#### 2-Substituted-2-acetamido-N-benzylacetamides. Synthesis, Spectroscopic and Anticonvulsant Properties

A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Department of Chemistry

University of Houston-University Park

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Science

By

Philippe Le Gall December, 1987

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11

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank Dr. Kohn, whose enthusiasm and knowledge were always on my side when needed. I also want to thank all the past and present members of this research group. I am indebted to their friendship and assistance.

I would like to acknowledge all those who have contributed to the completion of this work. In particular, I would like to thank Dr. Gary E. Martin and the N.M.R. laboratory at the University of Houston, Dr. John Chinn at the University of Texas at Austin, and Dr. J. David Leander and Dr. David Robertson at the Eli Lilly Research Center, Indianapolis, Indiana, for their kind cooperation.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Kurt L. Loening, Director of Nomenclature, Chemical Abstracts Services, Columbus, Ohio, for his help in naming the synthesized compounds.

111

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#### ABSTRACT

Select functionalized amino acid derivatives of the potent anticonvulsant agent  $\alpha$ -acetamido-<u>N</u>-benzylphenylacetamide (<u>68b</u>) and 2-acetamido-<u>N</u>-benzylpropionamide (<u>68a</u>) have been prepared and evaluated. Attention has been focused on the replacement of the  $\alpha$ -phenyl and  $\alpha$ -methyl groups in <u>68a</u> and <u>68b</u> by five-membered ring hetereoaromatic moieties, benzo-fused heteroaromatic groups, and simple polar substituents.

The synthetic and pharmacological studies revealed several notable findings. First, the use of amidoalkylation procedures using boron trifluoride etherate provided a straightforward and reliable method to introduce an electron-rich heteroaromatic substituent at This the  $\alpha$ -carbon in the amino acid derivatives. technology permitted the incorporation acid sensitive. unsubstituted of heteroaromatic compounds (i.e., pyrrole (74), indole (72)and benzofuran (75)) within the molecule. Second, all the five-membered ring heteroaromatic analogues of α-acetamido-N-benzylphenylacetamide proved highly active in the MES seizure test. In particular,  $\alpha$ -acetamido-<u>N</u>-benzyl-2-furanacetamide (<u>69a</u>) and  $\alpha$ -acetamido-N-benzyl-2-pyrroleacetamide (69b) exhibited activities similar to phenytoin and diazepam. Third, the α-alkoxy derivatives, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-methoxyacetamide (86a) and 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2ethoxyacetamide, exhibited significant activity in the MES seizure test.

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