

CONTENTS

Abbreviations	7
1. Introduction	9
2. Nootropic drugs – definition	14
3. Pathophysiology of aging	16
3.1. Neurobiology of senile dementia	16
3.2. Brain cholinergic transmission	20
3.3. Biological significance of free radicals	22
4. Classical nootropic drugs	26
4.1. Meclophenoxate	26
4.1.1. Animal pharmacology	28
4.1.2. Human pharmacology	30
4.1.3. Biochemical pharmacology	31
4.1.4. Therapeutic use	33
4.1.5. Conclusions	36
4.2. Pyritinol	37
4.2.1. Animal pharmacology	39
4.2.2. Human pharmacology	43
4.2.3. Biochemical pharmacology	47
4.2.4. Therapeutic use	49
4.2.5. Conclusions	58
4.3. Piracetam	59
4.3.1. Animal pharmacology	61
4.3.2. Human pharmacology	65
4.3.3. Biochemical pharmacology	68
4.3.4. Therapeutic use	73
4.3.5. Piracetam-like compounds	81
4.3.6. Conclusions	83

4.4.	Biochemical mechanisms of nootropic action	85
4.5.	Classical nootropics – conclusions	89
5.	Drugs with nootropic component of action	93
5.1.	Ergot compounds	93
5.1.1.	Dihydroergotoxine	94
5.1.2.	Nicergoline	102
5.1.3.	Conclusions	105
5.2.	Cholinomimetics	107
5.2.1.	Agents acting presynaptically	108
5.2.2.	Agents acting synaptically	112
5.2.3.	Agents acting postsynaptically	115
5.2.4.	Combination treatment	117
5.2.5.	Conclusions	119
5.3.	Neuropeptides	119
5.3.1.	Vasopressin neuropeptides	120
5.3.2.	Oxytocin and related peptides	126
5.3.3.	ACTH neuropeptides	127
5.3.4.	Somatostatin	131
5.3.5.	Neurotrophic factors	132
5.3.6.	Conclusions	133
5.4.	Other drugs	135
6.	Summary and general conclusions	144
7.	References	149