

## Supporting Information

### Different Benzodiazepines Bind with Distinct Binding Modes to GABA<sub>A</sub> Receptors

Alshaimaa A. Elgarf (1,2), David C. B. Siebert (3), Friederike Steudle (1,4), Angelika Draxler (4), Guanguan Li (5), Shengming Huang (5), James Cook (5), Margot Ernst (4), and Petra Scholze (1)\*

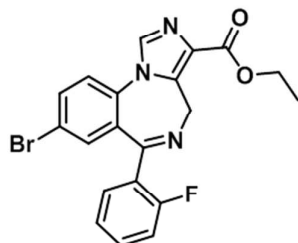
- (1) Department of Pathobiology of the Nervous System, Center for Brain Research, Medical University of Vienna, Austria
- (2) Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Egypt
- (3) Institute of Applied Synthetic Chemistry, TU Wien, Vienna, Austria
- (4) Department of Molecular Neurosciences, Center for Brain Research, Medical University of Vienna, Austria.
- (5) Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

Contact: [petra.scholze@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:petra.scholze@meduniwien.ac.at)

### Supplementary Figure S1:

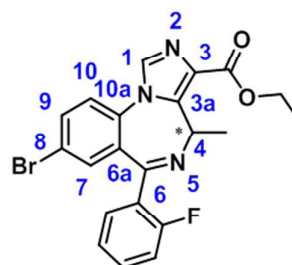
IUPAC nomenclature of the structures used in the study.

**a**



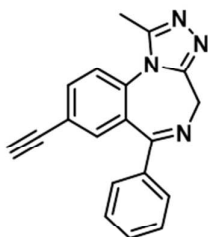
Ethyl 8-bromo-6-(2-fluorophenyl)-4*H*-benzo[*f*]-imidazo[1,5-*a*][1,4]diazepine-3-carboxylate  
**Compound 1**

**d**



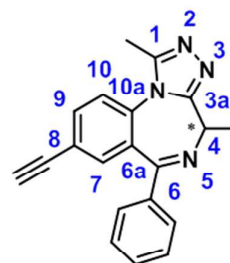
Ethyl 8-bromo-6-(2-fluorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-benzo[*f*]imidazo[1,5-*a*][1,4]diazepine-3-carboxylate

**b**



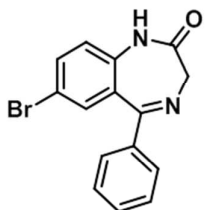
8-Ethynyl-1-methyl-6-phenyl-4*H*-benzo[*f*][1,2,4]-triazolo[4,3-*a*][1,4]diazepine  
**Compound 2**

**e**



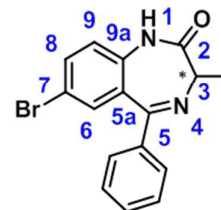
8-Ethynyl-1,4-dimethyl-6-phenyl-4*H*-benzo-*f*[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-*a*][1,4]diazepine

**c**



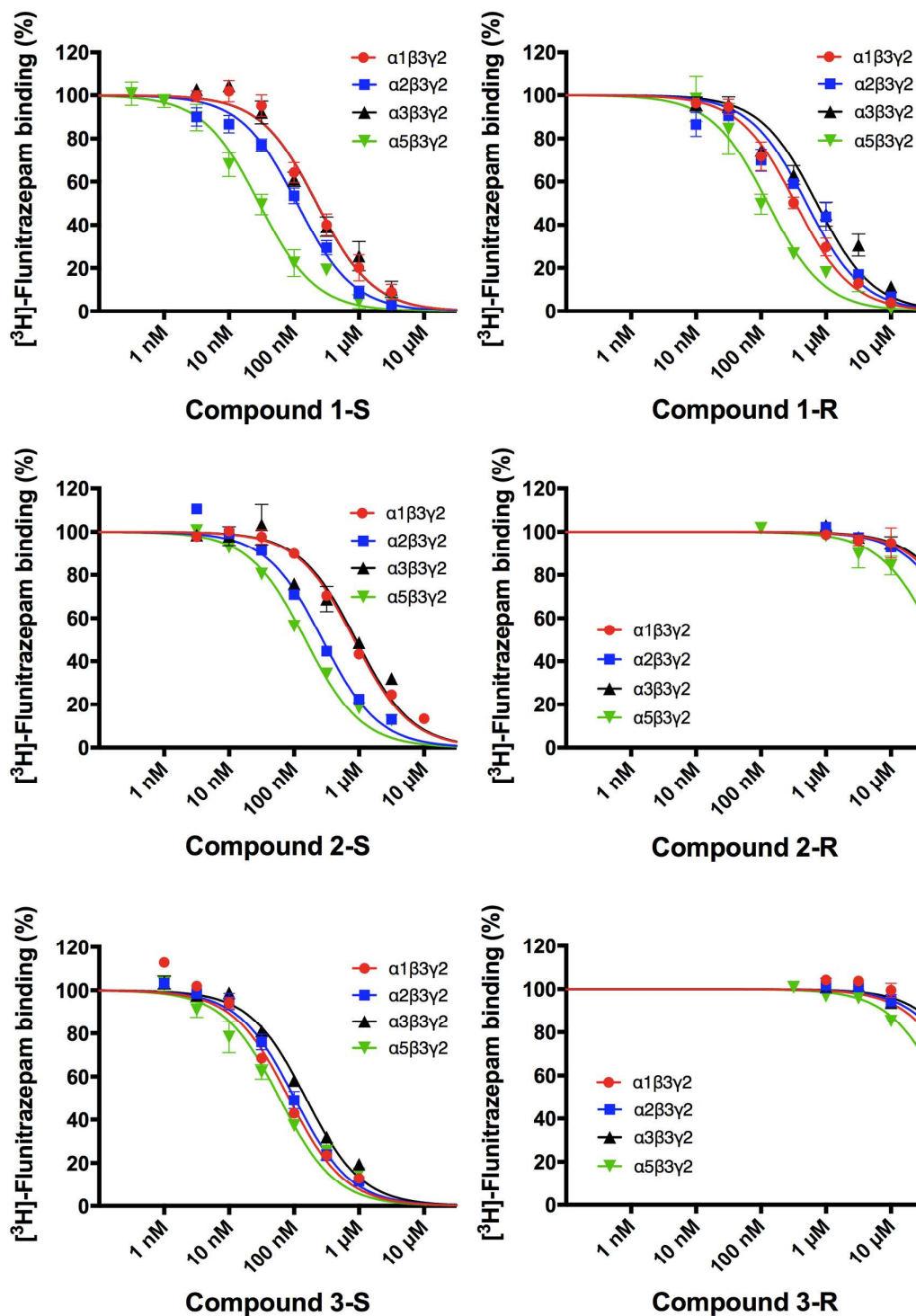
7-Bromo-5-phenyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*e*][1,4]diazepin-2-one  
**Compound 3**

**f**



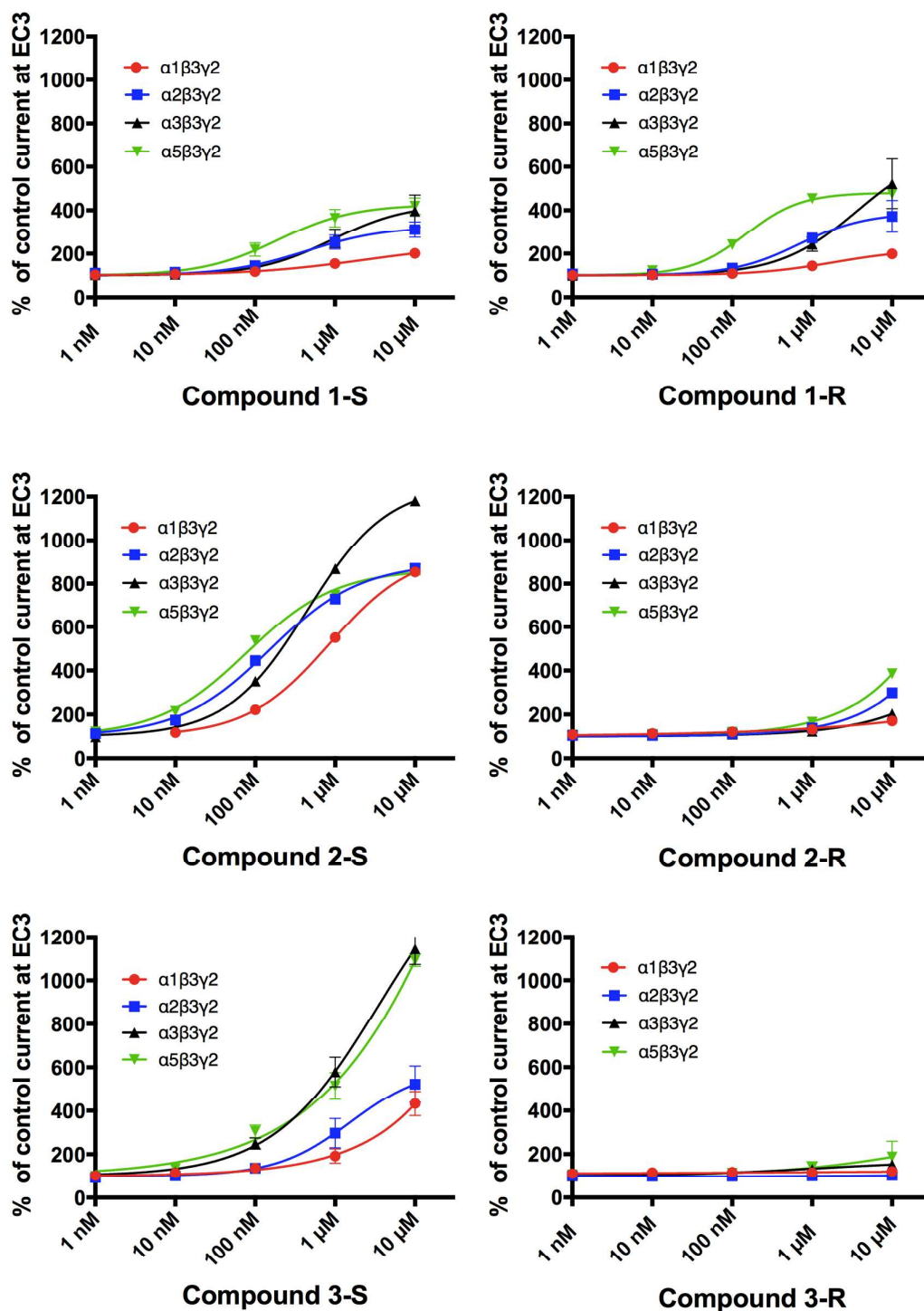
7-bromo-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*e*][1,4]diazepin-2-one

Supplementary Figure S2:



Inhibition of [<sup>3</sup>H]flunitrazepam binding to recombinant  $\alpha 1\beta 3\gamma 2$ ,  $\alpha 2\beta 3\gamma 2$ ,  $\alpha 3\beta 3\gamma 2$ ,  $\alpha 5\beta 3\gamma 2$  GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors subtypes. Membranes from HEK 293 cells transfected with GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor subunit combination, ( $\alpha 1\beta 3\gamma 2$ ,  $\alpha 2\beta 3\gamma 2$ ,  $\alpha 3\beta 3\gamma 2$ ,  $\alpha 5\beta 3\gamma 2$ ) were incubated with 2 nM [<sup>3</sup>H]flunitrazepam in the presence of various concentrations of GABA<sub>A</sub>-R ligands investigated. Data shown represent mean  $\pm$  SEM of three experiments performed in duplicates each.

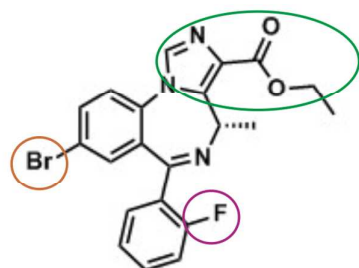
Supplementary Figure S3:



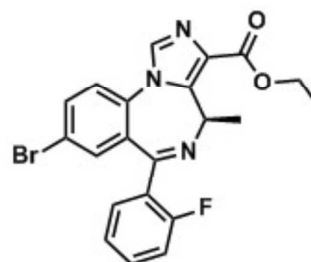
Concentration-response curves of drug-induced enhancement of GABA currents. *Xenopus laevis* oocytes were injected with mRNA for different GABA<sub>A</sub>-Receptor subunit combination, ( $\alpha 1\beta 3\gamma 2$ ,  $\alpha 2\beta 3\gamma 2$ ,  $\alpha 3\beta 3\gamma 2$ ,  $\alpha 5\beta 3\gamma 2$ ) and studied using two-electrode voltage clamp recordings. GABA induced currents (3% of maximum) were modulated by drug application. Data shown represent mean  $\pm$  SEM of three experiments.

### Supplementary Figure S4:

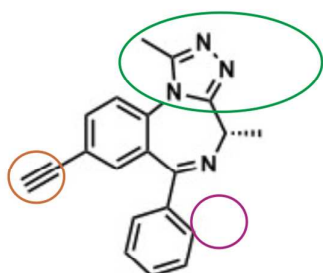
Comparison of the substitutions on the basic benzodiazepine core scaffold of the compound pairs investigated in the current study.



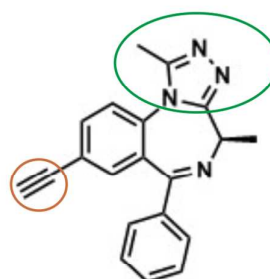
**Compound 1-S**  
(SH-I-048B)



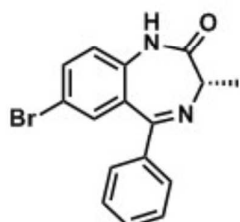
**Compound 1-R**  
(SH-I-047)



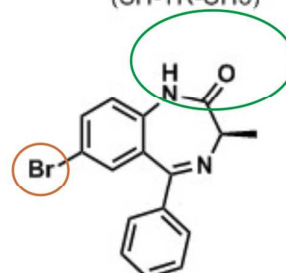
**Compound 2-S**  
(SH-TS-CH3)



**Compound 2-R**  
(SH-TR-CH3)



**Compound 3-S**  
(SH-I-030)



**Compound 3-R**  
(SH-I-053B)