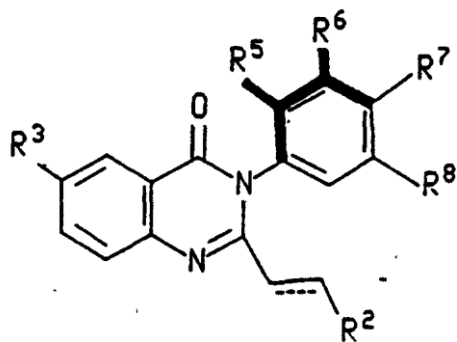


Atropisomers of formula (Ia), wherein R^2 is an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl, R^5 is alkyl, halo, CF_3 , alkoxy or alkylthio, R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are hydrogen or halo, and R^3 is hydrogen, halo, CN, NO_2 , CF_3 , alkyl or alkoxy, are useful as AMPA receptor antagonists, particularly in the treatment of neurodegenerative and CNS-trauma related conditions.



(Ia)