



(51) International Patent Classification:

C07D 249/04 (2006.01) **A61K 31/4164** (2006.01)
C07D 249/10 (2006.01) **A61K 31/4192** (2006.01)
C07D 249/18 (2006.01) **A61K 31/4196** (2006.01)
C07D 261/12 (2006.01) **A61K 31/42** (2006.01)
C07D 471/04 (2006.01) **A61K 31/405** (2006.01)
C07C 233/46 (2006.01) **A61P 9/00** (2006.01)
C07C 233/47 (2006.01) **A61P 13/00** (2006.01)
A61K 31/415 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2012/025365

(22) International Filing Date:

16 February 2012 (16.02.2012)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

61/443,827 17 February 2011 (17.02.2011) US

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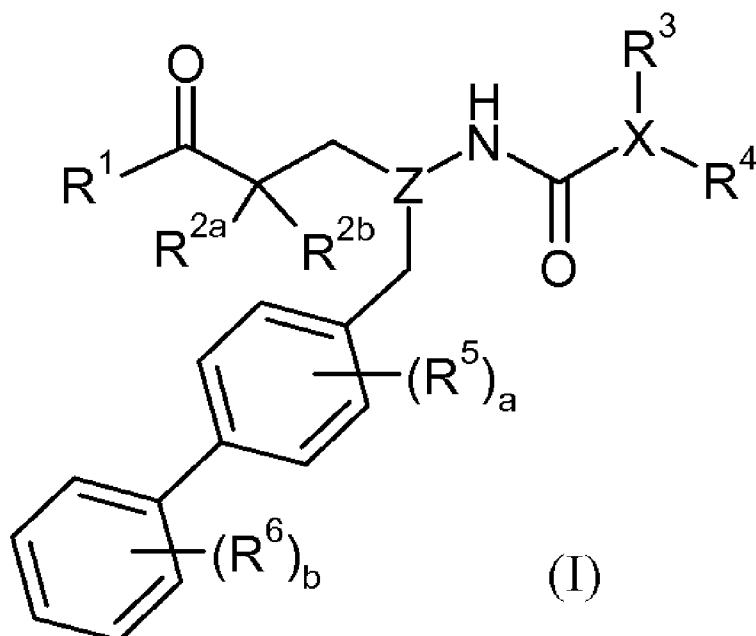
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94080 (US).(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ,
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO,
DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,
HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR,
KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ,
OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD,
SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR,
TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ,
UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU,
TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE,
DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU,
LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK,

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(54) Title: SUBSTITUTED AMINO BUTYRIC DERIVATIVES AS NEPRILYSIN INHIBITORS



(57) **Abstract:** In one aspect, the invention relates to compounds having the formula: (I) where R^1 - R^6 , a , b , Z , and X are as defined in the specification, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. These compounds have neprilysin inhibition activity. In another aspect, the invention relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising such compounds; methods of using such compounds; and processes and intermediates for preparing such compounds.

WO 2012/112742 A1



SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). **Published:**

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*