

ANXIOLYTIC EFFECTS OF PHTHALAZINONES AND HETEROCYCLIC RELATED COMPOUNDS

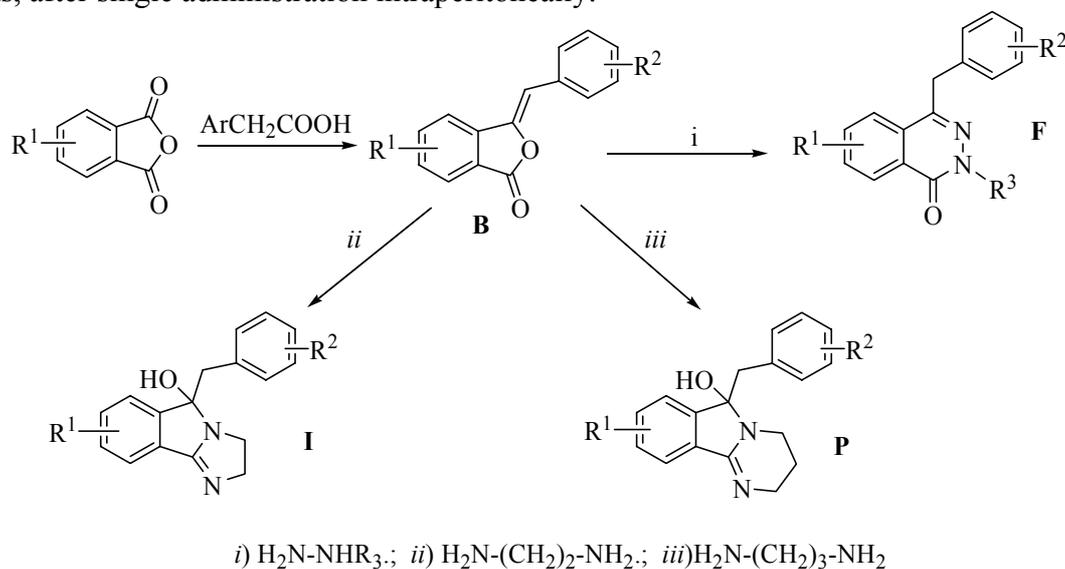
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Anxiety disorders are common with high prevalence indexes in both developed and developing countries [1]. Pathological manifestations of anxiety are often chronic and include generalised anxiety disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and social and specific phobias [2].

We have reported previously the synthesis and evaluation of the title compounds in other bioactivity areas [3]. We describe here the anxiolytic effects observed through the elevated plus maze test in mice of some heterocyclic compounds belonging to the families of benzalphthalides (**B**), phthalazinones (**F**), imidazo[2,1-*a*]isoindoles (**I**) and pyrimido[2,1-*a*]isoindoles (**P**). Anxiolytic effects were estimated on the basis of the spent time and the number of entries into the open arms. Among the compounds evaluated two benzalphthalides, five phthalazinones, one imidazoisoindole and one pyrimidoisoindole, induced significant increments in the spent time and the number of entries into the open arms, after single administration intraperitoneally.



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