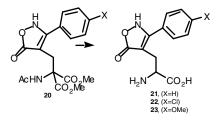
Supporting Information

Some Synthetic Approaches to Glutamate AMPA-receptor Agonists based on

Isoxazolones

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Compound **20** (0.5 mmol) and sodium hydroxide (1.5 mmol) were added to water (8 mL), with the addition of ethanol (2 mL) until the mixture became homogenous. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour and then acidified with 5M hydrochloric acid (10 mL) and the solution was refluxed for 2 h. The solution was cooled and the residual organic impurities were extracted with Et_2O (3 × 20 mL). The remaining reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*. Recrystallisation of the crude product from EtOH/Et₂O gave the title compound.

X=H (21)

white crystals (49 mg, 39%), mp >300°C.

 $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.97 (1H, m, N*H*), 7.65-7.52 (5H, m, Ar*H*), 5.35 (1H, m, C*H*), 2.87 (1H, m, C*H*_AH_B), 2.54 (1H, m, CH_AH_B), N*H*₂ and CO₂*H* signals unsighted; $\delta_{\rm C}$ 187.6, 170.9, 169.7, 136.5, 129.7, 128.8, 128.5, 90.0, 65.5, 33.6. $v_{\rm max}$: 1788, 1718, 1445, 1361, 1218 cm⁻¹; *m/z* (LRMS) 249 (M⁺, 14.3%), 218 (52.8), 197 (31), 190 (83).

X=Cl (22)

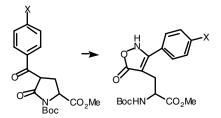
Pink crystals (21 mg, 19%), mp >300°C.

 $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.80-7.50 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.10–6.80 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 6.60 (1H, m, N*H*), 5.40 (1H, m, C*H*), 2.90 (1H, m, C*H*_AH_B), 2.50 (1H, m, CH_AH_B), N*H*₂ and CO₂*H* signals unsighted; $\delta_{\rm C}$ 190.2, 164.5, 163.4, 146.1, 134.7, 133.1, 132.2, 69.5, 37.8; *m*/*z* (LRMS) 283 (M⁺, 22%), 257 (18), 252 (44), 224 (84), 197 (100), 175 (8).

X=OMe (23)

Orange oil (22 mg, 28%).

 $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.54–7.47 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 6.99 (1H, m, N*H*), 6.50-6.70 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 5.30 (1H, m, C*H*), 2.70 (1H, m, C*H*_AH_B), 2.50 (1H, m, CH_AH_B), N*H*₂ and CO₂*H* signals unsighted; $\delta_{\rm C}$ 184.8, 172.1, 166.0, 132.8, 128.7, 114.5, 114.0, 89.7, 65.4, 55.1, 32.9.



To a stirred solution of the pyroglutamate derivative in MeOH/H₂O (6:1; 0.1M) was added NH₂OH.HCl (3 equiv) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 days. The mixture was acidified with 1M HCl solution, saturated with NaCl and diluted with EtOAc. The organic phase was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated in vacuo to yield the isoxazolone **36** as a cream coloured glass.

(X=H)

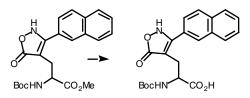
 $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.66–7.47 (6H, m, Ar*H* and N*H*), 5.80–5.69 (1H, m, N*H*Boc), 4.94–4.36 (1H, m, C*H*CO₂Me), 3.55 (3H, s, CO₂C*H*₃), 2.87 (2H, br d, *J* 5.7, C*H*₂), 1.33 (9H, s, Bu^t).

(X=Cl)

 $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.63–7.44 (5H, m, Ar*H* and N*H*), 5.66 (1H, br d, *J* 6.3, N*H*Boc), 4.46-4.39 (1H, m, C*H*CO₂Me), 3.62 (3H, s, CO₂C*H*₃), 2.87 (2H, br d, *J* 5.4, C*H*₂), 1.34 (9H, s, Bu').

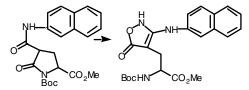
(X=2-naphthyl)

 $\delta_{\rm H} \delta 8.05-7.55$ (8H, m, 7 × Ar*H* and 1 × isox N*H*), 5.73 (1H, br d, *J* 6.9, N*H*Boc), 4.50–4.41 (1H, m, C*H*CO₂Me), 3.53 (3H, s, CO₂C*H*₃), 2.91 (2H, br d, *J* 5.7, C*H*₂), 1.26 (9H, s, Bu').



A 0.5M NaOH solution (7 mL) was added to the isoxazolone (1 mmol) (**36** Ar=2-naphth) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The aqueous phase was acidified to pH 3 with 1M HCl solution and was extracted with EtOAc, washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated in vacuo to give the title compound as a white glass.

 $\delta_{\rm H}$ 9.02 (1H, br s, CO₂*H*), 8.10–7.53 (8H, m, 7 × Ar*H* and 1 × isox N*H*), 6.03 (1H, br d, *J* 7.2, N*H*Boc), 4.50–4.43 (1H, m, C*H*CO₂H), 2.95–2.87 (2H, m, C*H*₂), 1.27 (9H, s, Bu').



To a stirred solution of the pyroglutamate derivative in MeOH/H₂O (6:1; 0.1M) was added NH₂OH (3 equiv; generated from NH₂OH.HCl and K₂CO₃) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The mixture was acidified with 1M HCl solution, saturated with NaCl and diluted with EtOAc. The organic phase was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated in vacuo to yield the isoxazolone (**38** Ar=2-naphth) as a pale orange coloured glass.

 $\delta_{\rm H}$ 9.32 (1H, br s, N*H*), 8.37–7.30 (8H, m, Ar*H* + N*H*), 5.78 (1H, br d, *J* 7.5, N*H*), 4.43 (1H, m, C*H*), 3.77 (3H, s, CO₂C*H*₃), 2.86 (2H, br s, C*H*₂), 1.42 (9H, s, Bu').