane, *isooctane*, benzene, toluene or xylene, to afford the corresponding alkoxy carbonyl compounds of Formula D. The latter are treated with an alkali metal hydride in a hydrocarbon solvent; then the resulting products are treated with an α-haloacetic acid ester, such as ethyl α-bromoacetate or methyl α-iodoacetate, to furnish the corresponding 2-alkoxy-carbonyl-2-(alkoxycarbonylmethyl)-1-tetralones, the compounds of Formula E. The latter is hydrolyzed with an acid, such as hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid or *p*-toluene-sulphonic acid, to obtain the 2-(carboxymethyl) compounds of Formula F. The latter is reduced with a reducing agent, such as sodium borohydride, lithium borohydride; or with one equivalent of hydrogen in the presence of Adam's catalyst, to afford the hydroxy compounds of formula G which are hydrogenolyzed by treatment with an equivalent amount of hydrogen in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst, such as platinum or palladium, to furnish the corresponding 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives, the compounds of Formula H. The compounds of formula H are esterified by conventional means, such as the means described above, to afford the compounds of Formula I, which are dehydrogenated by heating with palladium charcoal catalyst at temperatures of 180°C and higher to furnish the corresponding 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives, the compounds of formula J. The latter compounds are hydrolyzed to the corresponding 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives, the compounds of Formula K, by conventional hydrolysis, such as by treatment with an aqueous methanolic 5% sodium hydroxide solution.

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Disubstituted tetralones of formula L are also employed in the above process to prepare the corresponding disubstituted 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives of Formula M:



wherein R⁸ is as defined above and R^{9'} represents the same substituents as R⁹, but only at position 4, 7 or 8.

By treating the compounds of Formula D with an alkali metal hydride and then with an α -halocarboxylic acid ester, such as methyl α -bromopropionate, the corresponding 2-alkoxycarbonyl-2-(α -alkoxycarbonylalkyl)-1-tetralones are obtained. These compounds can be hydrolyzed, reduced, hydrogenolyzed, esterified, dehydrogenated and hydrolyzed by the means used to similarly treat compounds of Formula E, to obtain the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α -alkylacetic acid derivatives.

The 1-tetralones of Formulae C and L can be prepared by conventional techniques, for example, such as the process used to make 6,7-dimethoxy-1-tetralone described above.

Alternatively, the 1-tetralones of Formulae C and L can be prepared directly from naphthalenes by conventional means known to the art. For example, the substituted 1-tetralones can be prepared from substituted naphthalenes. The substituted naphthalenes are reduced with two molar equivalents of hydrogen in the presence of a platinum, palladium or nickel catalyst, to afford the corresponding substituted tetralin (hydrogenation of the unsubstituted ring is favoured; when both rings are substituted, two products are obtained with different ring saturation). The substituted tetralin is then oxidized, such as with chromium trioxide in glacial acetic acid or 8N sulphuric acid, to obtain the substituted 1-tetralone.

The 1-tetralones substituted at positions 6 and 8 of Formulae C and L can also be prepared from the corresponding 4-tetralones (which are intermediates in the above described preparation of naphthalenes substituted at positions 6 and 8) by reducing and hydrogenolyzing the latter with sodium borohydride and hydrogen in the presence of palladium respectively to afford the corresponding tetralins. The tetralins are then oxidized with chromium trioxide in acetic acid to afford the corresponding 1- and 4-tetralones substituted at positions 6 and 8. The tetralones are separated by conventional means, such as fractional crystallization or distillation.

1-Substituted and 1,6-disubstituted 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives also can be prepared from 1-oxo-3,4-dihydro-2-[2H]naphthylacetic acid derivatives or 1-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives, the compounds of Formula F or G respectively.

For example, the 1-chloro-2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives are prepared by first esterifying compounds of Formula F by conventional means, such as described above, and then chlorinating the resulting 1-oxo esters by a conventional technique, such as by treatment with phosphorus pentachloride, to furnish the corresponding 1-chloro-3,4-dihydro compounds. The resulting 1-chloro products are then dehydrogenated by conventional means, preferably by refluxing in a hydrocarbon solvent with 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (DDQ) to furnish the corresponding 1-chloro-2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives.

The 1-fluoro-2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives can be prepared by esterifying the carboxy group of the corresponding 1-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives, the compounds of Formula G, and then treating the resulting ester with two or more equivalents of 1-diethylamino-1,2,2-trifluoro-2-chloroethane in a halogenated hydrocarbon solvent to afford the corresponding 1-fluoro derivative. The latter upon treatment with DDQ, as described above, affords the corresponding 1-fluoro-2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivative.

By treating the 1-oxo-3,4-dihydro-2-[2H]naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives with an alkyl magnesium bromide, such as methyl magnesium bromide, in a non-aqueous ether, such as diethylether, diisopropylether, dioxane or tetrahydrofuran, hydrolyzing the resulting products under acidic conditions, and then dehydrogenating the resulting 1-alkyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives by conventional techniques, such as the techniques described above, the corresponding 1-alkyl-2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives are obtained.

1-Alkoxy-2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives are prepared by treating 1-oxo-3,4-dihydro-2-[2H]naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives with an alkylorthoformate, such as methylorthoformate, in the presence of an acid catalyst, such as the ones described above, in a hydrocarbon solvent and then dehydrogenating the resulting 1-alkoxy-3,4-dihydro-2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives by conventional means, such as described above.

1-Alkylthio-2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives can be prepared by hydrolyzing a 1-alkoxy-2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivative to obtain the corresponding 1-hydroxy derivatives and then treating the latter with an alkylmercaptan, such as methylmercap-

tan or ethylmercaptan, in an acid environment at about 180°C under pressure greater than atmospheric pressure for 3 hours or more.

The 1-substituted-2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives are hydrolyzed by conventional methods, such as by the means described above, to the free acids.

5 Another method for the preparation of 4-substituted 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives involves the treatment of benzene with an equivalent of a 3-halocarbonyl dialkyl glutarate, such as dimethyl 3-chlorocarbonyl glutarate and two or more equivalents of aluminium chloride in a hydrocarbon solvent to afford the corresponding dialkyl benzoyl glutarate, which is reduced and hydrogenolyzed as the oxo-containing compounds above to afford the corresponding dialkyl 3-benzyl glutarate. The latter is hydrolyzed by conventional means and the resulting 3-benzyl glutaric acid is treated with concentrated sulphuric acid to afford the corresponding 1,2-dihydro-4-oxo-2-[3H]naphthylacetic acid derivative. The latter is reduced, halogenated, alkylated, esterified and dehydrogenated by the processes used to reduce, halogenate, alkylate, esterify and dehydrogenate the 1-oxo-3,4-dihydro-2-[2H]naphthylacetic acid derivatives described above, to obtain 4-chloro-, 4-fluoro-, 4-hydroxy-, 4-alkyl-, 4-alkoxy-, and 4-alkylthio-2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives. The 4-substituted-6-substituted-2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives are obtained by employing a monosubstituted benzene, such as methoxybenzene, in the above process.

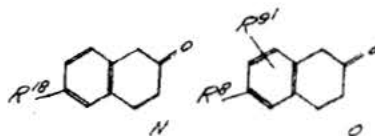
20 Another method of preparing the 8-substituted 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives involves treating an ester of phenylacetic acid with two or more equivalents of succinic anhydride and aluminium chloride in an nitrobenzene or carbon disulphide to afford the corresponding alkyl *p*-(3-carboxy-1-oxopropyl)phenylacetate derivative, which is reduced and hydrogenolyzed by treatment with an alkali metal borohydride and palladium charcoal catalyst, respectively, to afford the ester of *p*-(3-carboxypropyl)phenylacetic acid. The corresponding acid halide is prepared by treating the latter with a conventional halogenating agent, such as phosphorus tri- or pentabromide or -chloride or thionyl chloride. The resulting ester of *p*-(3-halocarbonylpropyl)phenylacetic acid is treated with three or more equivalents of aluminium chloride in a hydrocarbon solvent to furnish the ester of 8-oxo-5,6-dihydro-2-[7H]naphthylacetic acid. This compound can be reduced, halogenated, alkylated, esterified and dehydrogenated by the processes described above to obtain the 8-chloro-, 8-fluoro-, 8-hydroxy-, 8-alkyl-, 8-alkoxy- and 8-alkylthio-2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives.

35 Another method by which the present compounds can be prepared involves the reaction of 2-tetralones with one or more equivalents of a 1-alkoxycarbonylalkylidene triphenyl phosphorane, such as 1-methoxycarbonylethylidene triphenyl phosphorane, to furnish the corresponding 2,2-(1-alkoxycarbonylalkylidene)-tetralin. The latter upon heating with palladium charcoal catalyst affords the corresponding 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivative.

40 For this purpose, the 1-alkoxycarbonylalkylidene triphenyl phosphorane reactant is conveniently provided upon reaction of triphenylphosphine with a 2-halocarboxylic acid ester in an organic reaction medium followed by reaction with a base.

45 Thus, for example, by reacting 6-methoxy-2-tetralone with the triphenylphosphorane derived from ethyl 2-halopropionate, 2,2-(1'-carbethoxyeth-1',1'-ylidene)-6-methoxytetralin is prepared. Dehydrogenation thereof provides ethyl 6-methoxynaphthyl- α -methylacetate which upon hydrolysis affords 6-methoxynaphthyl- α -methylacetic acid.

Unsubstituted and substituted 2-tetralones of the following general formulae can be utilized in the above process:



wherein R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} are as defined above.

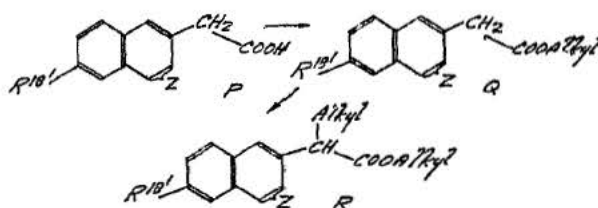
55 The substituted 2-tetralones of formulae N and O can be prepared by treating the corresponding 1-tetralones with butylnitrite in ether and then esterifying the resulting 2-oximino-1-tetralones with an acid anhydride, such as acetic anhydride, in an organic acid, such as acetic acid, to obtain the substituted 2-acetylimino-2-tetralones. The acetylimino substituents are reduced to acetylamino substituents with hydrogen in the

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presence of palladium. The keto groups are then reduced to hydroxy groups with sodium borohydride. The substituted 2-acetylamino-1-hydroxytetralins are then treated with glacial acetic acid in the presence of concentrated acid to obtain the corresponding substituted 2-tetralones of formulae N and O.

The 3,4-dihydro-2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives of Formulae VI, VII and VIII can be prepared from the corresponding 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives or the esters thereof by refluxing the latter in an alkanol with two or more equivalents of an alkali metal, such as lithium, potassium or sodium. Preferably the 2-naphthylacetic acid derivative starting material is not substituted with hydroxy or conventional hydrolyzable ester, but rather, these groups are introduced later by the means described herein.

The addition of an alkyl substituent at the α -position (with respect to the acetic acid chain) to obtain the 2-naphthyl- α -alkylacetic acid derivatives is optional, but when the addition is required, it is carried out following the preparation of the 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives or the 3,4-dihydro derivatives thereof prepared as described above. The introduction of the α -alkyl substituents can be illustrated by the following reaction sequence:



wherein $R^{13'}$ is alkyl, cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, vinyl, alkoxyethyl, fluoro, chloro, hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, thioether, formyl, alkoxy-carbonyl, acetyl, cyano or aryl;

Z is a carbon-carbon single bond or a carbon-carbon double bond; provided that when Z is a carbon-carbon double bond, $R^{13'}$ is alkyl, cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, oxyether, thioether or aryl.

The 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives, the compounds of Formula P, can be esterified by conventional means, such as being allowed to react with an alkanol in the presence of boron trifluoride, to afford the corresponding esters, the compounds of Formula Q. The compounds of Formula Q are treated with an alkali metal hydride such as sodium hydride or potassium hydride, in an ether solvent, such as monoglyme, and then with a molar excess of an alkyl halide, such as methyl iodide, to afford the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α -alkylacetic acid ester derivatives, the compounds of Formula R. The latter are hydrolyzed by refluxing in a basic solution to obtain the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α -alkylacetic acid derivatives.

The 6-ethynyl 2-naphthyl- α -alkylacetic acid derivatives are prepared from 6-vinyl 2-naphthyl- α -alkylacetic acid derivatives by brominating and debrominating the latter's vinyl group by the means described above. Oxyether or alkoxyethyl 2-naphthyl- α -alkylacetic acid derivatives are hydrolyzed to obtain the hydroxy or hydroxymethyl derivatives respectively. Alkoxy-carbonyl 2-naphthyl- α -alkylacetic acid derivatives are hydrolyzed to obtain the carboxy derivatives.

2-Naphthylacetic acid derivatives substituted at other positions are also employed in the above process.

The α -alkyl substituents are similarly introduced into other 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives substituted at positions 1, 4, 7, 8 and/or 6. Prior to the above process, hydroxy groups are etherified and carboxy groups are esterified to protect them from attack by reagents used in subsequent elaborations. Such protected groups can be regenerated by hydrolysis after the process.

The introduction of other substituents on the α -carbon atom of the acetic acid moiety is also optional, but when carried out, is preferably done after the preparation of the 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives and the esters thereof (including the 3,4-dihydro derivatives).

The α -difluoromethyl group can be introduced by treating the 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives with an alkali metal or alkali metal hydride in a dialkyl carbonate, such as diethyl carbonate to afford the corresponding α -alkoxy-carbonyl derivatives. The latter is treated with chlorodifluoromethane and an alkali metal alkoxide, such as potassium t-butoxide, in an ether solvent, preferably 1,2-dimethoxyoxyethane to afford the corresponding α -alkoxy-carbonyl- α -difluoromethyl derivatives, which are hydrolyzed by an aqueous basic mixture to furnish the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α -carboxy- α -difluoro-

methylacetic acid derivatives. The deesterified product is decarboxylated by heating to between 30°C and 150°C, until the evolution of carbon dioxide ceases to give the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α -difluoromethylacetic acid derivatives.

By treating the above 2-naphthyl- α -alkoxycarbonylacetic acid ester derivatives with a molar equivalent of an alkali metal hydride in a hydrocarbon solvent, then with an alkyl halide, the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α -alkoxycarbonyl- α -alkylacetic acid ester derivatives are obtained. The latter are hydrolyzed with an aqueous basic mixture and decarboxylated by heating to a temperature between 25° to 180°C to furnish the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α -alkylacetic acid derivatives. This is an alternative method of introducing the α -alkyl substituent.

The α -fluoro group is introduced by treating the 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives with two or more equivalents of an alkyl formate, such as ethylformate, and three or more equivalents of an alkali metal or alkali metal hydride in a hydrocarbon solvent to afford the corresponding α,α -hydroxymethylene derivatives which are treated with an equivalent of an alkali metal hydride and one equivalent of perchloryl fluoride to afford the corresponding α -fluoro- α -formyl derivatives. The latter are oxidized by conventional means, such as with chromium trioxide in glacial acetic acid or 8N sulphuric acid, to furnish the corresponding α -fluoro- α -carboxy derivatives which are decarboxylated by heating to temperatures of 100°C or more to afford the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α -fluoroacetic acid ester derivatives. The corresponding α -chloro derivatives are prepared by utilizing chlorine in place of perchloryl fluoride in the above process.

The α,α -difluoromethylene group can be introduced by refluxing 2-naphthyl- α -chloroacetic acid ester derivatives with an alkali metal hydroxide in an alcohol to afford the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α -hydroxyacetic acid derivative. The carboxy groups of the latter are re-esterified by conventional methods and the resulting esters are then oxidized by conventional means, such as described above, to obtain the corresponding α -oxo derivatives, which upon being refluxed with a molar equivalent of difluoromethylidene triphenylphosphorane in a hydrocarbon solvent, affords the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α,α -difluoromethyleneacetic acid ester derivatives. The corresponding α,α -fluorochloromethylene derivatives are prepared by using chlorofluoromethylidene triphenylphosphorane in place of difluoromethylidene triphenylphosphorane in the above process. The difluoromethylidene triphenylphosphorane is prepared by refluxing sodium chlorodifluoroacetate with triphenylphosphine in dimethylformamide. Similarly, triphenyl chlorofluoromethylidene phosphorane is prepared by employing sodium dichloro-fluoroacetate.

The α,α -chloromethylene group can be introduced by treating 2-naphthyl- α,α -hydroxymethyleneacetic acid ester derivatives with phosphorus pentachloride in a hydrocarbon solvent.

The α,α -fluoromethylene group can also be introduced by tosylating 2-naphthyl- α,α -hydroxymethyleneacetic acid ester derivatives with *p*-toluenesulphonyl chloride in a hydrocarbon solvent and then treating the resulting tosylate with an alkali metal fluoride, such as sodium fluoride. By utilizing an alkali metal chloride in the above process, the corresponding α,α -chloromethylene derivatives are furnished.

The α,α -methylene group is introduced by treating the 2-naphthyl acetic acid ester derivatives with formaldehyde or paraformaldehyde and an alkali metal alkoxide, such as sodium methoxide in dimethylsulphoxide.

The α,α -ethylene group is introduced by refluxing the 2-naphthyl- α,α -methyleneacetic acid ester derivatives with diiodomethane in the presence of zinc-copper couple in an ether solvent.

In the preferred embodiment of this invention the hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, conventional hydrolyzable ester, alkoxymethoxy, alkylthiomethoxy, tetrahydrofuran-2'-yloxy, tetrahydropyran-2'-yloxy, 4'-alkoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, alkoxymethylthio and alkylthiomethylthio are introduced after the introduction of substituents at the α -position of the 2-naphthyl acetic acid derivatives.

Those compounds containing a trifluoromethyl group are preferably prepared from the corresponding methyl substituted 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives by treating the latter with chlorine and phosphorus trichloride in the presence of light to afford the corresponding trichloromethyl derivatives, which, when refluxed with antimony trifluoride in a hydrocarbon solvent, furnish the corresponding trifluoromethyl substituted 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention the trifluoromethyl group is introduced on the 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives starting material prior to the preparation of the corresponding 3,4-dihydro derivatives by the above described processes.

Those compounds containing difluoromethoxy groups are preferably prepared

from the corresponding alkoxy substituted 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives by refluxing the latter with 48% hydrobromic acid in acetic to furnish the free hydroxy derivatives which, upon treatment with chlorodifluoromethane and an alkali metal hydroxide in aqueous dioxane or tetrahydrofuran, affords the corresponding difluoromethoxy substituted 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives.

By utilizing alkylthio 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives in the above process, the corresponding difluoromethylthio derivatives are obtained.

The hydroxy groups are etherified by conventional methods, for example, by treatment with an alkali metal hydride and then with an alkylhalide, preferably an alkylbromide or iodide; or by treatment with a diazoalkane or an alkanol in the presence of borontrifluoride in an ether solvent.

The alkoxy methoxy groups are introduced by treating the hydroxy substituted 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives with an alkoxychloromethane in dimethylformamide to afford the corresponding alkoxy methoxy substituted 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives. The alkylthio methoxy substituted 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives are prepared by utilizing an alkylthiochloromethane in the above process.

The alkoxy methylthio substituted 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives can be prepared by refluxing mercapto substituted 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives with an alkoxychloromethane in dimethylformamide. The alkylthio methylthio substituted derivatives are prepared by using an alkylthiochloromethane in place of alkoxychloromethane in the above process.

The compounds containing tetrahydrofuran-2'-yloxy, tetrahydropyran-2'-yloxy, or 4'-alkoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy groups are preferably prepared from the corresponding hydroxy 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivative by treatment with dihydrofuran, dihydropyran, or 4'-alkoxy dihydropyran, such as 4'-methoxy dihydropyran, in the presence of an acid catalyst.

The 4-alkoxy-2,6-dihydropyrans are prepared by treating 4-oxotetrahydropyran with an alkanol in the presence of an acid catalyst, and then pyrolyzing the resulting 4,4-dialkoxy tetrahydropyran in the presence of acid to afford the corresponding 4-alkoxy-2,6-dihydropyran.

The compounds containing hydroxy ester groups are prepared from the hydroxy derivatives by conventional esterification means, such as by heating with an acid anhydride.

The foregoing general procedures are useful for the preparation of the other naphthylacetic acid derivatives hereof.

Upon their preparation, the naphthylacetic acid derivatives can be converted to the corresponding amides, esters, and acid addition salts thereof *via* methods known *per se* as described above.

The following examples illustrate the manner by which this invention can be practiced and are not intended as limitations upon the overall scope hereof, but rather as illustrations of the present invention.

PREPARATION 1

Part A

A mixture of 12.2 g. of *o*-methoxytoluene, 20 g. of succinic anhydride, 27 g. of aluminium chloride, and 250 ml. of carbon disulphide is stirred for four hours; the mixture is poured into 500 g. of ice, and the products are isolated by extraction with benzene. The product, a mixture of 2 - methoxy - 4 - (3' - carboxy - 1' - oxopropyl) - toluene and 2 - methoxy - 5 - (3' - carboxy - 1' - oxypropyl) - toluene is reduced with sodium borohydride, reduced with hydrogen in the presence of palladium charcoal catalyst, cyclicized by treatment with concentrated sulphuric acid according to the procedure described hereinafter in Part A of Example 3 to afford the mixed product 6 - methyl - 7 - methoxy - 1 - tetralone and 7 - methyl - 6 - methoxy - 1 - tetralone. The products are separated by distillation and identified by nuclear magnetic resonance.

Part B

Ten grams of the above mixed products are reduced by treatment with 6 g. of sodium borohydride in ethanol at 25°C for six hours. The mixture is acidified with aqueous 1N hydrochloric acid and the products 6 - methyl - 7 - methoxy - 1 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydronaphthalene and 6 - methoxy - 7 - methyl - 1 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydronaphthalene are isolated by benzene extraction. The products are reduced, and dehydrogenated according to the procedures described in Part B of Example 3 to give 2 - methyl - 3 - methoxynaphthalene.

Similarly, 5 - ethoxy - 7 - chloro - 1 - tetralone and 5 - chloro - 7 - ethoxy - 1 - tetralone are prepared from 1 - chloro - 3 - ethoxybenzene. By means of the process

described in Part B. 1 - ethoxy - 3 - chloronaphthalene and 1 - chloro - 3 - ethoxynaphthalene are prepared from the corresponding 1-tetralones. The products are separated by distillation and identified by nuclear magnetic resonance.

Part C

5 A mixture of 21 g. of 5 - ethoxy - 7 - chloro - tetralin (prepared from 5 - ethoxy - 7 - chloro - tetralone by reducing, and dehydrogenating the latter by the means described in Part B above), 30 g. of chromium trioxide and 500 ml. of glacial acetic acid is stirred for 24 hours at room temperature. The mixture is diluted with 500 ml. of aqueous ice-cold 10% sodium bisulphite, neutralized by the addition of aqueous 15% sodium hydroxide, and extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed with water, dried and evaporated to yield a mixture of 6 - chloro - 8 - ethoxy - 1 - tetralone and 5 - ethoxy - 7 - chloro - 1 - tetralone. The products are separated by distillation under reduced pressure. 10

15 Likewise, by means of the above process, 7 - fluoro - 1 - tetralone is prepared from fluorobenzene, and β - fluoronaphthalene is prepared from 7 - fluoro - 1 - tetralone by means of the process described in Part B. 15

20 Similarly, 7 - methoxy - 1 - tetralone, 7 - isopropyl - 1 - tetralone, 7 - methylthio - 1 - tetralone, 6 - chloro - 7 - methylthio - 1 - tetralone, 6 - fluoro - 7 - methyl - 1 - tetralone, 6 - methoxy - 7 - fluoro - 1 - tetralone, 6,8 - dimethyl - 1 - tetralone, 6 - methylthio - 8 - cyclopropyl - 1 - tetralone, 6 - methyl - 8 - isopropyl - 1 - tetralone, 2 - methylthio - 3 - chloronaphthalene, 2 - methyl - 3 - fluoronaphthalene, 2 - fluoro - 3 - methoxynaphthalene, 1,3 - dimethylnaphthalene, 1 - methylthio - 3 - cyclopropylnaphthalene, and 1 - isopropyl - 3 - methylnaphthalene are prepared from substituted benzene derivatives by the above processes. 20

PREPARATION 2

Part A

25 A mixture of 15.5 g. of 2-vinylnaphthalene, 23 g. of diiodomethane, 19.6 g. of zinc-copper couple (comprising 19.5 g. of zinc and 0.1 g. of copper) and 500 ml. of diethyl ether is refluxed for eight hours; the cooled mixture is then filtered, washed with dilute hydrochloric acid, washed with water to neutrality, dried and evaporated to yield 2-cyclopropylnaphthalene. 30

Part B

35 To a mixture of 23.1 g. of 2-naphthyl magnesium bromide and 250 ml. of diethyl ether, 7 g. of cyclobutanone are slowly added. After the addition, the mixture is refluxed for one hour, cooled, acidified with aqueous hydrochloric acid and filtered. The product is isolated by methylene chloride extraction to furnish 2 - (1' - hydroxycyclobutyl) - naphthalene. The product is hydrogenated in 200 ml. of ethanol with a molar equivalent of hydrogen in the presence of 50 g. of "Raney" nickel; the reaction mixture is filtered after the hydrogenation and evaporated to furnish 2-cyclobutylnaphthalene. 35

Part C

40 To a mixture of 15.5 g. of 2-vinylnaphthalene and 300 ml. of chloroform, a 5% bromine chloroform solution is added at -10°C until the bromine colour persists. The mixture is then added to 200 ml. of ammonia containing 15 g. of sodium amide. The mixture is allowed to evaporate; the residue is extracted with diethyl ether. The extracts are combined, washed to neutrality with water, dried, and evaporated to yield 2-ethynylnaphthalene. 45

PREPARATION 3

50 A mixture of 14.6 g. of 2-tetralone, 20 g. of *p*-fluorophenyl magnesium bromide, and 200 ml. of diethyl ether is stirred for four hours and then refluxed for one hour. The mixture is acidified with the addition of 200 ml. of 1N hydrochloric acid, filtered, and extracted with diethyl ether. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, filtered, dried and evaporated. The residue, containing 2-*p*-fluorophenyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalene is mixed with 25 g. of 5% palladium-on-charcoal catalyst; the resulting mixture is heated to 200°C for six hours, cooled, diluted with 250 ml. of chloroform, filtered, and evaporated to give 2-*p*-fluorophenylnaphthalene. 55

Similarly, 2-*p*-chlorophenylnaphthalene and 2-*p*-tolyl naphthalene are prepared by using *p*-chlorophenyl magnesium bromide and *p*-tolyl magnesium bromide respectively in place of *p*-fluorophenyl magnesium bromide in the above process.

EXAMPLE 1

60 To a mixture of 1.6 g. of β -methoxynaphthalene, 1.6 g. of acetyl chloride, and 20 ml. of nitrobenzene, 4.0 g. of aluminium chloride are slowly added. The resulting mixture is stirred for 48 hours at 25°C ; then it is washed with water until free of chloride. 60

The mixture is dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue, 2-acetyl-6-methoxynaphthalene, is refluxed in 2 ml. of morpholine containing one-half gram of sulphur for two hours; the reaction mixture is then filtered and evaporated. The resulting thio amide derivative is extracted with diethyl ether; the extracts are combined and evaporated. The residue is refluxed in 10 ml. of concentrated hydrochloric acid for two hours, cooled to 25°C, and made alkaline with aqueous sodium hydroxide. The mixture is then extracted with ether and the extracts discarded. The aqueous layer is acidified and the precipitated 6-methoxy-2-naphthylacetic acid filtered.

Similarly, 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - ethoxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - ethylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - ethyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - isopropyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - cyclopropyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - cyclohexyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - vinyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - ethynyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - formyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - carboxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - methoxycarbonyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - acetyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - cyano - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - phenyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - *p* - chlorophenyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - methyl - 8 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - methyl - 8 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - chloro - 8 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6,7 - dichloro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - fluoro - 7 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - methoxy - 7 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6,7 - dimethyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6,8 - dimethoxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - methyl - 8 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - chloro - 8 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - methyl - 8 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid are prepared from their respective corresponding naphthalene starting materials.

EXAMPLE 2

Part A

A mixture of 18 g. of 6 - methoxy - 1 - tetralone, 60 g. of diethyl carbonate, 2.5 g. of sodium hydride, and 200 ml. of toluene is heated to 60°C for five hours. The mixture is cooled, acidified by the addition of 200 ml. of 1N hydrochloric acid, and then extracted with three 75 ml. portions of benzene. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, and dried over sodium sulphate. The mixture, containing 6 - methoxy - 2 - ethoxycarbonyl - 1 - tetralone, is treated with 2.5 g. of sodium hydride at room temperature with stirring. Twenty grams of ethyl α -bromoacetate are then added and the mixture is allowed to stand for 12 hours at room temperature. The mixture is added to 500 ml. of water and extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated. The residue, containing 6 - methoxy - 2 - ethoxycarbonyl - 2 - (ethoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone, is refluxed in 200 ml. of 6N hydrochloric acid for 24 hours and then the reflux mixture is evaporated. The residue, containing 6 - methoxy - 2 - (carboxymethyl) - 1 - tetralone, is reduced by treating it with 200 ml. of ethanol containing 8 g. of sodium borohydride. After one hour, the mixture is acidified with the addition of 100 ml. of 3N hydrochloric acid, and the resulting mixture is extracted with several portions of methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated. The residue, containing 6 - methoxy - 1 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, is reduced by hydrogenating with one equivalent of hydrogen in acetic acid containing 300 mg of 5% palladium-on-barium sulphate. The hydrogenation mixture is filtered and evaporated. The residue, containing 6 - methoxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, is dissolved in 200 ml. of diethyl ether and the mixture is then added to a 100 ml. solution of diethyl ether containing 4 g. of diazomethane. The mixture is then evaporated to dryness. The esterified residue is dehydrogenated by adding it to 1 g of 10% palladium-on-charcoal and heating the resulting mixture for six hours at 200°C. The cooled mixture is diluted with 200 ml. of chloroform, filtered, and evaporated to afford methyl 6-methoxy-2-naphthylacetate.

Similarly, methyl 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetate, and methyl 6 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetate are prepared from 6 - methyl - 1 - tetralone, 6 - methylthio - 1 - tetralone and 6 - chloro - 1 - tetralone, respectively, by means of the above process.

By means of the above process, methyl 7 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 7 - ethyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 7 - isopropyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 7 -

fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 7 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 7 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 7 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate, and methyl 7 - propoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate are prepared from 7 - methyl - 1 - tetralone, 7 - ethyl - 1 - tetralone, 7 - isopropyl - 1 - tetralone, 7 - fluoro - 1 - tetralone, 7 - chloro - 1 - tetralone, 7 - methoxy - 1 - tetralone, 7 - methylthio - 1 - tetralone, and 7 - hydroxy - 1 - tetralone, respectively. 5

Part B

A solution of 4.2 g. of diazomethane and 75 ml. of diethyl ether is added to a mixture of 23.6 g. of 6 - methoxy - 1 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid and 150 ml. of diethyl ether. The reaction mixture is stirred until colourless; then it is evaporated. The residue, containing methyl 6 - methoxy - 1 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro - 2 - naphthylacetate is etherified by treatment with 240 mg. of sodium hydride in 25 ml. of methanol followed by the addition of 2.4 g. of methyl iodide. The product, methyl 1,6 - dimethoxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, is dehydrogenated by heating it with 2 g. of 10% palladium-on-charcoal catalyst; the resulting mixture is heated to 210°C for 12 hours. The cooled mixture is then diluted with 150 ml. of methylene chloride, filtered, and evaporated to yield methyl 1,6 - dimethoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate. The product is refluxed in a mixture of 150 ml. glacial acetic acid and 150 ml. of 48% hydrobromic acid for ten minutes. The product is extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered and evaporated to yield a mixture of methyl 1 - hydroxy - 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate and methyl 1 - methoxy - 6 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate. The compounds are separated by distillation under reduced pressure and identified by nuclear magnetic spectroscopy. 10

Similarly, methyl 1 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 6 - fluoro - 1 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 6 - chloro - 1 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 6 - methyl - 1 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 6 - cyclopropyl - 1 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1,6 - dihydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 6 - methylthio - 1 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate, and methyl 6 - ethyl - 1 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate are prepared from the corresponding unsubstituted and 6-substituted 1 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid by means of the above process. 15

Part C

To a mixture of 10 g. of boron trifluoride and 100 g. of methanol, 23 g. of 6 - methoxy - 2 - (carboxymethylene) - 1 - tetralone are added. The reaction mixture is stirred for one hour and then evaporated to dryness. The residue, containing 6 - methoxy - 2 - (methoxycarbonylmethylene) - 1 - tetralone, is converted to the enol ether by treating with a mixture of 1.1 g. of trimethyl orthoformate, 0.2 g. of *p*-toluenesulphonic acid and 200 ml. of benzene. The reaction mixture is allowed to stand for 24 hours; then it is washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated. The residue, containing methyl 1,6 - dimethoxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, is refluxed in a mixture of 45 g. of 2,3 - dichloro - 5,6 - dicyano - 1,4 - benzoquinone and 200 ml. of xylene for six hours; the mixture is then filtered and evaporated to dryness. The residue is taken up in 200 ml. of acetone; this mixture is chromatographed on alumina and evaporated to yield methyl 1,6-dimethoxy-2-naphthylacetate. 20

Similarly, methyl 1 - methoxy - 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - methoxy - 6 - ethyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - methoxy - 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - methoxy - 6 - isopropyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, and methyl 1 - methoxy - 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetate are prepared from the corresponding unsubstituted and 6 - substituted 2 - (carboxymethylene) - 1 - tetralones by means of the above process. 25

By substituting other trialkyl orthoformates for trimethyl orthoformate in the above process, the corresponding 1 - alkoxy - 6 - substituted - 2 - naphthylacetic acid esters are prepared. By employing triethyl orthoformate in the above process, methyl 1 - ethoxy - 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate is furnished. 30

Part D

To a mixture of 12 g. of methyl magnesium bromide and 200 ml. of diethyl ether, 25 g. of 6 - methoxy - 2 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone are added. The alkylating mixture is refluxed for one hour after it has been allowed to stand for one hour; the mixture is made acidic to litmus by the addition of 1N methanolic HCl, 35

filtered, and evaporated. The residue, containing methyl 1 - methyl - 6 - methoxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, is added to 1 g. of 10% palladium-on-charcoal and the resulting mixture is heated to 180°C for six hours. The mixture is cooled, diluted with 200 ml. of chloroform, filtered, and evaporated to yield methyl 1 - methyl - 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate.

Similarly, methyl 1 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - methyl - 6 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - methyl - 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1,6 - dimethyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - methyl - 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetate, and methyl 1 - methyl - 6 - ethoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate are prepared from the corresponding unsubstituted and 6 - substituted 2 - methoxycarbonylmethyl - 1 - tetralones by means of the above process.

By employing ethyl magnesium bromide, *isopropyl* magnesium bromide, and hexyl magnesium bromide with 2 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone in the above process, the following are prepared: methyl 1 - ethyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - *isopropyl* - 2 - naphthylacetate, and methyl 1 - hexyl - 2 - naphthylacetate.

Part E

To a mixture of 25 g. of 6 - methoxy - 2 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone and 150 ml. of benzene, 21 g. of phosphorus pentachloride are slowly added. After the addition, the chlorination mixture is allowed to stand for an additional five hours; then it is added to 500 g. of ice and extracted with xylene. The extracts, containing methyl 1 - chloro - 6 - methoxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, are combined, washed with water to neutrality and dried over sodium sulphate; then 23 g. of 2,3 - dichloro - 5,6 - dicyano - 1,4 - benzoquinone are added and the resulting mixture is refluxed for five hours. The dehydrogenation mixture is cooled, filtered, and evaporated. The residue is taken up in acetone and chromatographed on alumina and evaporated to yield methyl 1 - chloro - 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate.

Similarly, methyl 1 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - chloro - 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - chloro - 6 - *isopropyl* - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - chloro - 6 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - chloro - 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1,6 - dichloro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - chloro - 6 - ethylthio - 2 - naphthylacetate, and methyl 1 - chloro - 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetate are prepared from the corresponding unsubstituted or 6-substituted 2 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone by means of the above process.

Part F

A mixture of 25 g. of methyl 1,6 - dimethoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate 50 g. of 48% aqueous hydrobromic acid and 50 ml. of glacial acetic acid are refluxed for two hours. The mixture is cooled, neutralized with the cautious addition of aqueous 5% sodium carbonate, and extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed with water, dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated to dryness. The residue, containing methyl 1,6 - dihydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate is thioetherified by adding it to a mixture of 50 g. of methylmercaptan and 1 ml. of concentrated sulphuric acid; the mixture is heated to 180°C under pressure for 12 hours. The mixture is cooled, diluted with 150 ml. of benzene, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated. The residue is refluxed in 200 ml. of methanol containing 10 g. of sodium methoxide for one hour; the product is extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed, dried and evaporated to give 1,6-dimethylthio-2-naphthylacetic acid.

Similarly, 1-methylthio-2-naphthylacetic acid, 1-methylthio-6-methyl-2-naphthylacetic acid, 1 - methylthio - 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, and 1 - methylthio - 6 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid are prepared from the corresponding unsubstituted and 6-substituted methyl 1 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetates by means of the above process.

By utilizing ethylmercaptan, *isopropylmercaptan* or pentylmercaptan with methyl 1 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate in the above process, the following are prepared: 1 - ethylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 1 - *isopropylthio* - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, or 1 - pentylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid.

By treating 25 g. of methyl 6 - methoxy - 1 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate with 10 ml. of methylmercaptan as described above for the 1,6-dihydroxy compound, 6 - methoxy - 1 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid is obtained.

Part G

A mixture of 25 g. of methyl 6 - methoxy - 1 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, 38 g. of 1 - diethylamino - 1,1,2 - trifluoro - 2 - chloroethane and 150 ml. of methylene chloride are allowed to stand for 24 hours. The fluorination reaction mixture is added to 250 ml. of water containing 12 g. of hydrogen chloride;

the resulting mixture is separated and the methylene chloride phase is washed with water, dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated to yield methyl 6 - methoxy - 1 - fluoro - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro - 2 - naphthylacetate and methyl 6 - methoxy - 1,2 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate. The mixture is separated on alumina eluting with acetone: diethyl ether (1:4) and the separated fractions are identified by ultraviolet spectroscopy. The fraction containing methyl 6 - methoxy - 1 - fluoro - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro - 2 - naphthylacetate is evaporated and the residue is refluxed with 23 g. of 2,3 - dichloro - 5,6 - dicyano - 1,4 - benzoquinone and 500 ml. of xylene for six hours. The cooled mixture is filtered and chromatographed on alumina eluting with chloroform. The fraction containing the product is evaporated to yield methyl 6 - methoxy - 1 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetate.

Similarly, methyl 1,6 - difluoro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - fluoro - 6 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - fluoro - 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - fluoro - 6 - ethyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetate, and methyl 1 - fluoro - 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetate are prepared from the corresponding unsubstituted and 6-substituted methyl 1 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro - 2 - naphthylacetates.

Part H

A mixture of 25 g. of methyl 1,6 - dimethoxy - 2 - naphthylacetates, 15 g of sodium carbonate, 200 ml. of methanol, and 25 ml. of water are allowed to stand for 24 hours. The reaction mixture is then acidified with 200 ml. of 2N hydrochloric acid and extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed with water, dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated to yield 1,6-dimethoxy-2-naphthylacetic acid.

Likewise, the methyl 2-naphthylacetates prepared in the preceding parts are hydrolyzed to the corresponding 2-naphthylacetic acid.

EXAMPLE 3

Part A

To a mixture of 11 g. of chlorobenzene, 26 g. of aluminium chloride and 250 ml. of carbon disulphide are added 22 g. of dimethyl 3-chlorocarbonyl glutarate. The resulting mixture is poured into 500 ml. of ice water after it has been allowed to stand for two hours. The aqueous mixture is extracted with methylene chloride; the extracts are combined, washed to neutrality with water, dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated to give dimethyl 3-(*p*-chlorobenzoyl)glutarate. The latter compound is reduced and dehydroxylated by means of the procedures described in Part A of Example 2 to furnish dimethyl 3 - (*p* - chlorobenzyl) - glutarate. The glutarate derivative and 200 ml. of concentrated hydrochloric acid is refluxed for three hours, and then diluted with 500 ml. of water and the product extracted with ether. The residue, containing 3 - (*p*-chlorobenzyl) - glutaric acid, is taken up in 100 ml. of concentrated sulphuric acid and allowed to stand for one hour at room temperature; the reaction mixture is then diluted with a kilogram of ice and extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed with water, dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated to yield 7 - chloro - 3 - (carboxymethyl) - 1 - tetralone. The latter is esterified by adding it to a mixture of 10 g. of boron trifluoride etherate and 150 ml. of methanol. The resulting mixture is evaporated after being allowed to stand for four hours to furnish 7 - chloro - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone.

Similarly, 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone, 7 - methyl - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone, 7 - ethyl - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone, 7 - cyclopropyl - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone, 7 - isopropyl - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone, 7 - methylthio - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone, 7 - fluoro - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone, 7 - methoxy - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone, 7 - ethoxy - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone, and 7 - ethylthio - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone are prepared from benzene, methylbenzene, ethylbenzene, cyclopropylbenzene, isopropylbenzene, methylthiobenzene, fluorobenzene, methoxybenzene, ethoxybenzene and ethylthiobenzene, respectively, by means of the above process.

Part B

To a mixture of 8 g. of sodium borohydride and 150 ml. of methanol, 23.5 g. of 7 - fluoro - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone are added. The mixture is diluted with 250 ml. of 2N hydrochloric acid after standing for four hours at 25°C; the aqueous mixture is then extracted with chloroform. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated to yield methyl

6 - fluoro - 4 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro - 2 - naphthylacetate. The latter compound is dehydrogenated by the process described in Part B of Example 2 to furnish methyl 6 - fluoro - 4 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate.

5 Similarly, the 1-tetralones, prepared by means of the process of Part A above, are treated as described above to afford the corresponding 4-hydroxy 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives. Accordingly, methyl 6-methyl-4-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-naphthylacetate and methyl 6-methyl-4-hydroxy-2-naphthylacetate are prepared from 7 - methyl - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone by means of the above described processes. 5

10⁴ *Part C* 10

7 - Methoxy - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone is converted to the enol ether and dehydrogenated by means of the processes described in Part C of Example 2 to furnish methyl 4,6-dimethoxy-2-naphthylacetate.

15 Similarly, other methyl 4-alkoxy-2-naphthylacetates are prepared from the corresponding unsubstituted- or 7 - substituted - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralones. Accordingly, methyl 4 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate is prepared from 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone. 15

Part D

20 7 - Methyl - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone is alkylated and dehydrogenated by the processes described in Part D of Example 2 to afford methyl 4,6-dimethyl-2-naphthylacetate. 20

25 Similarly, other unsubstituted- or 7 - substituted - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralones are alkylated and dehydrogenated to furnish the corresponding unsubstituted- or 6 - substituted - methyl 4 - alkyl - 2 - naphthylacetates. Thus, methyl 4 - isopropyl - 6 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetate is prepared from 7 - chloro - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone and isopropyl magnesium bromide. 25

Part E

30 7 - Chloro - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone is chlorinated and dehydrogenated by the procedures described in Part E of Example 2 to afford methyl 4,6 - dichloro - 2 - naphthylacetate. 30

35 Similarly, other unsubstituted or 6-substituted methyl 4 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetates are prepared from the corresponding unsubstituted or 7 - substituted 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone by means of the aforementioned procedures. Accordingly, methyl 4 - chloro - 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetate is prepared from 7 - methylthio - 3 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone. 35

Part F

Methyl - 4 - hydroxy - 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate is thioetherified by the procedure described in Part F of Example 2 to afford 4 - methylthio - 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid. 40

40 Similarly, 4 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 4 - methylthio - 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 4 - methylthio - 6 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 4 - methylthio - 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, and 4,6 - dimethylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid are prepared from the corresponding unsubstituted and 6-substituted methyl 4 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetates by means of the above processes. 45

Part G

45 Methyl 6 - methyl - 4 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro - 2 - naphthylacetate is fluorinated and dehydrogenated by means of the procedures described in Part G of Example 2 to afford methyl 4-fluoro-6-methyl-2-naphthylacetate.

50 Similarly, other 4 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro compounds, prepared by means of the processes of Part B of this Example, are fluorinated and dehydrogenated to afford the corresponding methyl - 4 - fluoronaphthylacetate derivative. Thus, methyl 6 - methoxy - 4 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetate is prepared from methyl 6 - methoxy - 4 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro - 2 - naphthylacetate. 50

Part H

55 Methyl 1,6 - dimethoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate is hydrolyzed by the means of the process described in Part H of Example 2 to furnish 1,6 - dimethoxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid. 55

60 Likewise, the other 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives of this Example are hydrolyzed to the corresponding 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives. 60

EXAMPLE 4

Part A

To a mixture of 18 g. of methyl phenylacetate, 26 g. of aluminium chloride and 150 ml. of carbon disulphide, 20 g. of succinic anhydride are added. The reaction mixture is allowed to stand for two hours at 35°C; then it is added to a litre of ice water

and extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed, dried, and evaporated to give methyl *p* - (3' - carboxy - 1' - oxopropyl) - phenylacetate. This derivative is reduced with sodium borohydride and dehydroxylated with palladium charcoal catalyst by the procedures described in Part A of Example 2 to afford methyl *p* - (3' - carboxypropyl) - phenylacetate. This derivative is refluxed in 50 ml. of thionyl chloride for three hours and then it is evaporated. The residue, containing methyl *p* - (3' - chlorocarbonylpropyl) - phenylacetate, is taken up in 175 ml. of benzene containing 40 g. of aluminium chloride. The resulting mixture is stirred for two hours at 20°C; then it is added to a litre of ice and water and extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated to give 7 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone.

Part B

Methyl 8 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate is prepared from 7 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone by reducing the latter with an equivalent amount of sodium borohydride and dehydrogenating the resulting hydroxy derivative by heating with palladium charcoal catalyst by the processes described in Part A of Example 2.

Part C

Methyl 8 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate is prepared from 7 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone by means of the esterification and dehydrogenation processes described in Part C of Example 2.

Part D

Methyl 8 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetate is prepared from 7 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone by means of the alkylation and dehydrogenation procedure described in Part D of Example 2.

Similarly, methyl 8 - ethyl - 2 - naphthylacetate and methyl 8 - isopropyl - 2 - naphthylacetate are prepared from 7 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone by utilizing ethyl magnesium bromide and isopropyl magnesium bromide, respectively, in the alkylation procedure.

Part E

By means of the chlorination and dehydrogenation procedures described in Part A of Example 2, methyl 8 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetate is prepared from 7 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone.

Part F

8 - Methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid is prepared from methyl 8 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthylacetate by means of the thioesterification process described in Part F of Example 2.

Part G

Methyl 8 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydro - 2 - naphthylacetate (prepared from 7 - (methoxycarbonylmethyl) - 1 - tetralone by means of the reduction process described in Part A of Example 2) is fluorinated and dehydrogenated by means of the processes described in Part G of Example 2 to afford methyl 8 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetate.

Part H

8 - Methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid is prepared from methyl 8 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate by means of the hydrolysis procedure described in Part H of Example 2.

Similarly, the other ester derivatives prepared by the above procedures are hydrolyzed.

EXAMPLE 5

To a mixture of 22 g. of methyl 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, 2.5 g. of sodium hydride and 150 ml. of 1,2-dimethoxyethane, 25 g. of methyl iodide are added. The reaction mixture is allowed to stand for several hours; then it is diluted with ethanol followed by water and extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated to yield methyl 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate. This derivative is hydrolyzed by means of the process described in Part H of Example 2 to obtain 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid.

6 - Methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - ethylacetic acid is prepared by using ethyl iodide in place of methyl iodide in the above process.

Similarly, 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 1 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 1 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 1 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 1,6 - dimethylthio - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 4 - ethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - ethylacetic acid, 4 - chloro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 4 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 4 - methyl - 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 4 - fluoro - 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl -

α - methylacetic acid, 6 - ethoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - ethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - methoxymethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - trifluoromethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - *isopropyl* - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - vinyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - cyclopropyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - chloro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - ethylacetic acid, 6 - acetyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - methoxymethoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - ethylthio - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - fluoro - 7 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - methyl - 7 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - methylthio - 7 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 7 - chloro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 7 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 7 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 8 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 8 - ethoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 8 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 8 - *isopropylthio* - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6,8 - dimethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, and 6,8 - dichloro - 8 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid are prepared from the corresponding methyl 2 - naphthylacetate derivatives.

EXAMPLE 6

To a mixture of 25.2 g. of methyl 6 - vinyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate and 300 ml. of chloroform, a 5% brominechloroform solution is added at -10°C until the bromine colour persists. The mixture is then added to 200 ml. of ammonia containing 15 g. of sodium amide. The mixture is allowed to evaporate; the residue is extracted with diethyl ether. The extracts are combined, washed to neutrality with water, dried, and evaporated to yield methyl 6 - ethynyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methyl - acetate.

Similarly, ethyl 6 - ethynyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetate is prepared from ethyl 6 - vinyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetate.

EXAMPLE 7

To a mixture of 23 g. of ethyl 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate, 7 g. of sodium metal wire, and 150 ml. of benzene, 15 g. of ethyl formate are added; the resulting mixture is stirred for 24 hours and then 100 ml. of ethanol are added. The reaction mixture is made acidic by the addition of 500 ml. of 1N hydrochloric acid and then extracted with benzene. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, and filtered. The benzene solution, which contains ethyl 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - hydroxymethyleneacetate, is treated with 2.4 g. of sodium hydride; the resulting mixture is then treated with 3.6 g. of chlorine and the reaction mixture is allowed to stand for two hours at 25°C and then evaporated. The residue, containing ethyl 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - formyl - α - chloroacetate, is taken up in methylene chloride, washed with water to neutrality, dried, filtered, and evaporated. The residue is taken up in 95% acetic acid containing 20 g. of chromium trioxide and the resulting mixture allowed to stand for two hours; the mixture is then diluted with water and extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed to neutrality, dried, filtered, and evaporated. The residue, containing ethyl 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - carboxy - α - chloroacetate, is heated to 50°C to afford ethyl 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - chloroacetate.

By using 9.3 g. of perchloryl fluoride in place of chlorine in the above process, ethyl 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - fluoroacetate is afforded.

Similarly, other 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives are chlorinated or fluorinated in the α -position. Thus, methyl 2 - naphthyl - α - chloroacetate and methyl 2 - naphthyl - α - fluoroacetate are prepared from methyl 2 - naphthylacetate by means of the above process.

EXAMPLE 8

To a mixture of 30 g. of methyl 6,7 - dichloro - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - hydroxymethyleneacetate (prepared *via* the procedure described in Example 7) and 150 ml. of benzene, 20 g. of phosphorus pentachloride are slowly added. The reaction mixture is stirred for four hours after the completion of the addition; then 100 ml. of pyridine are added followed by the addition of 500 ml. of water. The reaction mixture is filtered; the product is isolated from the filtrate by extraction with methylene chloride to yield methyl 6,7 - dichloro - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - chloromethyleneacetate.

Similarly, methyl 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - chloromethyleneacetate is prepared from methyl 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - hydroxymethyleneacetate.

EXAMPLE 9

A mixture of 25 g. of methyl 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - chloroacetate, 1 equivalent or 4 g. of sodium hydroxide, and 200 ml. of ethanol is refluxed for two hours. The cooled mixture is acidified by the addition of 1N hydrochloric acid. The resulting product, methyl 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - hydroxyacetate, is isolated by extractions with methylene chloride. The product is oxidized by means of the oxidation procedure described in Example 7 to give methyl 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - oxoacetate. The latter product is refluxed with 31 g. of difluoromethylene triphenyl phosphorane (prepared by allowing sodium chlorodifluoroacetate to react with triphenyl phosphine in diethyl ether) in 150 ml. of benzene. The resulting mixture is distilled under vacuum. The distillate is evaporated to yield methyl 2 - naphthyl - α,α - difluoromethyleneacetate.

Methyl 6 - methyl - α,α - chlorofluoromethyleneacetate is prepared by using 33 g. of chlorofluoromethylene triphenyl phosphorane (prepared by allowing sodium dichlorofluoroacetate to react with triphenyl phosphine) in place of difluoromethylene triphenyl phosphorane.

Similarly, other 2 - naphthyl - α,α - difluoromethyleneacetic acid ester derivatives and 2 - naphthyl - α,α - chlorofluoromethyleneacetic acid ester derivatives are prepared from the corresponding 2 - naphthyl - α - chloroacetate derivatives by means of the above described procedures. Accordingly, methyl 6 - fluoro - 7 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - difluoromethyleneacetate and methyl 6 - fluoro - 7 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - chlorofluoromethyleneacetate are prepared from methyl 6 - fluoro - 7 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - chloroacetate.

EXAMPLE 10

A mixture of 22 g. of methyl 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetate, 10 g. of sodium methoxide, 6 g. of paraformaldehyde, and 200 ml. of dimethylsulphoxide is stirred for 18 hours at 25°C; the reaction mixture is acidified by the addition of 250 ml. of 1N hydrochloric acid and extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed, dried, filtered, and evaporated to yield a mixture of methyl 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - methyleneacetate and methyl 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - hydroxymethylacetate. The two products are separated by chromatographing on alumina, eluting with methanol-diethyl ether; the fractions are identified by ultraviolet spectroscopy.

Similarly, other 2 - naphthyl - α,α - methyleneacetic acid ester derivatives are prepared from the corresponding 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives.

EXAMPLE 11

A mixture of 23 g. of methyl 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - methyleneacetate, 23 g. of diiodomethane, 19.6 g. of zinc-copper couple (comprising 19.5 g. of zinc and 0.1 g. of copper) and 500 ml. of diethyl ether is refluxed for six hours and then cooled and filtered. The filtrate is washed with 0.1N hydrochloric acid, washed with water to neutrality, dried, and evaporated to yield methyl 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - ethyleneacetate.

Similarly, other 2 - naphthyl - α,α - ethyleneacetic acid ester derivatives are prepared from the corresponding 2 - naphthyl - α,α - methyleneacetic acid ester derivatives. Thus, methyl 6,7 - dimethoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - ethyleneacetate is prepared from methyl 6,7 - dimethoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - methyleneacetate.

EXAMPLE 12

Part A

A mixture of 24.4 g. of ethyl 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetate, 2.4 g. of sodium hydride, and 100 ml. of diethyl carbonate is stirred for four hours at 20°C. The product diethyl 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylmalonate (isolated by methylene chloride extraction), is added to 125 ml. of 1,2 - dimethoxyethane containing 33 g. of potassium *tert.*-butoxide; the mixture is allowed to stand for four hours at 60°C with chlorodifluoromethane being continually bubbled in after the mixture is initially saturated. The mixture is carefully neutralized by the addition of aqueous oxalic acid; the product, diethyl 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylmalonate, is isolated by methylene chloride extraction and hydrolyzed by refluxing in 250 ml. of methanol containing 5 g. of potassium hydroxide and 5 ml. of water. The cooled mixture is acidified with oxalic acid and the product, 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylmalonic acid, is extracted with methylene chloride. The dried product is decarboxylated by heating to 180°C for six hours to give 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetic acid.

Similarly, the α -difluoromethyl derivatives of the following compounds are prepared from the corresponding esters: 1 - ethyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 1 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 1 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 1,6 - dimethyl - 2 -

naphthylacetic acid, 4 - isopropyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 4 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 4 - ethylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 4 - methyl - 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 4 - methoxy - 6 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - isopropyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - cyclopropyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - trifluoromethyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 7 - fluoro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 7 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6,7 - dimethyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6,7 - dichloro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - methoxy - 7 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 8 - ethyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 8 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 8 - ethylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, and 6,8 - dimethoxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid.

Part B

A mixture of 31.6 g. of diethyl 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylmalonate, 2.4 g. of sodium hydride, and 350 ml. of methanol is stirred for one hour, then 24 g. of methyl iodide are added and the resulting mixture is refluxed for two hours. The cooled mixture is neutralized with aqueous oxalic acid. The product, diethyl 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylmalonate, is isolated, hydrolyzed, and decarboxylated by the means of the above described processes to give 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid.

EXAMPLE 13

A mixture of 24.4 g. of methyl 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, 25 g. of sodium metal, and 500 ml. of anhydrous *iso*-amyl alcohol are refluxed for 18 hours. The cooled reaction mixture is acidified by the addition of aqueous 1N hydrochloric acid. The product is isolated by diethyl ether extraction to give methyl 6 - methoxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate.

Similarly, methyl 1 - methyl - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - fluoro - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - *isopropoxy* - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1,6 - dimethoxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 1 - ethyl - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 7 - chloro - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 7 - methylthio - 6 - fluoro - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 6,7 - dimethoxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - ethylacetate, methyl 6 - methyl - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 6 - fluoro - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 6 - isopropyl - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 6 - chloro - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 6 - methylthio - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 6 - trifluoromethyl - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 6 - difluoromethoxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 6 - methoxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 6 - methoxymethoxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetate, methyl 6 - methylthio - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 7 - methoxymethylthio - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 7 - isopropyl - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 7 - trifluoromethyl - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 7 - ethoxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 6,7 - dimethyl - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - ethylacetate, methyl 6 - fluoro - 7 - chloro - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 6 - methoxy - 7 - fluoro - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 8 - methyl - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 8 - methoxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 6,8 - difluoro - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, and methyl 6 - methyl - 8 - methylthio - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate are prepared from the corresponding 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives by means of the above process.

EXAMPLE 14

Part A

A mixture of 26 g. of methyl 6-methylthio-2-naphthyl- α -methylacetate, 200 ml. of glacial acetic acid, and 200 ml. of 48% hydrobromic acid are refluxed for two days. The mixture is diluted with one litre of water and extracted with methyl chloride. The extracts are combined, washed with water, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated to yield methyl 6 - thiol - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate.

Part B

The above product is added to a mixture of 150 ml. of dioxane and 150 ml. of aqueous 20% sodium hydroxide. The resulting mixture is heated to 65°C and saturated with chlorodifluoromethane. The resulting mixture is allowed to stand for two hours while continuously bubbling in chlorodifluoromethane. The cooled reaction mixture is then acidified by the addition of aqueous 1N hydrochloric acid and extracted with diethyl ether. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, dried over

sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated to yield 6 - difluoromethylthio - 2 - naphthyl - α - methyl acetic acid.

5 Similarly, 1 - difluoromethoxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 8 - difluoromethoxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - difluoromethoxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - difluoro-
methoxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 7 - difluoromethylthio - 2 - naphthyl-
acetic acid, 6 - difluoromethylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 4 - difluoromethylthio -
2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6,7 - bis(difluoromethoxy) - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - di-
10 fluoromethoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 7 - difluoromethoxy - 2 - naph-
thyl - α - methylacetic acid, 11 - difluoromethoxy - 6 - difluoromethylthio - 2 - naph-
thyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - difluoromethoxy - 8 - chloro - 2 - naphthyl - α - di-
15 fluoromethylacetic acid, 4 - difluoromethylthio - 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α,α -
methyleneacetic acid, 8 difluoromethoxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - difluoro-
methyleneacetic acid, 6 - difluoromethylthio - 11 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - ethyl-
acetic acid can be prepared from the corresponding 2-naphthylacetic acid ester deriva-
tives by means of the above process. 15

EXAMPLE 15

A mixture of 23 g. of methyl 6 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, 25 g. of chlorodimethyl ether, and 500 ml. of dimethylformamide is allowed to stand at room temperature for 12 hours. The reaction mixture is evaporated under reduced pressure to give methyl 6 - methoxymethyloxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate. 20

Methyl 6 - isopropoxymethyloxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate and methyl 6 - methylthiomethyloxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate are similarly prepared by utilizing chloromethyl isopropyl ether and methylthio chloromethane, respectively, in place of chlorodimethyl ether in the above process. 25

Methyl 6 - methoxymethylthio - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate is prepared by utilizing methyl 6 - mercapto - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate in the above process. Likewise, methyl 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthyl - α - methyl - acetate is prepared by using methyl 6 - mercapto - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate and methylthio chloromethane in the process described above. 30

Likewise, methyl 1 - methoxymethyloxy - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 4,6 - di-(methoxymethyloxy) - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 1 - methoxy - 6 - methoxymethyloxy - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - methyleneacetate, methyl 6,7 - di(methoxymethylthio) - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 8 - ethoxymethylthio - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 4 - ethoxymethyloxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - difluoromethyleneacetate, methyl 6 - methoxymethyloxy - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, and methyl 7 - methoxymethyloxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetate are prepared from the corresponding 2 - naphthylacetic acid derivatives by means of the above process. 35

EXAMPLE 16

40 *Part A*
A mixture of 500 ml. of benzene and 25 g. of 4 - methoxy - 2,6 - dihydropyran is dried by distilling off 50 ml. To the remaining cooled mixture, 2 g. of *para*-toluene sulphonyl chloride and 26.6 g. of methyl 6 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoro - methylacetate are added; the resulting mixture is stirred for 24 hours at 25°C. The mixture is neutralized by the addition of aqueous 5% sodium bicarbonate. The resulting mixture is extracted with methylacetate. The extracts are combined, washed with water, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated to give methyl 6 - (4' - methoxytetrahydropyran - 4' - yloxy) - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetate. 45

Similarly, methyl 6 - tetrahydropyran - 2' - yloxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoro - methylacetate is prepared by using dihydropyran in place of 4 - methoxy - 2,6 - dihydropyran in the above process. 50

Part B

A mixture of 22.8 g. of methyl 4 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - methyleneacetate, 100 g. of tetrahydrofuran - 2' - yl benzoate, and 500 ml. of benzene are refluxed for 24 hours. The reaction mixture is distilled and the highest boiling fraction is collected to give methyl 4 - tetrahydrofuran - 2' - yloxy - 2 - naphthyl - α,α - methyleneacetate. 55

Similarly, methyl 6,8 - bistetrahydrofuran - 2' - yloxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - fluoroacetate is prepared from methyl 6,8 - dihydroxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - fluoroacetate. 60

EXAMPLE 17

Chlorine gas is bubbled through a mixture of 23 g. of methyl 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate and 1 g. of phosphorus pentachloride in 200 ml. of carbon tetrachloride in the presence of light until 21.3 g. of chlorine have been taken up. The reaction mixture is diluted with 200 ml. of pyridine, filtered, further diluted with 500

ml. of ether, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated to yield methyl 6 - trichloromethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate. The above product is then refluxed in a mixture of 500 ml. chlorobenzene and 17.9 g. of antimony-trifluoride, the cooled reaction mixture is washed with water, dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated to yield methyl 6 - trifluoromethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate.

Similarly, methyl 8 - trifluoromethyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - methoxy - 6 - trifluoromethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - ethylacetate, methyl 6 - trifluoromethyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 6 - trifluoromethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α, α - methyleneacetate, methyl 4 - fluoro - 6 - trifluoromethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α, α - methyleneacetate, methyl 7 - trifluoromethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, methyl 4,6 - trifluoromethyl - 2 - naphthylacetate, methyl 1 - trifluoromethyl - 3,4 - dihydro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, and methyl 6 - trifluoromethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetate are prepared from the corresponding methyl substituted 2 - naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives by means of the above process.

EXAMPLE 18

Part A

A mixture of 24.2 g. of methyl 6 - ethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, 17.8 g. of N-bromosuccinimide, and 10 mg. of benzoyl peroxide, and 300 ml. of chloroform are refluxed for two hours in the presence of light. The mixture is filtered and evaporated. The residue is heated in 200 ml. of glacial acetic acid containing 16 g. of sodium acetate at 60°C for 24 hours. Five hundred millilitres of water are added to the resulting mixture and the product is extracted by diethyl ether extractions. The product, methyl 6 - (α - acetoxyethyl) - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, is hydrolyzed by adding it to a 5% aqueous sodium carbonate solution. The product, methyl - 6 - (α - hydroxyethyl) - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, is isolated by diethyl ether extractions. The isolated product is oxidized by adding it to 200 ml. of glacial acetic acid containing 25 g. of chromium trioxide. The resulting mixture is allowed to stand at room temperature for one hour. Two hundred milliliters of a 10% sodium bisulphite solution are added and the mixture is extracted with diethyl ether. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated to give methyl - 6 - acetyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate.

Part B

To a mixture of 24 g. of 6 - acetyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid and 200 ml. of diethyl ether are added 4.2 g. of diazomethane in 100 ml. of diethyl ether. The resulting mixture is evaporated to give methyl 6 - acetyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate. The product is added to 200 ml. of aqueous 20% sodium hypochlorite. The resulting mixture is allowed to stand for four hours at room temperature. The mixture is acidified by the addition of aqueous 1N hydrochloric acid and extracted with diethyl ether. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated to give 6-carboxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid.

Part C

The above product is esterified with 8.4 g. of diazomethane by the procedure described in Part B above to give methyl 6 - methoxycarbonyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate. The diester is hydrolyzed by refluxing in 200 ml. of ethyl alcohol containing 4 g. (one molar equivalent) of sodium hydroxide for five hours. The cooled mixture is acidified by the addition of aqueous 1N hydrochloric acid and the product is isolated by methylenechloride extraction to give 6 - methoxycarbonyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid.

Part D

A mixture of 25.8 g. of 6 - methoxycarbonyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 4 g. of sodium hydroxide, 10 ml. of water, and 500 ml. of methanol are heated to 50°C, cooled, and evaporated. The residue is taken up in 500 ml. of diethylene glycol dimethyl ether and diborane is bubbled through. The resulting mixture is saturated with diborane and then is allowed to stand for 18 hours. The reaction mixture is acidified by the addition of aqueous 1N hydrochloric acid. The mixture is extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated to give 6 - hydroxymethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid.

Part E

A mixture of 23 g. of 6 - hydroxymethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 230 g. of manganese dioxide, and 2 l. of chloroform are stirred for 12 hours; the mixture is filtered and evaporated to give 6 - formyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid.

Part F

A mixture of 22.8 g. of 6 - formyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 14 g. of hydroxylamine hydrochloride, 25 g. of sodium acetate, and 1 l. of ethyl alcohol are refluxed for one hour; the cooled reaction mixture is diluted with 1 l. of water and extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated to give the oxime of 6 - formyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid. The above oxime is refluxed in 1 l. of acetic anhydride containing 20 g. of *p*-toluenesulphonic acid for one hour; the reaction mixture is then evaporated to dryness. The residue is taken up in methylene chloride, washed with water, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated to yield 6 - cyano - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid.

Similarly, by means of the above processes, 6 - acetyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetic acid, 6 - carboxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetic acid, 6 - methoxycarbonyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetic acid, 6 - hydroxymethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetic acid, 6 - formyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetic acid, and the oxime thereof, and 6 - cyano - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetic acid are prepared from methyl 6 - ethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetate.

By utilizing diazoethane or 2-diazopropane in place of diazomethane in the process of Part C, 6 - ethoxycarbonyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid or 6 - isopropoxycarbonyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid are obtained.

Part G

A mixture of 5 g. of 6 - carboxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 2 ml. of concentrated hydrochloric acid, and 250 ml. of methanol are refluxed for ten minutes. The cooled mixture is evaporated to yield a mixture of 6 - methoxycarbonyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, methyl 6 - carboxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate, and methyl 6 - methoxycarbonyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate. The mixture is separated by distillation and chromatography on alumina eluting with ether. The separated products are identified by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

Part H

To a mixture of 24.4 g. of methyl 6 - hydroxymethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate (prepared from 6 - hydroxymethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid by esterifying the latter by means of the procedure described in Part B of this Example) and 500 ml. of benzene are added 2.4 g. of sodium hydride. The resulting mixture is stirred for two hours; then 12.2 g. of methyl iodide are added. The resulting mixture is next neutralized by the addition of aqueous 1N hydrochloric acid after it has been allowed to stand for one hour; the mixture is then washed with water, dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated to give methyl 6 - methoxymethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate.

Methyl 6 - ethoxymethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate is prepared by using 13.7 g. of ethyl iodide in place of methyl iodide in the above process.

EXAMPLE 19

To a mixture of 20 g. of sodium hydroxide and 400 ml. of methanol are added 24.5 g. of methyl 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate. The resulting reaction mixture is heated to 60°C for five hours. The cooled mixture is neutralized by the addition of aqueous 1N hydrochloric acid and extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated to give 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid.

Similarly, the other 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivatives prepared by means of the procedures described in the other Examples herein are hydrolyzed to the corresponding 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives.

EXAMPLE 20

A suspension of 2.4 g. of sodium hydride and 50 ml. of benzene is added to a mixture of 23 g. of 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid and 450 ml. of benzene. The resulting mixture is stirred for four hours. The mixture is cooled to 0°C and 19 g. of oxalyl chloride are added; after the addition, the mixture is allowed to stand for four hours. The resulting mixture is then saturated with ammonia and allowed to stand for eight hours. This mixture is then evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue is taken up in methylene chloride, washed with water to neutrality, dried, filtered, and evaporated to give 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetamide.

Similarly, N - methyl - 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetamide, N,N - dimethyl - 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetamide, N - ethyl - 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetamide, N,N - diethyl - 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetamide, 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methyl N - acetyl pyrrolidine, 6 - fluoro -

2 - naphthyl - α - methyl N - acetyl piperidine, 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methyl N - acetyl morpholine, 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methyl N - acetyl piperazine, 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methyl N - acetyl - 4' - methylpiperazine are prepared by means of the above process by replacing ammonia with methylamine, dimethylamine, ethylamine, diethylamine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, morpholine, piperazine, and 1 - methylpiperazine, respectively.

By means of the above process, the corresponding amides of the other 2-naphthyl-acetic acid derivatives made by means described herein are prepared. Accordingly, 6-methyl-2-naphthylacetamide is prepared from 6-methyl-2-naphthylacetic acid.

EXAMPLE 21

To a solution of 26 g. of 6 - methoxymethoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid and 500 ml. of diethyl ether are slowly added a solution comprising of 5.6 g. of diazoethane and 50 ml. of diethyl ether. The reaction mixture is allowed to stand for 15 minutes and then is evaporated under reduced pressure to yield ethyl 6 - methoxymethoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate. By replacing diazoethane with diazopropane in the above process, propyl 6 - methoxymethoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate is obtained.

By means of the above described process, the other 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives made by the procedures described in the Examples herein are esterified.

EXAMPLE 22

A mixture of 32 g. of methyl 6 - difluoromethoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethylacetate, 10 g. of sodium methoxide, 14 g. of hydroxylamine hydrochloride, and 500 ml. of methanol are allowed to stand for 16 hours. The mixture is then filtered and evaporated. The residue is neutralized by the addition of aqueous 1N hydrochloric acid and extracted by ether. The ether solution is then washed with water, dried, and evaporated to afford 6 - difluoromethoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - difluoromethyl acetylhydroxamic acid.

Similarly, 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methyl acetylhydroxamic acid is made by means of the above process from methyl 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methyl acetate.

Similarly, the corresponding hydroxamic acids of the other 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives prepared via the procedures described in the Examples herein are made by means of the above described process.

EXAMPLE 23

To a mixture of 4 g. of sodium hydroxide and 500 ml. of methanol are added 24.6 g. of 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid. The mixture is stirred for 18 hours at 50°C. The cooled mixture is then evaporated to give sodium 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate.

By employing potassium hydroxide, triethylamine, lysine, caffeine, or procaine in place of sodium hydroxide in the above process, the potassium, triethylamine, lysine, caffeine, or procaine salt of 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid is obtained.

By means of the above procedure, the addition salts of the other 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives made *via* the procedures described herein are prepared.

EXAMPLE 24

A mixture of 2.2 g. of 6 - hydroxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 50 ml. of acetic anhydride, and 100 mg. of *p*-toluenesulphonic acid is stirred for four hours at 50°C. The mixture is evaporated, water is added, and the mixture is extracted with diethyl ether which is washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated to yield 6 - acetoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid.

Methyl 6 - acetoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetate is prepared from the above product by means of the esterification procedure described in Example 21.

EXAMPLE 25

A mixture of 2.3 g. of 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 2.9 g. of cinchonidine, and 50 ml. of methanol is stirred for two hours; the mixture is then allowed to stand until crystallization is complete. The crystals are filtered off and washed with methanol. The crystals are recrystallized from methanol, filtered, washed, and dried. The pure crystals are added to 60 ml. of 0.2N hydrochloric acid. The resulting mixture is stirred for two hours and then extracted with diethyl ether. The extracts are combined, washed with water to neutrality, dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated to yield one of the optical isomers, namely *d* - 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid. The filtrates from the above filtrations are acidified with aqueous dilute hydrochloric acid and the product is isolated by diethyl ether extractions to give the other optical isomer, namely *l* - 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid.

Similarly, the optical isomers of the other α -mono-substituted 2-naphthylacetic acid derivatives made *via* the procedures described herein are separated, e.g. the *d*- and *l*- isomers of

5	6-methyl-2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid, 6-trifluoro-methyl-2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid, 6-fluoro-2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid, 6-chloro-2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid, 6-methylthio-2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid, 6-difluoromethoxy-2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid,	5
10	6-difluoromethylthio-2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid, 6- <i>isopropyl</i> -2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid, and 6-ethyl-2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid.	10

EXAMPLE 26

	Ingredients	Quantity per tablet, mgs.	
15	2-naphthylacetic acid	50	15
	cornstarch	200	

The above ingredients are thoroughly mixed and pressed into single scored tablets, one tablet being administered every three to four hours.

EXAMPLE 27

	Ingredients	Quantity per tablet, mgs.	
20	6-methoxy-2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid	30	20
	cornstarch	100	
	lactose	370	
	Magnesium stearate	2	

25 The above ingredients are mixed intimately and pressed into single scored tablets. 25

EXAMPLE 28

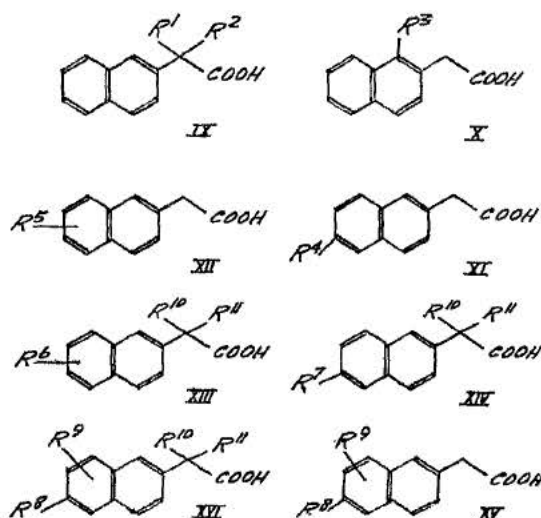
	Ingredients	Quantity per capsule, mgs.	
	6-methylthio-2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid	25	
	lactose	225	

30 The above ingredients are mixed and introduced into a No. #1 hard-shell gelatin capsule. 30

In a similar manner as that described in each of the preceding three Examples, the following compounds can also be so formulated: 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - chloro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methyl - acetic acid, 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - trifluoromethyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - difluoromethoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 6 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 4 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 3,4 - dihydro - 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methyl acetic acid, 3,4 - dihydro - 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 3,4 - dihydro - 6 - chloro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 1 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α , α - methyleneacetic acid, sodium 8 - chloro - 2 - naphthyl - α - fluoroacetate, methyl 6,7 - dimethylthio - 2 - naphthylacetate, 4 - methylthiomethyleneoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α difluoromethylacetic acid, 4 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 1 - methoxy - 6 - (4' - methoxytetrahydropyran - 4' - yloxy) - 2 - naphthylacetamide, potassium 3,4 - dihydro - 7 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α , α - difluoromethyleneacetate, 3,4 - dihydro - 6 - fluoro - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 3,4 - dihydro - 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 3,4 - dihydro - 6 - difluoromethoxy - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetic acid, 3,4 - dihydro - 6 - methoxy - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 3,4 - dihydro - 6 - methylthio - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 3,4 - dihydro - 6 - chloro - 2 - naphthylacetic acid, 3,4 - dihydro - 6 - methyl - 2 - naphthylacetic acid and N,N - diethyl 4 - *iso* - propyl - 2 - naphthyl - α - methylacetamide.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. Any one of the compounds of the general formulae:



wherein one of R¹ and R² is hydrogen and the other is difluoromethyl, fluoro, or chloro;
or

R¹ and R² taken together are alkylidene, halomethylene, or ethylene;

R³ is trifluoromethyl, a hydrolyzable ester, difluoromethoxy, alkoxy-methoxy, 4'-alkoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, tetrahydrofuran-2'-yloxy, tetrahydropyran-2'-yloxy, or thioether;

R⁴ is cycloalkyl, hydroxymethyl, alkoxy-methyl, trifluoromethyl, vinyl, ethynyl, a hydrolyzable ester, alkoxy-methoxy, alkylthiomethylthio, difluoromethoxy, alkoxy-methylthio, alkylthiomethoxy, difluoromethylthio, formyl, carboxy, alkoxy-carbonyl, acetyl, cyano, or aryl;

each of R⁵ (at position 4, 7, or 8) and R⁶ (at position 1, 4, 7, or 8) is alkyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, or thioether; provided that R⁵ (when at position 7) is other than alkyl;

R⁷ is alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxymethyl, alkoxy-methyl, trifluoromethyl, vinyl, ethynyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, thioether, formyl, carboxy, alkoxy-carbonyl, acetyl, cyano, or aryl;

each of R⁸ and R⁹ (at position 1, 4, 7, or 8) is alkyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, or thioether; provided that when one of R⁸ and R⁹ is hydroxy, oxyether, or thioether, the other is the identical group or alkyl, fluoro, chloro, or a hydrolyzable ester;

one of R¹⁰ and R¹¹ is hydrogen, the other being methyl, ethyl, difluoromethyl, fluoro, or chloro; or

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ taken together are alkylidene, halomethylene, or ethylene; provided that when one of R¹⁰ or R¹¹ is methyl or ethyl, R⁶ (when at position 1 or 7) is other than alkyl; or

a corresponding amide, ester, hydroxamic acid, or pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein one of R¹ and R² is hydrogen and the other is difluoromethyl, fluoro, or chloro; or

R¹ and R² taken together are methylene or difluoromethylene;

R³ is difluoromethoxy, methoxymethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, difluoromethylthio, or methoxymethylthio;

R⁴ is cyclopropyl, vinyl, ethynyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethoxy, methoxy-methoxy, ethoxymethoxy, *n*-propoxymethoxy, difluoromethylthio, or methoxy-methylthio;

each of R⁵ (at position 4, 7, or 8), R⁶ (at position 1, 4, 7, or 8), R⁸ and R⁹ (at position 1, 4, 7, or 8) is fluoro, chloro, methyl, ethyl, *isopropyl*, methoxy, methoxy-methoxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, difluoromethylthio, or methoxymethylthio; provided that R⁵ (when at position 7) is other than methyl, ethyl, or *isopropyl*; provided that when one of R⁸ or R⁹ is methoxy,

methoxymethyloxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, difluoromethylthio, or methoxymethylthio, the other is the identical group or fluoro, chloro, methyl, ethyl, or isopropyl;

5 R^7 is methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, cyclopropyl, trifluoromethyl, vinyl, ethynyl, fluoro, chloro, methoxy, methoxymethyloxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, methoxymethylthio, or difluoromethylthio; 5

one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen, the other being methyl or difluoromethyl; or R^{10} and R^{11} taken together are methylene or difluoromethylene; provided that when one of R^{10} and R^{11} is methyl, R^6 (when at position 1 or 7) is other than methyl, ethyl, or isopropyl; or 10

a corresponding amide, ester, hydroxamic acid, or pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof.

3. The compound of Formula XI according to Claim 1, wherein R^4 is cyclopropyl. 15

4. The compound of Formula XI according to Claim 1, wherein R^4 is trifluoromethyl. 15

5. The compound of Formula XI according to Claim 1, wherein R^4 is difluoromethoxy.

6. The compound of Formula XI according to Claim 1, wherein R^4 is difluoromethylthio. 20

7. The compound of Formula XIV according to Claim 1, wherein R^7 is methyl; one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen and the other is methyl.

8. The compound of Formula XIV according to Claim 1, wherein R^7 is ethyl; one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen and the other is methyl.

9. The compound of Formula XIV according to Claim 1, wherein R^7 is trifluoromethyl; one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen and the other is methyl. 25

10. The compound of Formula XIV according to Claim 1, wherein R^7 is fluoro; one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen and the other is methyl.

11. The compound of Formula XIV according to Claim 1, wherein R^7 is chloro; one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen and the other is methyl. 30

12. The compound of Formula XIV according to Claim 1, wherein R^7 is methoxy; one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen and the other is methyl.

13. The compound of Formula XIV according to Claim 1, wherein R^7 is difluoromethoxy; one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen and the other is methyl.

14. The compound of Formula XIV according to Claim 1, wherein R^7 is methoxymethyloxy; one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen and the other is methyl. 35

15. The compound of Formula XIV according to Claim 1, wherein R^7 is 4'-methoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy; one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen and the other is methyl.

16. The compound of Formula XIV according to Claim 1, wherein R^7 is methylthio; one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen and the other is methyl. 40

17. The compound of Formula XIV according to Claim 1, wherein R^7 is difluoromethylthio; one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen and the other is methyl.

18. The compound of Formula XIV according to Claim 1, wherein R^7 is methoxy; one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen and the other is difluoromethyl. 45

19. A compound of Formula XIV according to Claim 1, wherein R^7 is methyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, methoxy, methylthio, difluoromethoxy, difluoromethylthio, isopropyl or ethyl; and one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen and the other is methyl.

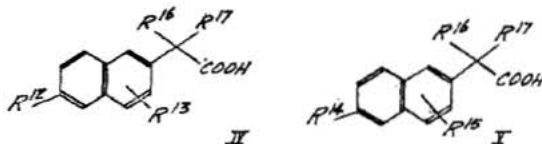
20. A compound according to Claim 19, resolved and having a laevorotary optical activity. 50

21. A compound according to Claim 20, wherein R^7 is methoxy.

22. A compound according to Claim 19, resolved and having a dextrorotary optical activity.

23. A compound according to Claim 22, wherein R^7 is methoxy.

24. Any one of the compounds of the general formulae: 55



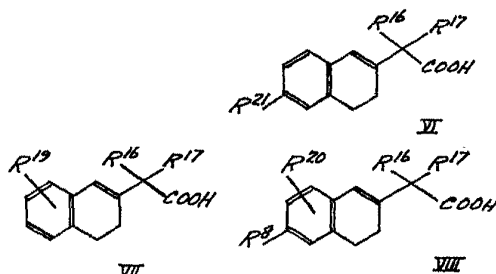
wherein each of R^{12} and R^{15} (at position 1 or 4) is hydroxy, oxyether, or thioether.
each of R^{13} (at position 1 or 4) and R^{14} is alkoxy or alkylthio; provided that

when R^{12} or R^{15} is alkoxy or alkylthio, R^{13} or R^{14} , respectively, is a different alkoxy or alkylthio group;

one of R^{16} and R^{17} is hydrogen, the other being hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, difluoromethyl, fluoro, or chloro; or

5 R^{16} and R^{17} taken together are alkylidene, halomethylene, or ethylene; or a corresponding amide, ester, hydroxamic acid, or pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof.

25. Any one of the compounds of the general formulae:



10 wherein each of R^8 and R^{20} (at position 1, 7, or 8) is alkyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, or thioether; provided that when one of R^8 and R^{20} is hydroxy, oxyether, or thioether, the other is the identical group or alkyl, fluoro, chloro, or a hydrolyzable ester;

15 one of R^{16} and R^{17} is hydrogen, the other being hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, difluoromethyl, fluoro, or chloro; or

R^{16} and R^{17} taken together are alkylidene, halomethylene, or ethylene;

20 R^{19} (at position 1, 7, or 8) is alkyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, or thioether; provided that when R^{16} and R^{17} are hydrogen or one of R^{13} and R^{17} is methyl or ethyl, R^{19} (when at position 1) is other than hydroxy; and

25 R^{21} is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, thioether, or aryl; provided that at least one of R^{16} , R^{17} , and R^{21} is other than hydrogen; provided that when one of R^{16} or R^{17} is methyl or ethyl, R^{21} is other than hydrogen; or

30 a corresponding amide, ester, hydroxamic acid, or pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof.

26. A compound according to Claim 24, wherein each of R^8 , R^{19} (at position 1, 7 or 8) and R^{20} (at position 1, 7 or 8) is fluoro, chloro, methyl, ethyl, *isopropyl*, methoxy, methoxymethoxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, difluoromethylthio, or methoxymethylthio; provided that when one of R^8 or R^{20} is methoxy, methoxymethoxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, difluoromethylthio, or methoxymethylthio, the other is the identical group or fluoro, chloro, methyl, ethyl, or *isopropyl*;

35 one of R^{16} and R^{17} is hydrogen, the other is hydrogen, methyl, or difluoromethyl; or

R^{16} and R^{17} taken together are methylene or difluoromethylene;

40 R^{21} is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, *isopropyl*, cyclopropyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, methoxy, methoxymethoxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydropyran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, methoxymethylthio, or difluoromethylthio; provided that at least one of R^{16} , R^{17} , and R^{21} is other than hydrogen; provided that when one of R^{16} or R^{17} is methyl, R^{21} is other than hydrogen; or

45 a corresponding amide, ester, hydroxamic acid, or pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof.

27. The compound of Formula VI according to Claim 24, wherein R^{21} is fluoro; one of R^{16} and R^{17} is hydrogen and the other is methyl.

28. The compound of Formula VI according to Claim 24, wherein R^{21} is chloro; one of R^{16} and R^{17} is hydrogen and the other is methyl.

29. The compound of Formula VI according to Claim 24, wherein R^{21} is methyl; one of R^{16} and R^{17} is hydrogen and the other is methyl.

50 30. The compound of Formula VI according to Claim 24, wherein R^{21} is trifluoromethyl; one of R^{16} and R^{17} is hydrogen and the other is methyl.

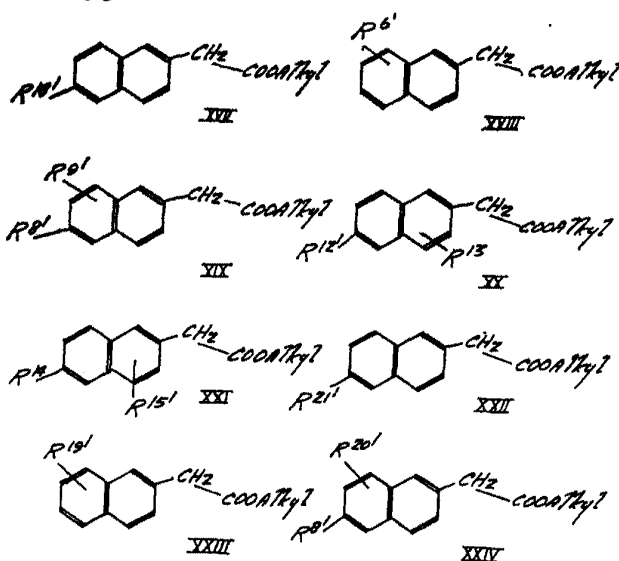
31. The compound of Formula VI according to Claim 24, wherein R²¹ is methoxy; one of R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ is hydrogen and the other is methyl.

32. The compound of Formula VI according to Claim 24, wherein R²¹ is methylthio;

5 one of R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ is hydrogen and the other is methyl.

33. A pharmaceutical composition for oral administration use in effecting treatment of inflammation, pain, fever, and itching which comprises, in a dosage of from 0.1 mg. per kilogram to 20 mg. per kilogram of body weight, a compound of any one of the general formulae I to VIII as hereinbefore defined and an excipient therefor.

10 34. A process which comprises treating a 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivative of one of the following general formulae:



15 wherein each of R^{6'} (at position 1, 4, 7 or 8) and R^{19'} (at position 1, 7, or 8) is alkyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, a conventional hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, or thioether; provided that R^{6'} (when at position 1 or 7) is other than alkyl;

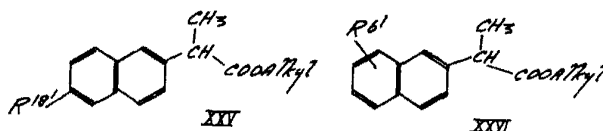
20 each of R^{8'}, R^{9'} (at position 1, 4, 7, or 8), and R^{20'} (at position 1, 7, or 8) is alkyl, fluoro, chloro, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, or thioether; provided that when R^{8'} is oxyether or thioether, R^{9'} or R^{20'} is the identical group or alkyl, fluoro, chloro, or a hydrolyzable ester; provided that when one of R^{9'} or R^{20'} is oxyether or thioether, R^{8'} is the identical group or alkyl, fluoro, chloro, or a hydrolyzable ester;

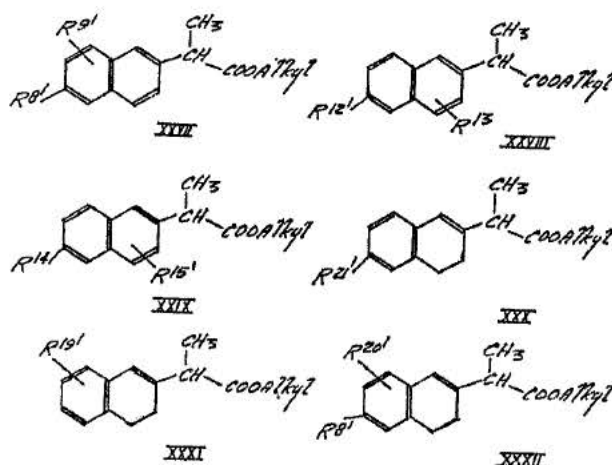
25 each of R^{12'} and R^{15'} (at position 1 or 4) is oxyether or thioether; each of R¹³ (at position 1 or 4) and R¹⁴ is alkoxy or alkylthio; provided when R^{12'} or R^{15'} is alkoxy or alkylthio, R¹³ or R¹⁴, respectively, is a different alkoxy or alkylthio group;

25 R^{18'} is alkyl, cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, alkoxyethyl, vinyl, fluoro, chloro, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, thioether, formyl, alkoxyethyl, acetyl, cyano, or aryl; and

30 R^{21'} is alkyl, cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, thioether, or aryl;

with a molar equivalent of alkali metal hydride in an ether solvent and then with a molar excess of a methyl halide to afford the corresponding α -methyl-2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivative of one of the following general formulae:





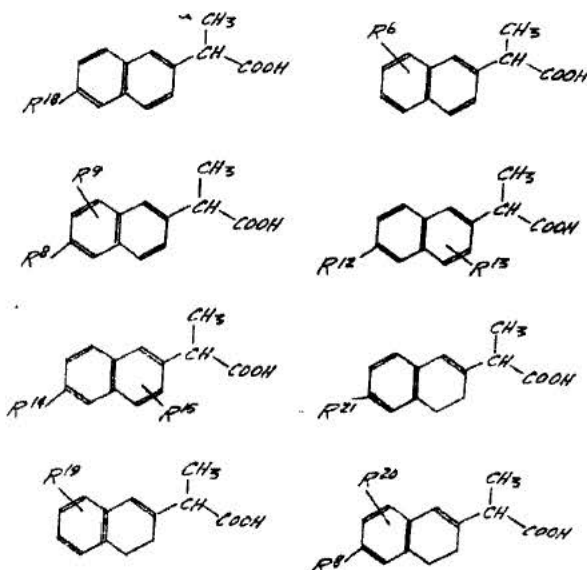
wherein $R^{6'}$, $R^{8'}$, $R^{9'}$, $R^{10'}$, $R^{12'}$, $R^{13'}$, $R^{14'}$, $R^{15'}$, $R^{16'}$, $R^{17'}$, $R^{19'}$, and $R^{20'}$ and $R^{21'}$ are as defined above.

35. The process according to Claim 24, wherein the 2-naphthylacetic acid ester derivative of one of the formulae XVII—XXIV is treated with a molar equivalent of sodium hydride in an ether solvent and then with a molar excess of methyl iodide to afford the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid ester derivative of one of the Formulae XXV—XXXII and thereafter treating, in optional order and to the extent necessary and desired, the compound thus prepared by

- 1) the hydrolysis of the oxyether or alkoxymethyl groups;
- 2) the hydrolysis of the ester group;
- 3) the etherification of the hydroxy or thio groups;
- 4) the introduction of the 6-ethynyl group by brominating and then debrominating the corresponding 6-vinyl group;
- 5) the introduction of the 6-acetyl group by treating the corresponding 2-(α -bromoethyl) group with sodium acetate followed by base hydrolysis to yield the corresponding 6-(α -hydroxyethyl) group which is oxidized to furnish the corresponding 6-acetyl group;
- 6) the introduction of the 6-carboxy group by treating the corresponding 6-acetyl group with sodium hypochlorite or other oxidizing agent;
- 7) the introduction of the 6-hydroxymethyl group by esterifying and reducing the corresponding 6-carboxy group with diborane or other reducing agent;
- 8) the introduction of the 6-formyl group by oxidizing the corresponding 6-hydroxymethyl group with manganese dioxide or other oxidizing agent;
- 9) the introduction of the 6-cyano group by treating the corresponding 6-formyl group with hydroxylamine hydrochloride to yield the corresponding oxime which is dehydrated with acetic anhydride or other dehydrating agent;
- 10) the esterification of the carboxy groups;
- 11) the esterification of the hydroxy groups;
- 12) the formation of the amide of the acetic acid moiety;
- 13) the formation of the pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts of the acetic acid moiety;
- 14) the formation of the hydroxamic acid of the acetic acid moiety;

whereby

to prepare an α -methyl-2-naphthylacetic acid derivative of one of the following formulae:



wherein each of R^6 (at position 1, 4, 7, or 8) and R^{19} (at position 1, 7, or 8) is alkyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, or thioether; provided R^6 (when at position 1 or 7) is other than alkyl;

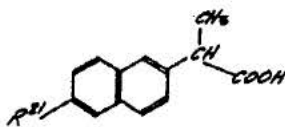
5 each of R^8 , R^9 (at position 1, 4, 7, or 8), and R^{20} (at position 1, 7, or 8) is alkyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, or thioether; provided that when R^9 is hydroxy, oxyether, or thioether, R^9 or R^{20} is the identical group or alkyl, fluoro, chloro, or a hydrolyzable ester; provided that when one of R^9 or R^{20} is hydroxy, oxyether, or thioether, R^8 is the identical group or alkyl, fluoro, chloro, or a hydrolyzable ester;

10 each of R^{12} and R^{15} (at position 1 or 4) is oxyether or thioether; each of R^{13} (at position 1 or 4) and R^{14} is alkoxy or alkylthio; provided that when R^{12} or R^{15} is alkoxy or alkylthio, R^{13} or R^{14} , respectively, is a different alkoxy or alkylthio group;

15 R^{16} is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxymethyl, alkoxyethyl, vinyl, ethynyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, thioether, formyl, carboxy, alkoxy-carbonyl, acetyl, cyano, or aryl; and

20 R^{21} is alkyl, cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy or a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, thioether, or aryl; or a corresponding amide, ester, hydroxamic acid, or pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof.

36. The process according to Claim 35 for preparing a compound having the general formula



25 wherein R^{21} is methyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, methoxy, methylthio, difluoro-methoxy, difluoromethylthio, isopropyl or ethyl; or a corresponding amide, ester, hydroxamic acid or pharmaceutical addition, salt thereof.

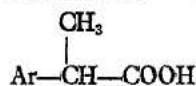
30 37. The process according to Claim 36, including a resolution step to yield a compound having a laevorotary optical activity.

38. The process according to Claim 37, wherein R^{21} is methoxy.

39. The process according to Claim 36, including a resolution step to yield a compound having a dextrorotary optical activity.

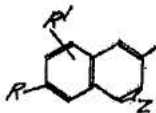
40. The process according to Claim 39, wherein R^{21} is methoxy.

35 41. A process for the preparation of 2-naphthyl- α -methylacetic acid derivatives of the following general formula:



XXXV

wherein Ar is a group of the general formula:

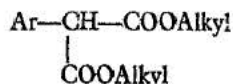


R is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, alkoxyethyl, vinyl, ethynyl, fluoro, chloro, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, thioether, formyl, alkoxyethyl, acetyl, cyano or aryl;

R' (at positions 1, 4, 7 or 8) is hydrogen, alkyl, fluoro, chloro, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether, or thioether; provided R and R' are not simultaneously hydrogen; provided when R' is other than hydrogen, R is hydrogen, alkyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether or thioether; provided when one of R and R' is oxyether or thioether, the other group is the identical group or hydrogen, alkyl, fluoro, chloro or a hydrolyzable ester; provided when one of R and R' is trifluoromethyl, the other is hydrogen; and

Z is a carbon-carbon single bond or a carbon-carbon double bond; provided when Z is a carbon-carbon double bond, R' when at position 4 is hydrogen; provided when Z is a carbon-carbon double bond, R is hydrogen, alkyl, fluoro, chloro, a hydrolyzable ester, oxyether or thioether;

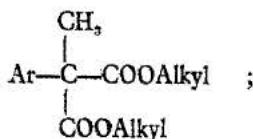
which comprises treating a 2-naphthyl- α -alkoxyethyl acetic acid ester derivative of the general formula:



XXVA

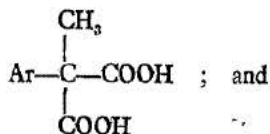
sequentially with

1) a molar equivalent of an alkali metal hydride in a hydrocarbon solvent and methyl halide to afford the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α -methyl- α -alkoxyethyl acetic acid ester derivative of the general formula:



XXVB

2) an aqueous basic hydrolysis mixture to afford the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α -methyl- α -carboxy acetic acid derivative of the following general formula:



XXVC

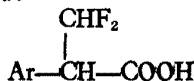
3) heating at a temperature between 25°C to 180°C to afford the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α -methyl acetic acid derivative of Formula XXXV.

42. The process according to Claim 41, wherein R is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, cyclopropyl, trifluoromethyl, vinyl, ethynyl, fluoro, chloro, methoxy, methoxymethoxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydrofuran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, methoxymethylthio or difluoromethylthio;

R' (at position 1, 4, 7 or 8) is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, *isopropyl*, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, methoxy, methoxymethoxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydrofuran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, methoxymethylthio, or difluoromethylthio;

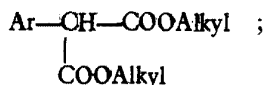
- 5 alkyl is methyl or ethyl;
alkali metal hydride is sodium hydride; and
methyl halide is methyl iodide.

43. A process for the preparation of a 2-naphthyl- α -difluoromethylacetic acid derivative of the general formula:



- 10 wherein Ar is as defined in Claim 41

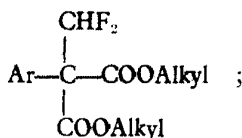
which comprises treating a 2-naphthyl- α -alkoxycarbonyl acetic acid ester derivative of the general formula:



XXVA

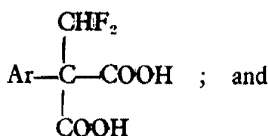
- 15 sequentially with

1) an alkali metal alkoxide and chlorodifluoromethane in an ether solvent to afford the corresponding α -alkoxycarbonyl- α -difluoromethyl-2-naphthyl acetic acid ester derivative of the general formula:



XXVIB

- 20 2) an aqueous basic hydrolysis solution to afford the corresponding α -carboxy- α -difluoromethyl-2-naphthylacetic acid derivative of the general formula:



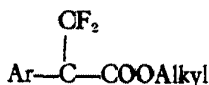
XXVIC

3) heat to temperatures of 30°C to 150°C to afford the corresponding 2-naphthyl- α -difluoromethylacetic acid derivative of formula XXXVI.

- 25 44. The process according to Claim 43, wherein R is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, *isopropyl*, cyclopropyl, vinyl, ethynyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, methoxy, methoxymethoxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydrofuran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, methoxymethylthio, difluoromethylthio; and

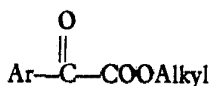
R' (at position 1, 4, 7 or 8) is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, *isopropyl*, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, methoxy, methoxymethoxy, difluoromethylthio, 4'-methoxytetrahydrofuran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, methoxymethylthio, difluoromethoxy.

45. A process for the preparation of a 2-naphthyl- α,α -difluoromethylene acetic acid ester derivative of the general formula



XXXVII

- 35 wherein Ar is as defined in Claim 41, which comprises refluxing a 2-naphthyl- α -oxo-acetic acid ester derivative of the formula:



XXVIA

46. The process according to Claim 45, wherein R is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, cyclopropyl, trifluoromethyl, vinyl, ethynyl, fluoro, chloro, methoxy, methoxymethoxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydrofuran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, methoxymethylthio or difluoromethylthio; and;
- 5 R' (at position 1, 4, 7 or 8) is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, methoxy, methoxymethoxy, difluoromethoxy, 4'-methoxytetrahydrofuran-4'-yloxy, methylthio, methoxymethylthio, or difluoromethylthio. 5
47. Compounds according to any one of Claims 1 to 32 as herein described and exemplified.
- 10 48. Compositions according to Claim 33 substantially as herein described and exemplified. 10
49. A process according to any one of Claims 34, 41, 43 and 45 substantially as herein described and exemplified.
- 15 50. A 2-naphthyl acetic acid derivative when obtained by the process claimed in any one of Claims 34 to 46 or Claim 49. 15

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