

Review

Fluorine-containing bioactive benzimidazoles

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Introduction

Benzimidazole derivatives are important in the field of biochemistry and medicine. Although several reviews exist on benzimidazoles and some of the well-known fluorinated derivatives like astemizole, pimozide, benperidol and droperidol, there is nothing comprehensive on the fluorinated derivatives. In this article, we have tried to cover the synthesis and biological activity (where reported) of all types of fluorinated benzimidazoles.

The text has been classified on the basis of the position of fluorine or of fluorinated groups on the benzimidazole system, as follows:

I On a nitrogen atom

- (a) On one nitrogen
- (b) On both the nitrogens

II On imidazolyl carbon

III On the benzene ring

- (a) At one position
- (b) At more than one position

IV On more than one atom

- (a) On the benzene ring and on the nitrogen atom
- (b) On the benzene ring and on imidazolyl carbon
- (c) On the imidazolyl carbon and nitrogen atom
- (d) On the benzene ring, nitrogen atom and imidazolyl carbon
- (e) On two benzimidazole rings

I On a nitrogen atom

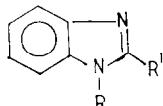
(a) On one nitrogen

Fluoroaliphatic/aromatic substituents

N-Fluoroalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and aryl derivatives of benzimidazole (**I**) have been prepared by the reaction of fluorinated alkanes, alkenes,

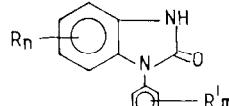
alkynes and arenes with benzimidazoles [1–6]. 1-Aryl-2-benzimidazolinones (**II**) were obtained using an organic solution of a carbanilide ($Rm^1C_6H_5mNHCONHC_6H_5-nR_n$) and an aqueous solution of hypohalite ion with a quaternary ammonium and/or phosphonium salt catalyst [7].

These compounds show insectoacaricidal [5] activity. Benzimidazoles containing $>NCOCF_3$ groups act as nucleating agents in the treatment of internal image emulsions after exposure [8] in photography.



(I)

$R = CHF_2, CF_2CHCF_2, CF_2CH_2CF_3,$
 $CF_3-C=CHCF_3, CF_2CHClF, CF=CClF,$
 $p-CF_3SO_2C_6H_4, p-CF_3C_6H_4, R^1 = H, CH_3$

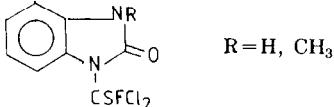


(II)

$R, R^1 = C_{1-4}$ alkyl, alkoxy, alkylthio,
 $F, Cl, m, n = 0-2$

Sulfenic acid derivatives

Benzimidazolyl sulfenic acid derivatives(**III**) were made [9] by treating the heterocycle with $ClSCOCl_2F$.

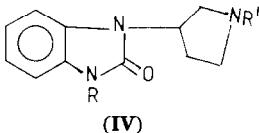


(III)

These are used as fungicides [9, 10]: **III** ($R = H$) reduces phytopthora infection in tomato plants while **III** ($R = CH_3$) inhibits completely the germination of *Tusicipladium dendriticum* spores [10].

Pyrrolidinyl derivatives

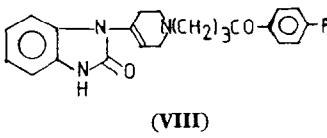
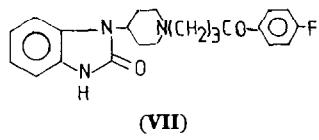
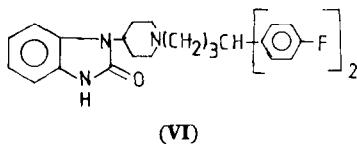
Benzimidazolyl pyrrolidines of type **IV** were obtained from benzimidazoles of type **I** ($R^1 = H$) [11, 12].



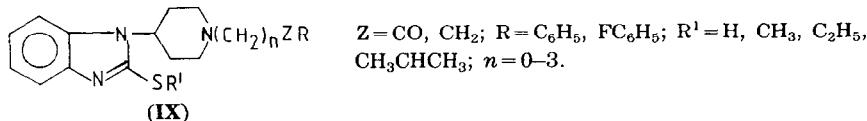
$R = H, CH_3, C_6H_5, CH_2C_6H_5; R^1 = H, (CH_2)_3CH(p-FC_6H_4)_2,$
 $(CH_2)_3CO(o-FC_6H_4)$

Piperidinyl derivatives

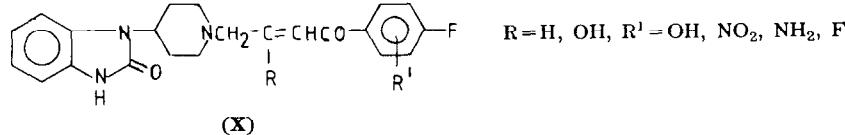
Various reviews have been published on the synthesis and biological activity of astemizole(**V**) [13–19], pimozide(**VI**) [20–23], benperidol(**VII**) [24–26] and droperidol(**VIII**) [27–31]. They are active as antihistaminic, anti-allergic, psychotropic and antimethamphetamine agents.



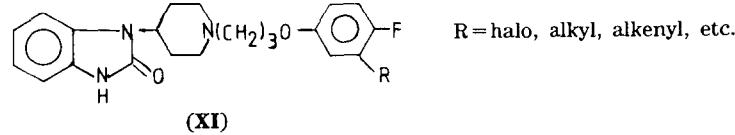
Benzimidazolyl piperidines (**IX**) [32–36] have been prepared from 2-amino-anilinopiperidines and compounds having a C=S bond (CS₂, potassium ethyl xanthate, etc.) and show psychotropic activity [32–36].



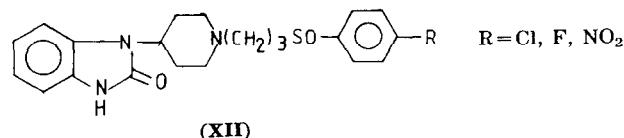
Benzimidazolyl piperidinobutyrophenones (**X**) [37–43] were made from halobutyrophenones and benzimidazolone. They act as analgesics [39, 41], tranquilizers [39, 41, 43–46], CNS depressants [40, 47], hypotensives [39], antiphlogistics [47] and fungicides [47].



1-(3-p-Fluorophenoxy)-4-(2-oxo-1-benzimidazolinyl)piperidines (**XI**) [48, 49] were made from phenols and piperidinopropyl halides or on the reduction of propionyl piperidine derivatives. They have apomorphine antagonistic, sedative and CNS depressing activities [48, 49].

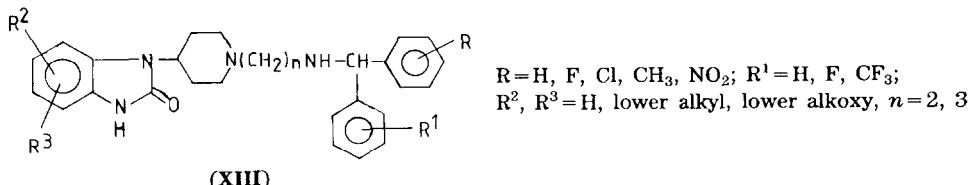


Reaction of piperidinyl benzimidazolinone with *p*-RC₆H₄SO(CH₂)₃X (X = halogen) gave **XII**, useful as tranquilizers and CNS depressants [50, 51].

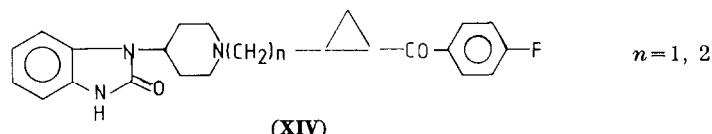


1-3-(Diarylaminalkyl)piperidino derivatives of benzimidazole (**XIII**) [52, 53] have been prepared in two ways: (i) alkylation of Li salts of the appropriate diarylamine with chloroalkyl tosylate gave the heterohalide, which was reacted

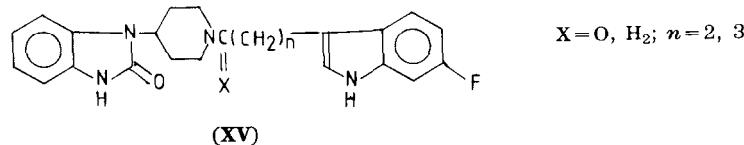
with piperidino benzimidazole; (ii) acylation of the diarylamine with the appropriate alkanoyl halide to the amide, reduction to the (diaryl amino) halide which was treated with piperidino benzimidazole. These compounds show antipsychotic activity [52, 53].



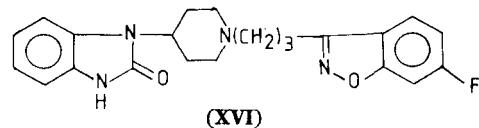
Benzimidazolyl piperidinocyclopropanes (XIV) [54–56] have been obtained by amination of the chloroalkylcyclopropane moiety with piperidino benzimidazole in the presence of KI. These exhibited analgesic, hypnotic, spasmolytic, catleptic and psychotropic activities [54–57].



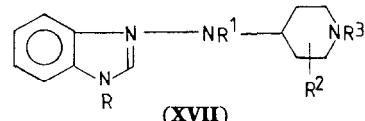
Some derivatives XV [58–60] were prepared from β -(2-methyl-6-fluoro-3-indolyl)alkanoic acid. Alkyl halocarbonate in THF was added to the mixture of acid, NEt_3 and THF, and then 4-(2-oxo-1-benzimidazolinyl)-piperidine was added to give XV ($X = O$), which on reduction with $LiAlH_4$ in THF gave XV ($X = H_2$). These show CNS depressant and analgesic activity [58–60].



The benzimidazolyl piperidinobenzisoxazole derivative (XVI) was effective in blocking amphetamine stereotypy and also showed neuroleptic activity [61, 62].



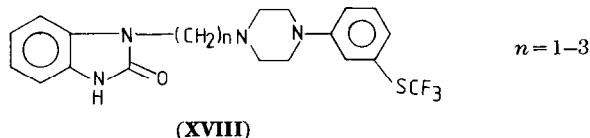
Various derivatives of type XVII [63–66] have been synthesized from piperidino benzimidazole and the corresponding heterohalide in DMF containing Na_2CO_3 .



$R = H$, cycloalkyl, pyridinyl, pyrazinyl, alkyl, furanyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, F, C_6H_5 , $R^1 = H$, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkanoyl, $R^2 = H, CF_3$; $R^3 = CF_3$, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl

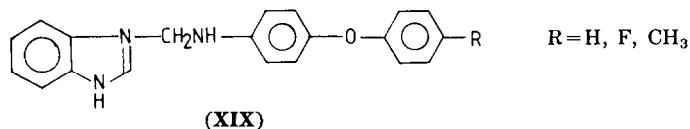
Piperizino derivatives

Piperizino benzimidazoles(**XVIII**) [67, 68], obtained by reactions of piperazines with benzimidazolin-2-one in the presence of K_2CO_3 and KI in toluene, are useful as tranquilizers [67, 68].



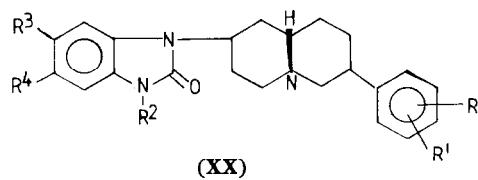
Methylamino ethers

(3-Benzimidazolyl methyl)amino diphenyl ethers(**XIX**), made by condensing 4-aminodiphenyl ethers with benzimidazoles in the presence of formalin under Mannich conditions, act as potential biologically active agents [69].



Quinolizino derivatives

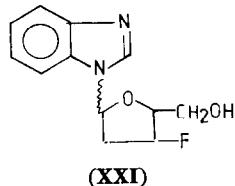
Benzimidazoloquinolizidines(**XX**), their racemates, enantiomers and addition salts, have been prepared and one of these compounds (**XX**, $R=2-F, R^1=R^2=R^3=H, R^4=I$) shows neuroleptic anti-emetic and analgesic activities [70].



$R = 2-F, H, Cl, CF_3, R^1 = H, F, Cl, \text{alkoxy, alkyl}, R^2 = H, \text{alkyl}, R^3 = H, R^4 = Br, I, CN$

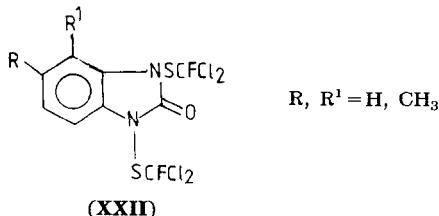
Nucleosides of fluoro sugars

2,3'-Dideoxy-3'-fluoro-D-ribofuranosyl benzimidazole(**XXI**) [71] has been prepared by the benzimidazole displacement of thymine on fluoronucleoside. Deacetylation with NH_3 and CH_3OH yielded the α - and β -forms (**XXI**).

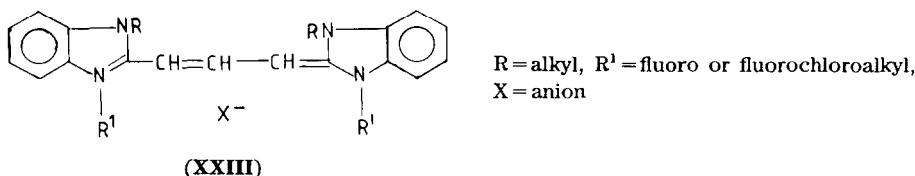


(b) On both the nitrogens

Benzimidazoles **XXII** arose by treating benzimidazolone and ClSCFCl_2 in C_6H_6 in the presence of Et_3N . They possess antimicrobial activity [72].



Imidacarbocyanines(**XXIII**) [73] were prepared by condensing salts of *N*-fluoroalkylated benzimidazoles with an orthoformate ester in nitrobenzene at 50–150 °C.



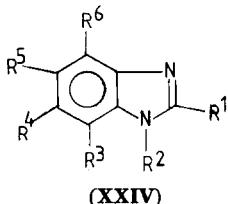
II On imidazolyl carbon

Perfluoroalkyl/chlorofluoroalkyl groups

2-Perfluoroalkyl benzimidazoles(**XXIV**) have been prepared by various methods: (i) treating *o*-dinitrobenzene or *o*-nitroaniline with perfluoroalkanoic acids in the presence of HCl or H_2SO_4 and Fe , Sn , Zn or Al (**XXIV**, $\text{R}^1 = \text{CF}_3, \text{C}_2\text{F}_5$; $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$; $\text{R}^3 = \text{H}, \text{Cl}$; $\text{R}^4, \text{R}^5 = \text{H}, \text{Cl}, \text{CH}_3\text{SO}_2$; $\text{R}^6 = \text{H}$) [74]; (ii) reactions of fluorinated β -diketones with *o*-phenylenediamines(**XXIV**, $\text{R}^1 = \text{CF}_3, \text{C}_2\text{F}_5$; $\text{R}^2-\text{R}^6 = \text{H}$) [75]; (iii) reactions of *o*-phenylenediamine with perfluoroalkanoic acids in the presence of HCl , H_2SO_4 or PPA* (**XXIV**, $\text{R}^1 = \text{CF}_3, \text{C}_2\text{F}_5$; $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}, \text{CH}_3, \text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{Ac}, \text{CN}, \text{CO}_2\text{Ph}$; $\text{R}^3 = \text{H}, \text{Cl}, \text{CMe}_3, \text{CHMe}_2, \text{CHMeEt}$, cyclohexyl; $\text{R}^4 = \text{H}, \text{Cl}, o\text{-BrC}_6\text{H}_4$; $\text{R}^5 = \text{H}, \text{Cl}, \text{NO}_2$; $\text{R}^6 = \text{H}, \text{Cl}$) [76–88]; (iv) from orthobifunctional benzene compounds (**XXIV**, $\text{R}^1 = \text{CHF}_2, \text{CF}_3\text{CHF}, (\text{CF}_3)_2\text{CH}$; $\text{R}^2, \text{R}^3, \text{R}^6 = \text{H}; \text{R}^4/\text{R}^5 = \text{Cl, alkyl}$) [89–94]; (v) (a) reaction of *o*-phenylenediamine in an acid medium with α, α -difluoro- β, β -dichloropropionimidazole and nitrating or chlorinating the product (or treating the Na salt of the product) with chloroformate ester or triethyl chlorides, (b) from 2-mercaptopbenzimidazoles and polyhalogenated olefins, (c) reduction of substituted *o*-nitroanilines and alkylating, arylating or acylating the product formed (**XXIV**, $\text{R}^1 = \text{polyhaloalkyl, alkenyl or alkylthio}$; $\text{R}^3 = \text{H, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkyl or aryl, carbonate, EtO}_2\text{CO, (CH}_3\text{)}_2\text{C=CHCO}_2$, CN, NO_2 ; $\text{R}^3-\text{R}^6 = \text{H, Cl, NO}_2, \text{CN}$) [95]; (vi) reducing an amino nitrophenyl alkylsulphone with hydrazine and

*Polyphosphoric acid

Ni and treating the diaminophenyl alkylsulphone produced with perfluoroalkanoic acid (**XXIV**, R¹ = CF₃; R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ = H; R⁴ = alkylsulphonyl) [96, 97]; (vii) *o*-phenylenediamines and chlorofluoroalkanoic acids (**XXIV**, R¹ = CClRF; R = H, F; R² = H, R³, R⁴ = H, Cl, NO₂; R⁵ = H, Cl; R⁶ = Cl, Br) [98, 99].

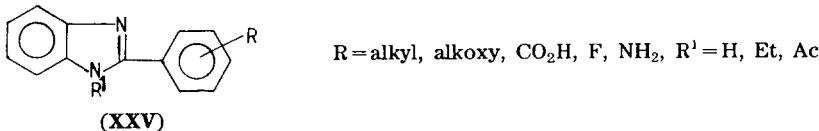


Some workers [100, 101] have studied the structure activity relationship of 2-perfluoroalkyl benzimidazoles.

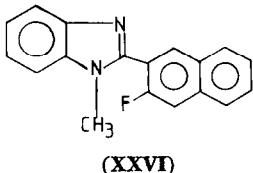
Various 2-fluoroalkyl benzimidazoles show insecticidal [83, 86, 102–107], herbicidal [85, 87, 108–113], antiviral [114], antihelmentic [83, 115–122], parasiticidal [123], pesticidal [124–134], fungicidal [135], acaricidal [136–144] and rodenticidal [145] activities; inhibit photosynthesis [146, 147], photophosphorylation [148] and ATP biosynthesis [149, 150]; are used as radiosensitizing agents [151]; and enhance the yield of grapes [152]. 2-Chlorofluoroalkyl derivatives showed fungicidal activity [98].

Aryl/naphthyl groups

2-Aryl-substituted benzimidazoles(**XXV**) have been prepared by (i) reactions of *o*-phenylenediamines with benzaldehyde or benzoic acid derivatives [153–156]; (ii) reactions of benzimidazoles with metal hydride and an acyl halide [157]; (iii) heating *o*-phenylenediamines with substituted phenyl/PhCCl₃ at 150–185 °C [158]. These compounds show fungicidal, [153] anti-inflammatory, [153, 154], anti-obesity [159–161] and anthelmintic activities [157].

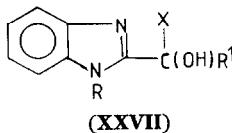


2- α -Fluoronaphthyl benzimidazole(**XXVI**) arose from the condensation of phenylenediamine with 3-fluoro-2-naphthoic acid [162].



Alkanol groups

Benzimidazolyl alkanols(**XXVII**) [163, 164] have been prepared by reducing the alkenoyl benzimidazoles [165].

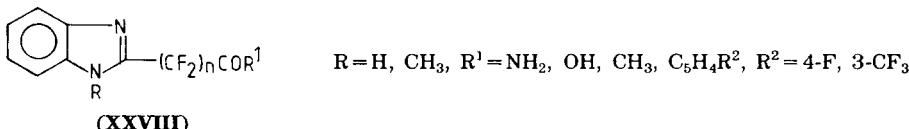


X = H, F; R = H, CH₂CH₂OH, R¹ = CF₃, CH₂CH₂R², R² = phenyl, 4-ClC₆H₄, 4-FC₆H₄

They show respiratory, analeptic, analgesic, spasmolytic, anti-inflammatory, antihypertensive and antidiarrheal activities [163, 164].

Perfluorocarboxylic acid groups

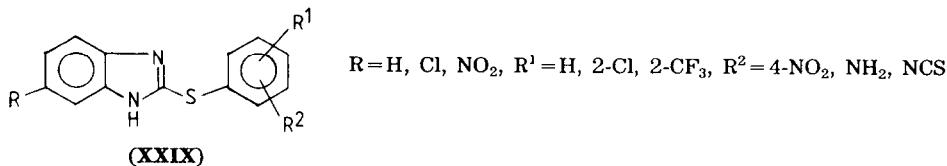
Standard reactions gave **XXVIII** (R = H, R¹ = OH, n = 1,2) [82]. Heating o-NHRC₆H₄NHCO(CF₂)_nCONH₂ (made by the action of o-NHRC₆H₄NH₂ on a perfluoroalkanamide [168] or cyclizing it by means of HCl [166, 167]) also gave **XXVIII**, which act as plant growth regulators [169], diuretics,



sedatives, anti-ulcer agents, analgesics, anti-inflammatory agents and cardiac analeptics [170].

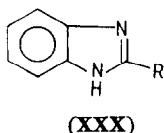
Arylthio groups

2-Arylthiobenzimidazoles (**XXIX**) [171] were made by the arylation of 2-mercaptopbenzimidazoles with chloronitrobenzenes, and were hydrogenated over Raney nickel to give the corresponding amines. These were 100% effective against *Hymeno lepsisnana* in rodents.



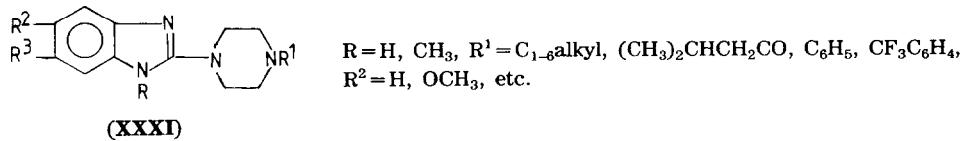
Arylamino/arylaminomethyl groups

Cyclization of o-phenylenediamine with R¹NHCS₂Me afforded 2-arylaminobenzimidazoles (**XXX**, R = NHR¹; R¹ = C₆H₅, m-CF₃C₆H₄) [172]. Substitution of 2-chloromethyl benzimidazole with the corresponding phenol and aniline derivatives [173] gave 2-arylaminomethyl benzimidazoles (**XXX**, R = CH₂NHR¹; R¹ = C₆H₄F, 2-thiadiazolyl fluorophenyl, 2-oxadiazolyl fluorophenyl) possessing fungicidal activity [174].



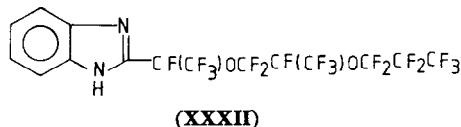
Piperazino groups

These compounds, **XXXI**, made from 2-chlorobenzimidazole and piperazines, show hypotensive [175] and antihistaminic activity [176].



Perfluoropolyether groups

Lithiation of *o*-(NH₂)₂C₆H₄ and reaction with EtO₂CF(CF₃)OCF₂CF(CF₃)OCF₂CF₂CF₃ followed by cyclization gave **XXXII** [177], which is used as a corrosion inhibitor and lubricating grease [177, 178].



III On the benzene ring

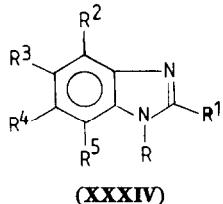
(a) At one position

At position 4

Benzimidazoles **XXXIII** have been prepared by the reactions of (i) α, α, α -trifluoro-2,3-toluenediamine with HCOOH and HCl (**XXXIII**; $R^1 = CF_3, R^2 = H$) [179]; (ii) 2-FC₆H₄NHCOCH: NOH with H₂SO₄ (**XXXIII**; $R^1 = F; R^2 = CO_2H$) [180]; (iii) 2-fluoroaniline with 4-cyanothiazole (**XXXIII**; $R^1 = F; R^2 = \text{thiazole}$) [181]; and (iv) benzimidazole with CF₃I [product as (I)] [182]. These possess high reactivity towards peptide nucleophiles [183].



At position 5/6



5-/6-Fluoro-substituted benzimidazoles **XXXIV** have been prepared by the following reactions:

(i) *o*-Phenylenediamine with CS_2 ($\text{R}^1 = \text{SH}$; $\text{R}^3 = \text{CF}_3$; $\text{R}, \text{R}^2, \text{R}^4, \text{R}^5 = \text{H}$) [184, 185] and showed anthelmintic [186, 187] and insecticidal activity [188] besides acting as sensitizers [189].

(ii) *o*-Phenylenediamine with fluorinated acids gave **XXXIV** ($\text{R}^3/\text{R}^4 = \text{CF}_3$; $\text{R}^1 = \text{CHMe}_2$; $\text{R}^3 = \text{Me, Cl}$; $\text{R}, \text{R}^2, \text{R}^5 = \text{H}$) [190, 191], which are useful as herbicides [191].

(iii) *o*-Phenylenediamines with $\text{MeC}(\text{:NH})\text{OEt} \cdot \text{HCl}$ and Ac_2O gave **XXXIV** ($\text{R} = \text{H, Et}$; $\text{R}^1 = \text{H, Me}$; $\text{R}^3 = \text{F}_2\text{CHSO}_2$; $\text{R}^2, \text{R}^4, \text{R}^5 = \text{H}$) with herbicidal activity [192].

(iv) Rearrangement of aromatic aldehyde arylhydrazones [193] with AlCl_3 afforded **XXXIV** ($\text{R}, \text{R}^2, \text{R}^4, \text{R}^5 = \text{H}$; $\text{R}^1 = \text{Ph, 4-MeC}_6\text{H}_4$, 2-naphthyl, 4-OEtC₆H₄, 4-MeOC₆H₄, 4-ClC₆H₄, pyridyl; $\text{R}^3 = \text{F, CF}_3$). These compounds exhibit antipsychotic activity [194, 195].

(v) Reaction of RNH_2 and 2,4,5-Cl₂(NO₂)C₆H₂CF₃ followed by hydrogenation and treatment with $\text{R}^1\text{C}(\text{:NH})\text{OEt} \cdot \text{HCl}$ gave **XXXIV** ($\text{R} = \text{Pr, Me}_2\text{CN, cyclopropyl, Et, H, Me}$; $\text{R}^1 = \text{H, Me, Pr, Et}$; $\text{R}^2, \text{R}^3 = \text{H, CF}_3$; $\text{R}^4 = \text{Cl, MeO}$; $\text{R}^5 = \text{NO}_2$) [196–198]. These act as post-emergent herbicides [199–202] on a broad class of crops and are useful intermediates for cyanine dyes [203].

(vi) *o*-NH₂CF₃C₆H₃NHOH₂CH₂OH and ethyl-5-nitrofuranimidate · HCl or 3,4-(NH₂)₂C₆H₃CF₃ and 5-nitro-2-furoic acid with ethylpolyphosphate as a cyclizing agent gave **XXXIV** ($\text{R} = \text{H, Me, Et, Ph}$; $\text{R}^1 = \text{nitrofuryl}$; $\text{R}^3 = \text{Cl, F, CH}_3, \text{CF}_3$; $\text{R}^2, \text{R}^5 = \text{H}$; $\text{R}^4 = \text{H, CH}_3$) [204, 205] useful as antimicrobial agents [204, 205], anthelmintics [204] and germicides [206].

(vii) Benzimidazoles, where R^1 is an N-, O- or S-heterocycle with 1,3-heteroatoms (**XXXIV**; $\text{R} = \text{H, lower alkyl, aralkyl, acyl}$; $\text{R}^1 = \text{N-, O- or S-heterocycle}$; $\text{R}^2, \text{R}^4, \text{R}^5 = \text{H, R}^3 = \text{H, halogen, alkyl, alkylamine, amino}$) exhibit anthelmintic properties [207–210].

(viii) Schiff bases of a substituted *o*-phenylenediamine and 5-nitro-2-thiophene carboxaldehyde gave **XXXIV** ($\text{R} = \text{H, alkyl}$; $\text{R}^1 = \text{nitrothienyl}$; $\text{R}^2, \text{R}^5 = \text{H}$; $\text{R}^3 = \text{H, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, CF}_3$; $\text{R}^4 = \text{H, alkyl, alkoxy}$) which act as germicidal and anthelmintic agents [211, 212].

(ix) Cyclization of *o*-acyl hydrazido-anilines with BrCN gave **XXXIV** ($\text{R} = \text{NH}_2$; $\text{R}^1 = \text{NH}_2$; $\text{R}^2, \text{R}^4, \text{R}^5 = \text{H}$; $\text{R}^3 = \text{CF}_3, \text{Cl, CH}_3$) [213, 214] which inhibited the PNMT activity in the adrenal glands and brain stream of rats [215].

(x) Condensation of diamines and $\text{Cl}_3\text{CCl}(\text{:NH})$ afforded compounds **XXXIV** ($\text{R} = \text{H}$; $\text{R}^2 = \text{CN}$; $\text{R}^3 = \text{CF}_3-\text{O}-\text{O}-$; $\text{R}^2, \text{R}^4, \text{R}^5 = \text{H}$, alkyl, alkoxy, amino, etc.). One with $\text{R} = \text{Me}_2\text{NSO}_2$ exhibited pesticidal activity [216].

(xi) From the cyclization of *N*-(*o*-nitroanilino)amines in mineral acid, **XXXIV** had $\text{R} = \text{NHCH}_3$, NHCH_2NO_2 ; $\text{R}^1 = \text{H, NO}_2$; $\text{R}^3 = \text{H, Cl}$; $\text{R}^4 = \text{CF}_3, \text{NO}_2, \text{H, CO}_2\text{Et}$; $\text{R}^2, \text{R}^5 = \text{H}$ [217].

(xii) 1,2-Diaminobenzene derivatives with imino esters formed **XXXIV** ($\text{R} = (\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NET, (CH}_2)_3\text{NET, etc.}$; $\text{R}^1 = \text{substituted CH}_2\text{Ph}$; $\text{R}^3 = \text{CF}_3$; $\text{R}^2, \text{R}^4, \text{R}^5 = \text{H}$) which showed analgesic, spasmolytic, hypocholesteremic and anaesthetic activities [218].

(xiii) 2-Aminobenzimidazoles with MeONa and K₂CO₃ gave **XXXIV** (R¹ = (alkoxycarbonyl)amino; R² = H; R³ = fluoro-substituted phenoxy/phenylthio/phenylcarbonyl; R⁴ = H, Cl; R⁵ = H) used as anthelmintics [219–221].

(xiv) o-Phenylenediamines with acid anhydrides gave **XXXIV** (R = H; R¹ = (CH₂)₂CO₂H; R², R⁵ = H; R³ + R⁴ = halo, Me, MeO, NO₂) which acted as neoplasm inhibitors and antitumour agents [222].

(xv) Made from 2-benzimidazolinone and Cl(CH₂)_nCO₂R¹, **XXXIV** (R = H, alkyl; R¹ = H, alkyl, alkali metal ion; R², R⁵ = H; R³/R⁴ = H, halo, Me, CF₃, MeO, NO₂, NH₂) showed anti-allergic, anti-asthamatic and antithrombotic activities [223].

(xvi) 2-Amino-4-fluoro-1-propylamine and mandelic acid gave **XXXIV** (R = Ph; R¹ = CHOHPH; R², R⁴, R⁵ = H; R³ = F) [224] exhibiting antiviral activity [224, 225].

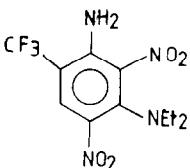
(xvii) 2-Hydroxy or 2-sulfonyl benzimidazoles with POCl₃/POBr₃/PCl₅ gave **XXXIV** (R = H; R¹ = Cl; R², R⁴, R⁵ = H, Cl; R³ = (4,3-(CF₃)ClC₆H₃SO₂NH), (4,3-Cl(CF₃)C₆H₃NHCO)), potential insecticides and nematocides [226].

(xviii) 2-Aminobenzimidazoles with isocyanates afforded **XXXIV** (R = NH, NPh, NMe; R¹ = NHCONH-○, N(Me)CONH-○, NHCONH-○○○; R², R⁴, R⁵ = H; R³/R⁴ = H, Cl, CO₂Et, CF₃, NO₂, OMe). These are immune regulants [227].

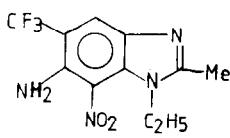
(xix) Diamines with benzotriazolylacetic acid gave **XXXIV** (R = (CH₂)_nNMe₂, (CH₂)_nNEt₂, n = 2,3; R¹ = benzotriazolylmethyl; R², R⁴, R⁵ = H; R³ = Cl, CF₃, Ac, NO₂) [228].

5-/6-Trifluoromethylbenzimidazoles and their hydrochlorides killed a variety of weeds and crop plants [229], whilst 5-/6-CF₃-2-isopropyl benzimidazoles are anti-androgens [230] and *l*-lupinyl-2-(*p*-methoxybenzyne)-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole an anti-inflammatory agent [231]. Benzimidazolyl anilines are anti-inflammatory, antipyretic, analgesic and blood-pressure-depressing drugs [232]. Various piperidyl benzimidazoles possess psychotropic [233, 234], anti-emetic [235], antihistaminic [236], anti-ulcer and antisecretory activity [237] and are used as beta adrenergic receptor blockers [238].

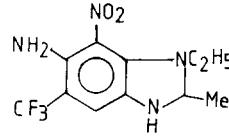
Photolysis [239–241] of the herbicide dinitramine (**XXXV**) in methanol and water yielded various benzimidazoles (**XXXVI–XXXIX**).



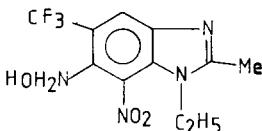
(XXXV)



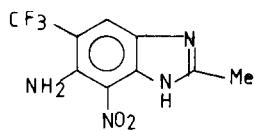
(XXXVI)



(XXXVII)

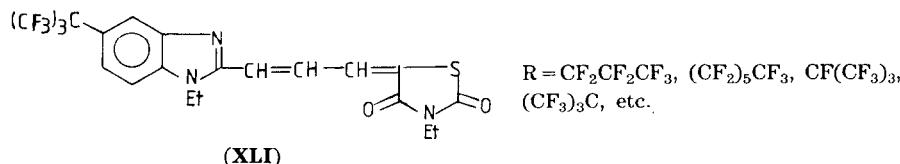
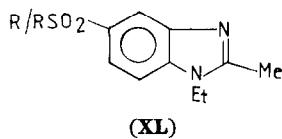


(XXXVIII)



(XXXIX)

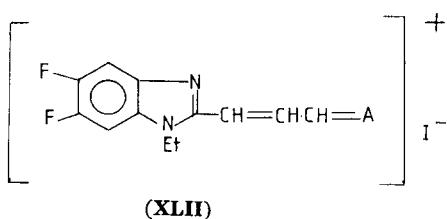
ω -Imidacyanine dyes (**XL**) [242, 243] prepared from 2-methyl-5-perfluoroalkyl/perfluoroalkylsulfonyl benzimidazole, were quaternized and converted to symmetric and non-symmetric carbocyanines and other dyes (**XLI**).



(b) At more than one position

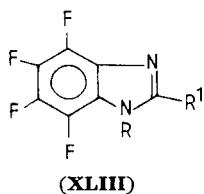
4,5-Bis-(trifluoromethyl) benzimidazole has been prepared from 3,4-bistrifluoromethyl-*o*-phenylenediamine and formic acid; it possesses bacteriostatic activity [244, 245].

5,6-Difluorobenzimidazole methine iodides of the general formula **XLII**, where A is a fused or non-fused 5-membered heterocyclic group, have been used as photographic and electrophotographic sensitizers [246].

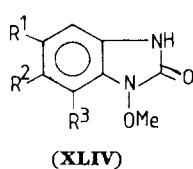


The first tetrafluoro derivatives (**XLIII**; $R, R^1 = H$; $R = Me$; $R^1 = H$) were made from tetrafluoro-*o*-phenylenediamine and formic acid [247]. Fluoro-benzimidazolinones (**XLIV**) were made [248, 249] by reacting fluorobenzenes with ambident nucleophiles generated *in situ* from ureas and their derivatives in the presence of NaH.

Cyclization of $MeONHCONHAr$ under basic conditions [250] also afforded benzimidazolinones (**XLIV**).

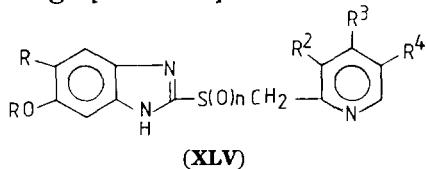


$R, R^1 = H, CH_3, C_6H_5$



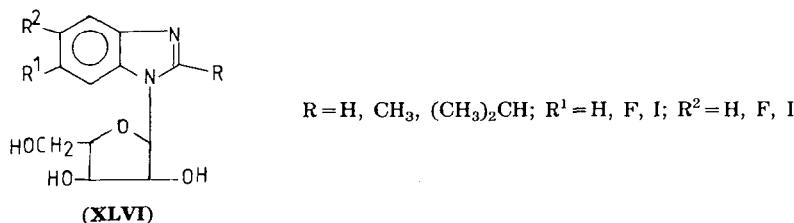
$R^1 = H, Cl, CF_3; R^2 = H, NO_2, CN, SO_2Me; R^3 = H, Cl, CF_3$

HCl salts of 2-(chloromethyl)pyridine and benzimidazole-2-thiols (made from *o*-phenylenediamines and CS₂/EtOCS₂K) gave **XLV** which are anti-ulcer drugs [251–253].



R = fluoroalkyl, ClF₂C; R¹ = H, fluoroalkyl, fluoroalkoxy, halo; R², R⁴ = H, alkyl, R³ = H, alkyl, alkoxy; n = 0, 1

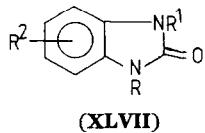
Fusion of halobenzimidazoles and 1,2,3,5-tetra-*o*-acetyl- β -D-ribofuranose by a fusion method followed by deacetylation [254] afforded nucleosides **XLVI**.



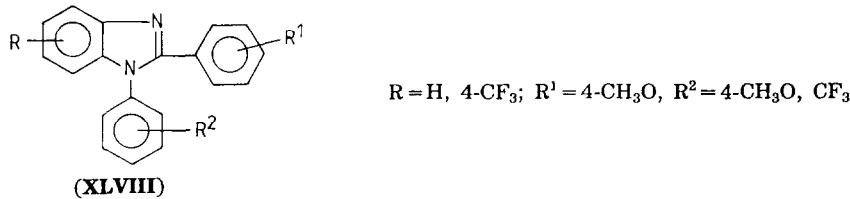
IV On more than one atom

(a) On the benzene ring and on the nitrogen atom

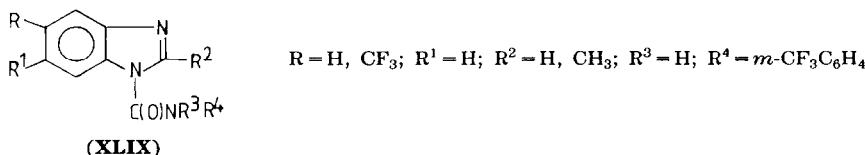
Benzimidazolones **XLVII** have been prepared (i) by the PdCl₂-catalyzed reactions of nitrobenzenes and the thermal reactions of phenyl azides with CO (**XLVII**); R = CONHC₆H₄F; R¹ = C₆H₄F; R² = 5-/6-F) [255]; (ii) by reaction of benzodioxanes with benzimidazolyl piperidines in the presence of base (**XLVII**; R = H; R¹ = $\text{---} \text{N}(\text{H})\text{---}$ $\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{---} \text{O} \text{---} \text{R}^3$; R² = 5-Br, 5-OMe, 5-CF₃, 5-F, 6-Cl; R³ = H, 6-F, 7-F, 7-Cl, 5-Me). These show neuroleptic activity [256].



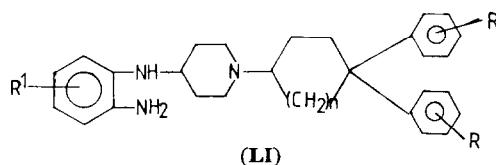
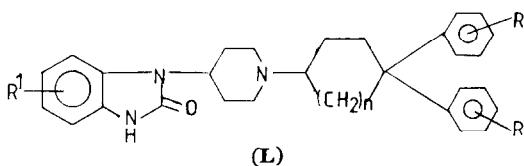
Benzimidazoles **XLVIII**, obtained by the reaction of diamines with aldehydes in MeOH, followed by the cyclization of the Schiff bases so obtained in nitrobenzene, exhibited anti-inflammatory activity [257].



Reaction of benzimidazoles with MgO and ClCOONR³R⁴ in CHCl₃ gave the pesticidal compounds **XLIX** [258].

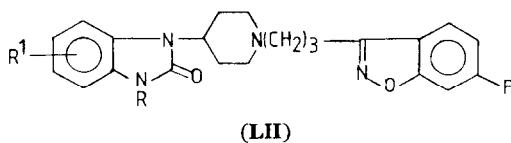


Oxobenzimidazolinyl diphenyl piperidino cycloalkanes (**L**) and cycloalkenes and their HCl salts were prepared by the cyclization of **LVI** with urea. These are analgesics, anticonvulsants, antihypertensives coronary vasodilators and CNS depressants [259, 260].



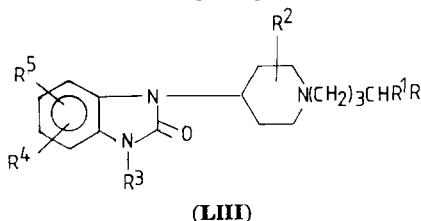
$R = H, 4-F, 4-Cl, 3,4-F_2, 2,4-F_2, 4-CH_3; R^1 = H, 5-Cl, 5-Br, 5-F, 5,6-Cl_2; n = 1, 2$

Piperidines of type **LII** were prepared by condensing 1-(4-piperidinyl)-2-benzimidazolinone with 3-(3-chloropropyl)-6-fluoro-1,2-benzisoxazole; their HCl salts had analgesic and antipsychotic activity [261, 262].



$R = H, \text{alkyl}; R^1 = H, \text{alkyl, alkoxy, halo, } CF_3$

Benzimidazolinone derivatives **LIII** were prepared from piperizino benzimidazoles and RR¹CH(CH₂)₃Cl. These are tranquilizers [263] and show antihistaminic [264] and anti-emetic activity [265–267].

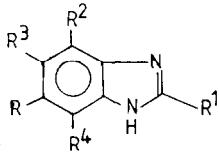


$R = R^1 = 4-FC_6H_4, 4-ClC_6H_4, 3-CF_3C_6H_4, C_6H_5; R^2 = H, 2-CH_3, 3-CH_3;$
 $R^3 = H, CH_2CH_2CO_2CH_3, CH_2COCH_3, CH_2C_6H_5, CH_3; R^4 = H, 5-Cl, 5-CF_3, 5-F, 5-Br;$
 $R^5 = H, 6-Cl, 7-Cl, 7-CH_3$

Some other biologically active fluorine-containing benzimidazoles are: benzimidazolyl alkanols [268, 269], alkyl phenyl ketones [270], amino ethers [271], butenylamines [272] and amino alkyls [273, 274].

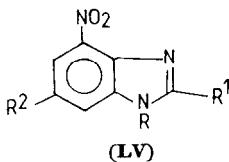
(b) *On the benzene ring and on imidazolyl carbon*

Benzimidazoles having fluorinated groups in both rings were synthesized from *o*-phenylenediamines and fluorinated acids in the presence of HCl (**LIV**; R¹,R²,R³ = CF₃; R,R⁴ = H [82, 275]; R¹ = CF₃; R,R²,R³,R⁴ = F [276]); others (R = CF₃, CF₂HSO₂, CF₃CHCISO₂, CHF₂CF₂SO₂; R¹ = CF₃, HCF₂, CF₂CF₃; R²,R³,R⁴ = H) show fungicidal [277] and herbicidal [278] activity.



(LIV)

4-Nitro-2,6-bis(fluoroalkyl) benzimidazoles (**LV**) were prepared by the following methods:



(LV)

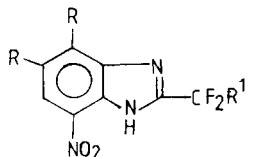
(i) Reaction of 4,2,6-CF₃(NO₂)₂C₆H₂Cl with NH₄Cl followed by ammonium polysulphide and S gave **LV** (R = H; R¹ = ClCF₂, CF₂; R² = CHF₂, CF₃) [279, 280]. These gave complete control of root knot nematoda in tomatoes [280].

(ii) Alkylation of **LV** (R = OH) gave **LV** (R = OR³; R³ = CH₂C₆H₅, C₂H₅, CH₃; R¹ = CF₃, C₂F₅, CHF₂; CF₃). These show herbicidal action [281].

(iii) Benzimidazoles **LV** (R = OH), with R³OH, R³X (X = Cl, I, Br) or MeNCO, afforded **LV** (R = OR³; R³ = CH₂C₆H₅, C₂H₅, CH₃, CONHCH₃, SO₂C₆H₅, COCH₃, etc.; R¹ = CF₃, C₂F₅; R² = CF₃). These show herbicidal [282], insecticidal [283], parasiticidal [284, 285] and acaricidal activities [286].

(iv) Sodium 2,6-bis(trifluoromethyl)-4-nitrobenzimidazole and Ph₂SO₂Cl in MeCN gave **LV** (R = CO₂R³ and SO₂R³; R³ = Ph, benzyl, *p*-nitrophenyl, Me, n-hexyl, Et, Prⁱ, piperidine, Pr₂N, Et₂N, Me₂N; R¹ = CF₃; R² = CF₃), possessing insecticidal and acaricidal activity [287].

4-Substituted-5-cyano-7-nitro-2-(α , α -difluoroalkyl) benzimidazoles (**LVI**) [288] prepared from chloro compounds (R² = Cl) and amines in EtOH, show herbicidal and fungicidal activity [288].

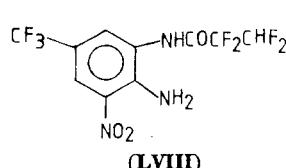
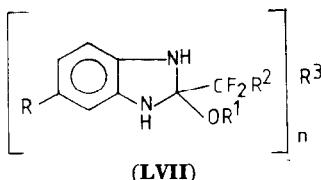


R = CN, CF₃; R¹ = F, CF₃;

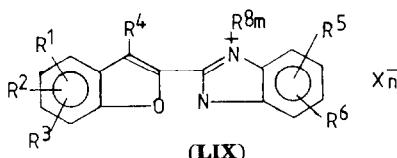
R² = CH₃O, C₂H₅S, CH₂CH₂CH₂NH, C₂H₅O, cyclohexyl N, etc.

(LVI)

Hydroxybenzimidazolines **LVII** ($R = Br, Cl, CF_3; R^1 = H, C_{1-4}$ alkyl; $R^2 = H, F, CHF_2, CF_3; R^3 = Na, K, Li, Ag, Ca, NH_4; n = \text{valency of } R^3$), which are useful as herbicides [289], insecticides [289, 290] and ectoparasiticides [289, 291], were prepared by keeping **LVIII** in R_3OH for 24 h at room temperature.

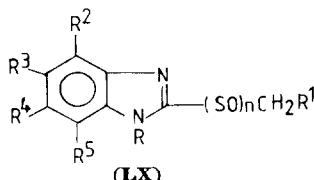


Benzofuranyl benzimidazoles **LIX** [292], made by cyclo-condensation of $R^5R^6C_6H_2(NH_2)NHR^1-o$ with 2-benzofuran carboxylic acids, are used as fluorescent whiteners (for cellulosic and synthetic fabrics, paper and PVC).



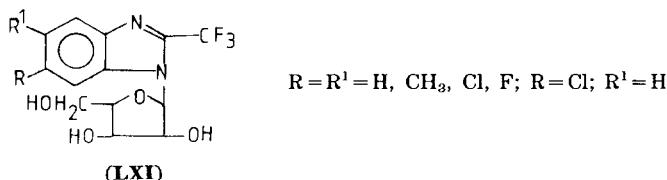
$R^1 = H, \text{alkenyloxy, etc.}; R^2, R^3 = H, \text{alkyl, halo, etc.}; R^4 = H, \text{alkyl, Ph}; R^5 = CF_3, CN, \text{sulpho or carboxy or their derivatives}; R^6 = H, \text{halo, alkyl}; R^7, R^8 = \text{cyclo-alkyl, alkenyl, etc.}; X^- = \text{anion}; m, n = 0, 1$

Benzimidazoles **LX**, obtained by alkylating the benzimidazolethione followed by oxidation, show anthelmintic [293, 294] and anti-inflammatory [295, 296] activities, and are used as anti-ulcer agents [297–301].



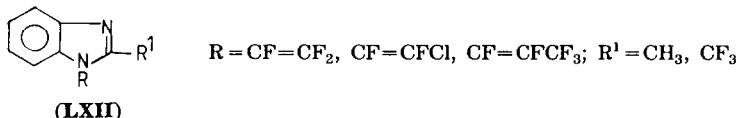
$R = H, \text{alkanoyl, benzyl}; R^1 = \text{fluorophenyl, fluoroalkyl, substituted piperidyl}; R^2-R^5 = H, \text{alkyl, alkoxy, alkanoyl, carbonyl, halo, } CF_3, CF_3O, SMe, SOMe, NO_2, OPh, SPh; n = 0-2$

2-Trifluoromethyl-substituted benzimidazole ribofuranosides (**LXI**) [302] were made from halobenzimidazoles and 1,2,3,5-tetraacetyl- β -D-ribofuranose (fusion followed by deacetylation).

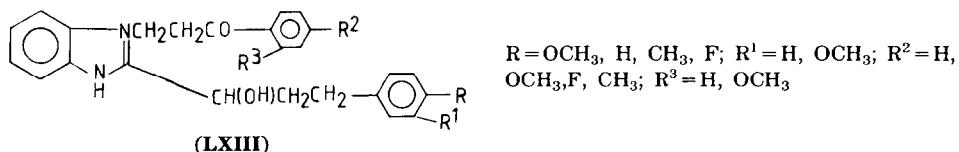


(c) On the imidazolyl carbon and nitrogen atom

Fluoroalkyl and alkenyl derivatives of benzimidazole **LXII** [303] are used to prepare cyanine dyes [303] and possess herbicidal [304], fungicidal [305], insecticidal and acaricidal activities [306].

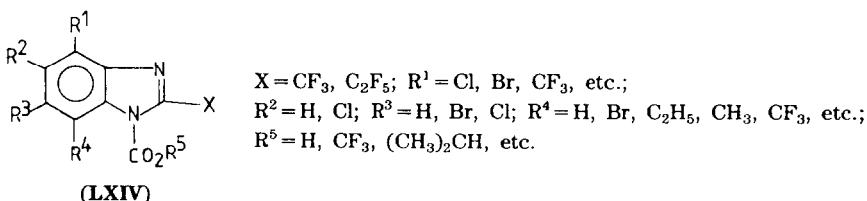


1-Benzoylethyl-2-(3-phenyl-1-hydroxypropyl) benzimidazoles (**LIX**) were prepared by reducing 2-cinnamoyl benzimidazoles and treating the 2-hydroxypropyl derivatives with the piperazinopropiophenones. Various **LXIII** compounds demonstrated anti-ulcer, vasodilator, respiratory, analeptic, analgesic, hypotensive, diuretic, CNS stimulant and sedative properties [307].



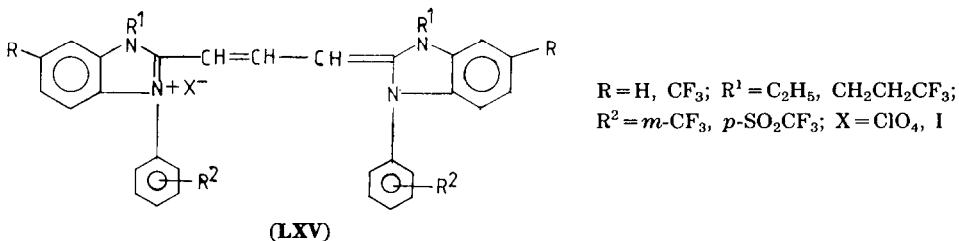
(d) On the benzene ring, nitrogen atom and imidazolyl carbon

1-(Alkoxy carbonyl)-2-fluoroalkyl benzimidazoles (**LXIV**) made from alkali metal salts of 2-(fluoroalkyl) benzimidazoles and alkyl chloroformates showed acaricidal activity [308].

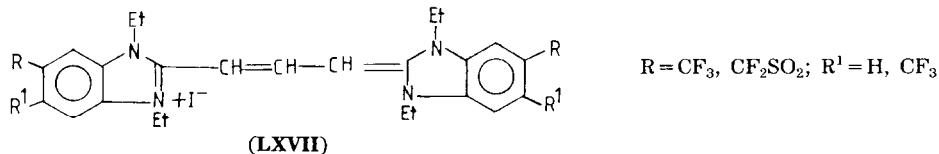
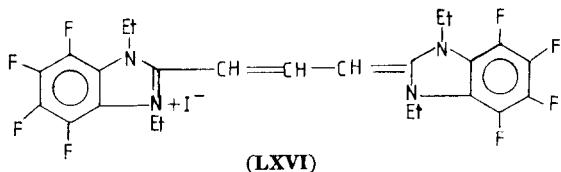


(e) On two benzimidazole rings

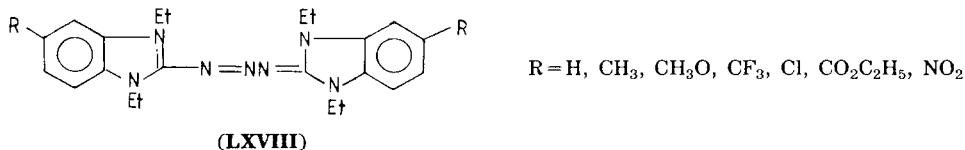
*N-m-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl and N-p-trifluoromethylsulfonyl)phenyl imidacyanine dyes (**LXV**) and other cyanine dyes are known [309–312].*



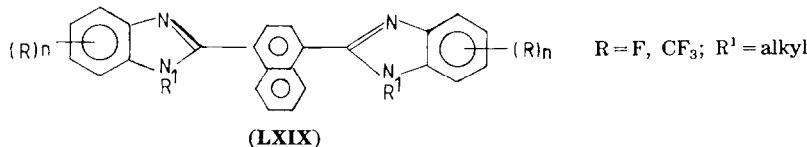
Cyanine dyes **LXVI** and **LXVII** have been obtained from 2-methyl4,5,6,7-tetrafluorobenzimidazole, 5,6-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzimidazole and 5-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)benzimidazole derivatives [313–315]. These are useful as optical sensitizers for photographic silver halide emulsions [316].



Triazatriimethine cyanine dyes **LXVIII** [317] were prepared by treating 2-chloro-1-ethyl-5-R-benzimidazole with Et_3OBF_4 .



Derivatives of type **LXIX** are useful as fluorescent whiteners and were prepared by the reaction of $1,4-C_{10}H_6(COCl)_2$ with *o*-nitroanilines [318].



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