

THE BENZODIAZEPINES

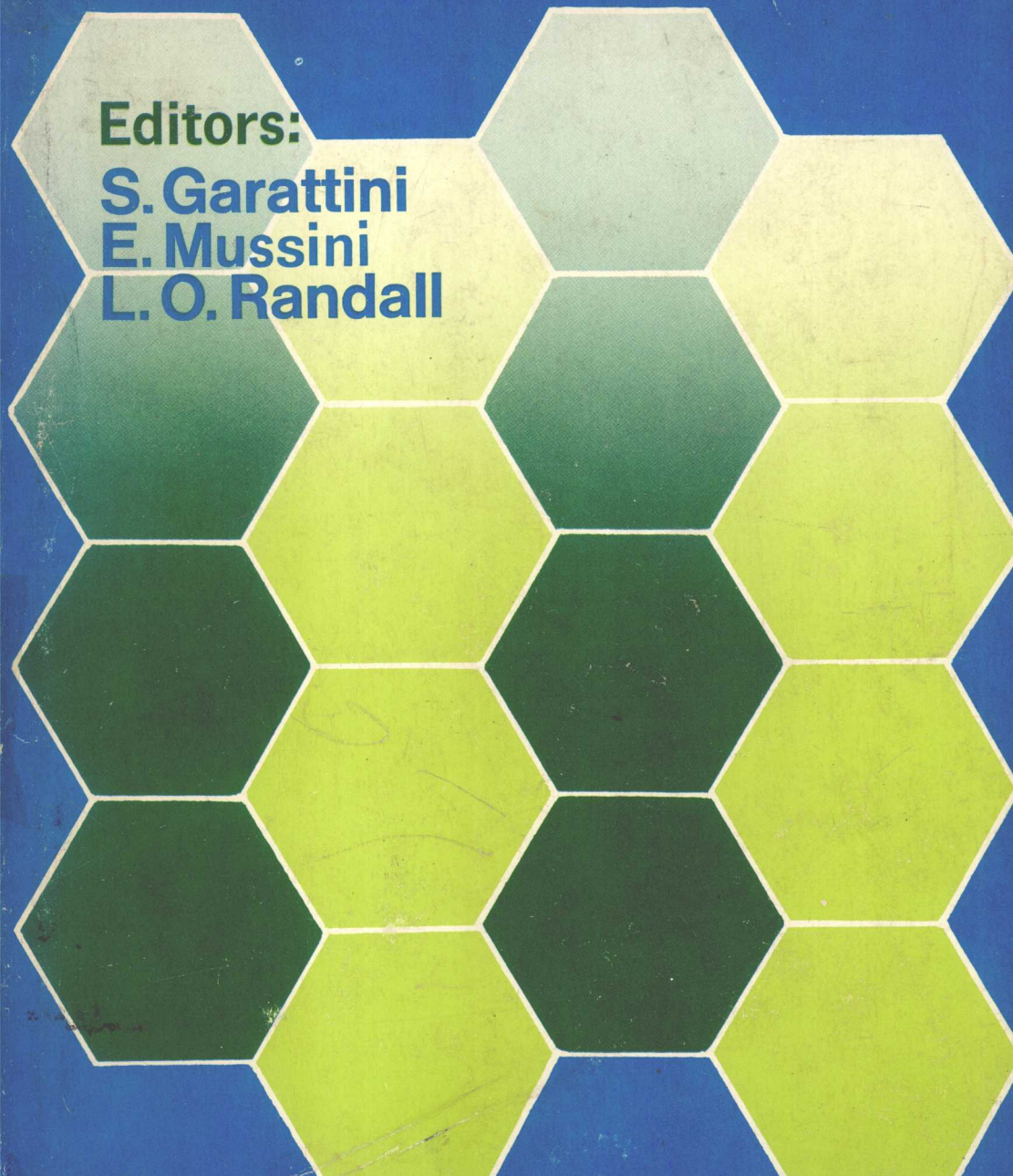
MONOGRAPHS OF THE MARIO NEGRI INSTITUTE
FOR PHARMACOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Editors:

S. Garattini

E. Mussini

L. O. Randall





MONOGRAPHS OF THE MARIO NEGRI INSTITUTE
FOR PHARMACOLOGICAL RESEARCH, MILAN

THE BENZODIAZEPINES

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THE BENZODIAZEPINES

MONOGRAPHS OF THE MARIO NEGRI INSTITUTE
FOR PHARMACOLOGICAL RESEARCH, MILAN

Amphetamines and Related Compounds

Edited by E. Costa and S. Garattini

The Benzodiazepines

Edited by S. Garattini, E. Mussini, and L. O. Randall

Chemotherapy of Cancer Dissemination and Metastasis

Edited by S. Garattini and G. Franchi

Isolated Liver Perfusion and Its Applications

Edited by I. Bartošek, A. Guaitani, and L. L. Miller

PREFACE

Since the discovery of chlordiazepoxide hydrochloride in 1957, the benzodiazepines have had a tremendous impact on the treatment of disorders of nervous origin. These drugs have become among the most widely prescribed in medicine. More significant is the widespread scientific investigation that has been generated by this unique class of drugs.

Sufficient material on the benzodiazepines had accumulated in the literature to justify the organization of this symposium. It was the first opportunity to bring together an international group of investigators to attempt the correlation of the chemical, pharmacological, and clinical data. Various authors discussed the structure-activity, general pharmacology, neuropharmacology, psychopharmacology, metabolism, biochemical effects, and clinical activity of the benzodiazepines. In view of the volume of work done in this area, we were compelled to limit the number of topics and the speakers in the program.

The discussions during the symposium revealed many deficiencies in our understanding of the mechanism of action of these centrally active drugs. Their effects in various biological systems should be investigated thoroughly in order to determine with greater precision the particular indications and limitations for each drug in this group. Although there are many benzodiazepine derivatives which appear to exert similar action, they may show differences that could be of fundamental significance if evaluated properly. The discovery of related compounds with different spectra of activity can be predicted.

We hope that the interesting and stimulating character of this symposium has been transmitted to the pages of this volume.

The editors wish to express their appreciation to all the session chairmen, participants, and staff of the "Mario Negri" Institute who contributed to the success of this symposium. We express our gratitude to Zula Melup of the Mario Negri Institute and Virginia B. Martin of Raven Press for their skillful editorial assistance.

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