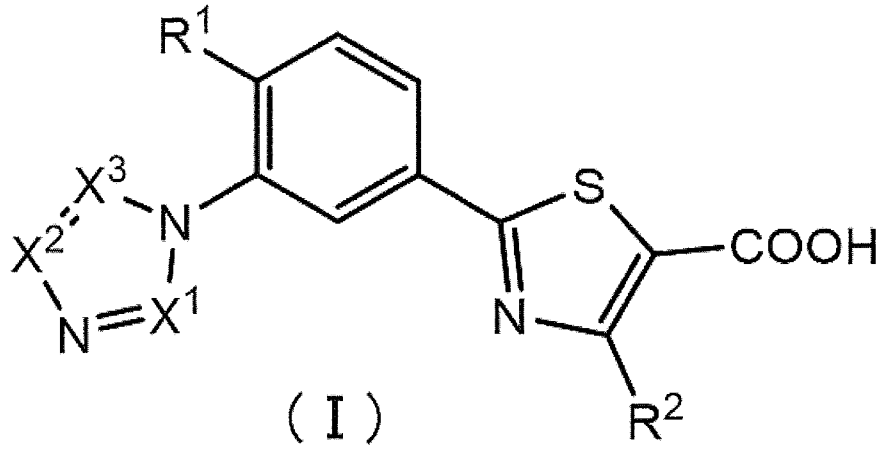


(I)

[0008]

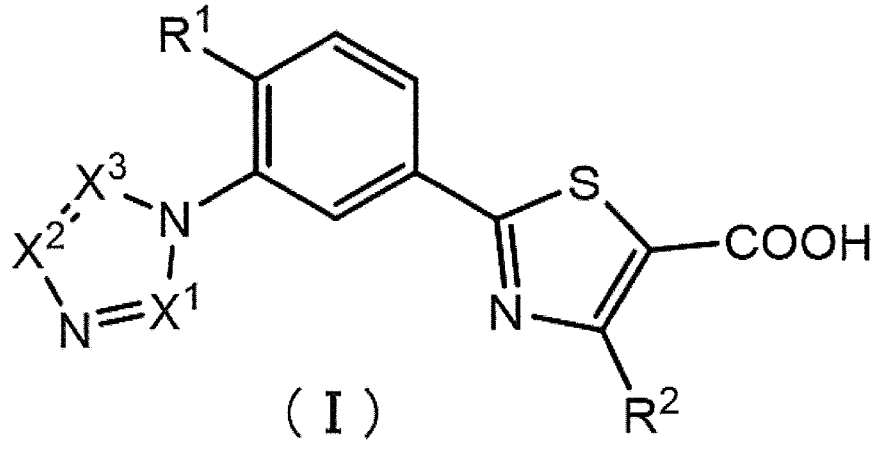
namely, azolebenzene derivatives having a benzene structure with three substituents, having a 2-thiazole ring at the 1-position and having a 1,3-nitrogen-containing azole ring at the 3-position, are useful for treating or preventing diabetic nephropathy.

[0009]

Specifically, the invention provides the following.

[1] A therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug for diabetic nephropathy containing a compound represented by formula (I) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt as an active ingredient.

[0010]



(I)

[0011]

[wherein,

R^1 represents OR, NRR' that optionally forms a ring, or SR, where R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms optionally substituted with one or more alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, halogen atoms or hydroxyl groups, an aryl group optionally substituted with one or more alkyl groups of 1 to 8 carbon

atoms, alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms or halogen atoms, or a heteroaryl group optionally substituted with one or more alkyl groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms or halogen atoms.

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

X^1, X^2 and X^3 are each independently CR^3 or a nitrogen atom, or X^1 is CR^3 or a nitrogen atom, and X^2 and X^3 together form a benzene ring. R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms.]

[2] The therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug according to [1], wherein R^1 is OR.

[3] The therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug according to [1], wherein R^1 is SR.

[4] The therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug according to [1], wherein R^1 is NRR' that optionally forms a ring.

[5] The therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug according to any one of [1] to [4], wherein R and R' are each independently an alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms optionally substituted with one or more alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, halogen atoms or hydroxyl groups, or an aryl group optionally substituted with one or more alkyl groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms or halogen atoms.

[6] The therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug according to [5], wherein R and R' are each independently an alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms optionally substituted with one or more alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, halogen atoms or hydroxyl groups.

[7] The therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug according to [6], wherein R^1 is OR or SR, and R is an isopropyl, isobutyl or neopentyl group.

[8] The therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug according to any one of [1] to [7], wherein R^2 is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

[9] The therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug according to [8], wherein R^2 is a methyl group.

[10] The therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug according to any one of [1] to [9], wherein X^1, X^2 and X^3 are each independently CR^3 or a nitrogen atom.

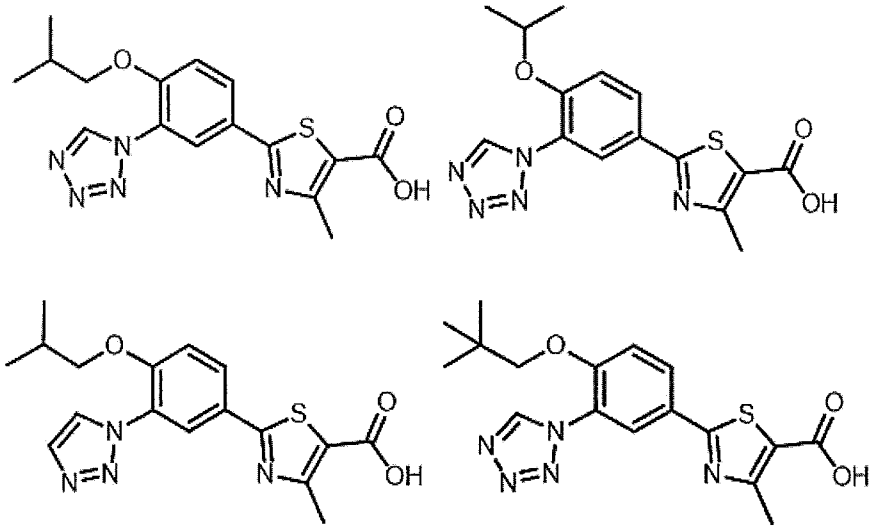
[11] The therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug according to [10], wherein X^1 is a nitrogen atom, X^2 is CR^3 or a nitrogen atom, and X^3 is CR^3.

[12] The therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug according to any one of [1] to [11], wherein R^3 is hydrogen.

[13] The therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug according to [1], wherein the compound represented by formula (I) is a compound selected from the following group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the same.

[0012]

[Chemical Formula 3]

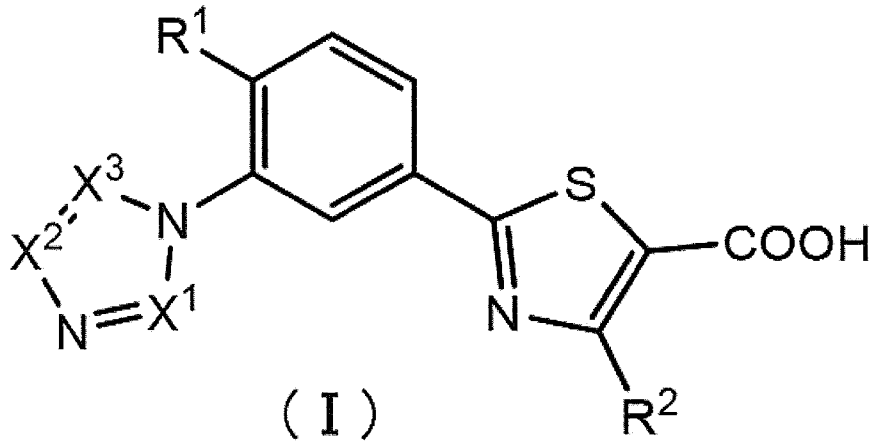


[0013]

[14] The therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug according to any one of [1] to [13], wherein the diabetic nephropathy is type II diabetic nephropathy.

[0013a]

The invention also provides the use of a compound represented by formula (I), or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt as an active ingredient



(I)

wherein,

R^1 represents OR, NRR' that optionally forms a ring, or SR, where R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms optionally substituted with one or more alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, halogen atoms or hydroxyl groups, an aryl group optionally substituted with one or more alkyl groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms or halogen atoms, or a heteroaryl group optionally

substituted with one or more alkyl groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms or halogen atoms;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms;

X^1, X^2 and X^3 are each independently CR^3 or a nitrogen atom, or X^1 is CR^3 or a nitrogen atom, and X^2 and X^3 together form a benzene ring. R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms

in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing diabetic nephropathy.

[ADVANTAGEOUS EFFECTS OF INVENTION]

[0014]

A compound of formula (I) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt to be used for the invention is useful as a therapeutic drug or prophylactic drug for diabetic nephropathy.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0015]

The technical terms used either alone or in combination throughout the present specification will now be explained. Unless otherwise specified, the explanations of the substituents apply for all positions. When variables are present for a given constituent element, the definitions independently apply to each constituent element. Any combinations of substituents and variables are possible so long as the combinations yield chemically stable compounds.

[0016]

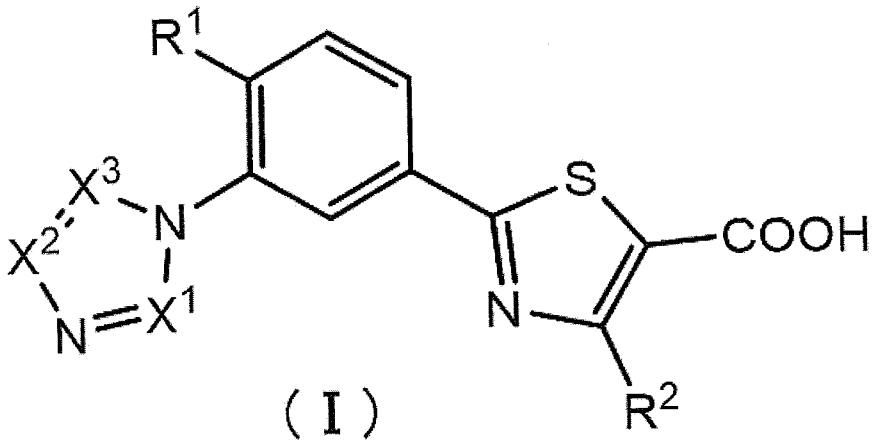
According to the invention, "halogen atom" means fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine.

[0017]

Also, for the purpose of the invention, "alkyl group" means a monovalent saturated straight-chain, cyclic or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon group, and examples of "alkyl groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms" include methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, n-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, isopropyl,

CLAIMS

1. Use of a compound represented by formula (I), or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt as an active ingredient



(I)

wherein,

R^1 represents OR, NRR' that optionally forms a ring, or SR, where R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms optionally substituted with one or more alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, halogen atoms or hydroxyl groups, an aryl group optionally substituted with one or more alkyl groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms or halogen atoms, or a heteroaryl group optionally substituted with one or more alkyl groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms or halogen atoms;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms;

X^1, X^2 and X^3 are each independently CR^3 or a nitrogen atom, or X^1 is CR^3 or a nitrogen atom, and X^2 and X^3 together form a benzene ring. R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms

in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing diabetic nephropathy.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is OR.

3. The use according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is SR.

4. The use according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is NRR' that optionally forms a ring.

5. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein R and R' are each independently an alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms optionally substituted with one or more alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, halogen atoms or hydroxyl groups, or an aryl group

optionally substituted with one or more alkyl groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms or halogen atoms.

6. The use according to claim 5, wherein R and R' are each independently an alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms optionally substituted with one or more alkoxy groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, halogen atoms or hydroxyl groups.

7. The use according to claim 6, wherein R^1 is OR or SR, and R is an isopropyl, isobutyl or neopentyl group.

8. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein R^2 is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

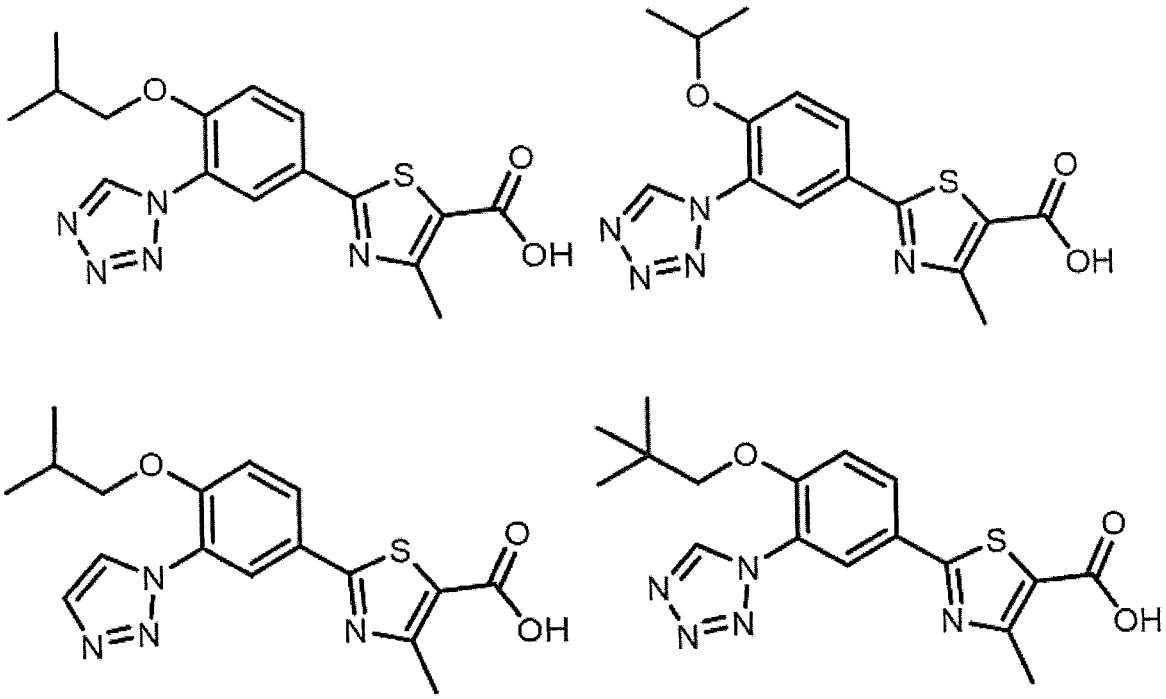
9. The use according to claim 8, wherein R^2 is a methyl group.

10. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein X^1, X^2 and X^3 are each independently CR^3 or a nitrogen atom.

11. The use according to claim 10, wherein X^1 is a nitrogen atom, X^2 is CR^3 or a nitrogen atom, and X^3 is CR^3.

12. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom.

13. The use according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by formula (I) is a compound selected from the following group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the same



14. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the diabetic nephropathy is type II diabetic nephropathy.