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A THIAZOLIDINEDIONE DERIVATIVE AND ITS USE AS ANTIDIABETIC

This invention relates to a novel pharmaceutical, to a process for the preparation of the pharmaceutical and to the use of the pharmaceutical in medicine.

European Patent Application, Publication Number 0,306,228 relates to certain thiazolidinedione derivatives disclosed as having hypoglycaemic and hypolipidaemic activity. The compound of example 30 of EP 0,306,228 is 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione (hereinafter also referred to as "Compound (I)").

International Patent Application, Publication Number WO94/05659 discloses certain salts of the compounds of EP 0,306,228. The preferred salt of WO94/05659 is the maleic acid salt.

It has now been discovered that Compound (I) forms a novel fumarate salt (hereinafter also referred to as the "Fumarate") that is particularly stable and hence is suitable for bulk preparation and handling. .. The Fumarate also has a high melting point and possesses good bulk flow properties. The Fumarate is therefore surprisingly amenable to large scale pharmaceutical processing and especially to large scale milling.

The novel salt can be prepared by an efficient, economic and reproducible process particularly suited to large-scale preparation.

The novel Fumarate also has useful pharmaceutical properties and in particular it is indicated to be useful for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diabetes mellitus, conditions associated with diabetes mellitus and certain complications thereof.

Accordingly, the present invention provides 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione fumarate salt or a solvate thereof.

Suitably, the Fumarate is a mono-Fumarate salt as formed from a 1:1 molar ratio of Compound (I) and fumaric acid.

Mono Fumarate salts also optionally comprise another monovalent salting ion such as an alkali metal or ammonium cation, to provide a "mixed salt"

In one favoured aspect, the Fumarate provides an infrared spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure 1.

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In one favoured aspect, the Fumarate provides a Raman spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure 2.

In one favoured aspect, the Fumarate provides an X-Ray powder diffraction pattern (XRPD) substantially in accordance with Table 1 or Figure 3.

In one favoured aspect, the Fumarate provides a solid state ^{13}C NMR spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure 4.

In a further favoured aspect, the Fumarate provides a melting point in the range of from 154 to 159 ^{o}C, such as 155 to 158^{o}C, for example 157.4 ^{o}C .In a preferred aspect, the invention provides 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione fumarate salt, characterised in that it provides:

(i) an infrared spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure 1; and

(ii) a Raman spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure 2; and

(iii) an X-Ray powder diffraction pattern (XRPD) substantially in accordance with Table 1 or Figure 3; and

(iv) a solid state ^{13}C NMR spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure 4.

The present invention encompasses the Fumarate or a solvate thereof isolated in pure form or when admixed with other materials.

Thus in one aspect there is provided the Fumarate or a solvate thereof in isolated form.

In a further aspect there is provided the Fumarate or solvate thereof in a purified form.

In yet a further aspect there is provided the Fumarate or solvate thereof in crystalline form.

Also, the invention provides the Fumarate or solvate thereof in a solid pharmaceutically acceptable form, such as a solid dosage form, especially when adapted for oral administration.

Moreover, the invention also provides the Fumarate or solvate thereof in a pharmaceutically acceptable form, especially in bulk form, such form being particularly capable of being milled. The invention therefore also provides the Fumarate or solvate thereof in a milled form.

Furthermore, the invention provides the Fumarate or solvate thereof in a pharmaceutically acceptable form, especially in bulk form, such form having good flow properties, especially good bulk flow properties

A suitable solvate is a hydrate.

The invention also provides a process for preparing the Fumarate or a solvate thereof, characterised in that 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione (Compound (I)) or a salt therof, preferably dispersed or dissolved in a suitable solvent, is reacted with a source of fumarate ion and thereafter, if required, a solvate of the resulting Fumarate is prepared; and the Fumarate or a solvate thereof is recovered.

Suitably, Compound (I) is used in the reaction, especially in a protonated form. Suitably, a salt of Compound (I) is used in the reaction..

Compound (I) is preferably present in a protonated form.

A suitable reaction solvent is a nitrile for example acetonitrile, an ether such as tetrahydrofuran, an alkanolsuch as methanol, or a hydrocarbon, such as toluene, a ketone, such as acetone, an ester, such as ethyl acetate, or a halogenated hydrocarbon such as dichloromethane, or water, or an organic acid such as acetic acid; or a mixture thereof.

Conveniently, the source of fumarate ion is fumaric acid. The fumaric acid is preferably added in solution but can be added as a solid. Suitable solvents for the fumaric acid include, water, a nitrile such as acetonitrile, tetrahydrofuran, or a lower alcohol such as methanol or ethanol, or a mixture of solvents. An alternative source of fumarate ion for a salt of Compound (I) is provided by a base salt of fumaric acid for example ammonium fumarate, or the fumaric acid salt of an amine, for example ethylamine or diethylamine.

The concentration of Compound (I) is preferably in the range 2 to 25% weight/volume, more preferably in the range 5 to 20%. The concentration of fumaric acid solutions are preferably in the range of 3 to 20% weight/volume.

The reaction is usually carried out at ambient temperature or at an elevated temperature, for example at the reflux temperature of the solvent, although any convenient temperature that provides the required product may be employed.

Solvates, such as hydrates, of the Fumarate are prepared according to conventional procedures.

Recovery of the required compound generally comprises crystallisation from an appropriate solvent, conveniently the reaction solvent, usually assisted by cooling. For example, the Fumarate may be crystallised from water or a nitrile such as acetonitrile or tetrahydrofuran or a mixture thereof. An improved yield of the salt can be obtained by evaporation of some or all of the solvent or by

crystallisation at elevated temperature followed by controlled cooling, optionally in stages. Careful control of precipitation temperature and seeding may be used to improve the reproducibility of the product form.

Crystallisation can also be initiated by seeding with crystals of the Fumarate or a solvate thereof but this is not essential.

When the mono-Fumarate salt is a mixed salt comprising another monovalent salting ion, such as an alkali metal or ammonium cation, the said salt is conveniently formed by reacting the mono-Fumarate with a solution of the chosen monovalent salting ion, for example a metal or ammonium ion

Compound (I) is prepared according to known procedures, such as those disclosed in EP 0,306,228 and WO94/05659. The disclosures of EP 0,306,228 and WO94/05659 are incorporated herein by reference.

Fumaric acid is a commercially available compound.

When used herein the term "T_{onset}" is generally determined by Differential Scanning Calorimetry and has a meaning generally understood in the art, as for example expressed in Pharmaceutical Thermal Analysis, Techniques and Applications", Ford and Timmins, 1989 as "The temperature corresponding to the intersection of the pre-transition baseline with the extrapolated leading edge of the transition".

When used herein in respect of certain compounds the term "good flow properties" is suitably characterised by the said compound having a Hausner ratio of less than or equal to 1.5, especially of less than or equal to 1.25.

"Hausner ratio" is an art accepted term.When used herein the term 'prophylaxis of conditions associated with diabetes mellitus' includes the treatment of conditions such as insulin resistance, impaired glucose tolerance, hyperinsulinaemia and gestational diabetes.

Diabetes mellitus preferably means Type II diabetes mellitus.

Conditions associated with diabetes include hyperglycaemia and insulin resistance and obesity. Further conditions associated with diabetes include hypertension, cardiovascular disease, especially atherosclerosis, certain eating disorders, in particular the regulation of appetite and food intake in subjects suffering from disorders associated with under-eating, such as anorexia nervosa, and disorders associated with over-eating, such as obesity and anorexia bulimia. Additional conditions associated with diabetes include polycystic ovarian syndrome and steroid induced insulin resistance.

The complications of conditions associated with diabetes mellitus encompassed herein includes renal disease, especially renal disease associated with the development of Type II diabetes including diabetic nephropathy, glomerulonephritis, glomerular sclerosis, nephrotic syndrome, hypertensive nephrosclerosis and end stage renal disease.

As mentioned above the compound of the invention has useful therapeutic properties: The present invention accordingly provides the Fumarate or a solvate thereof for use as an active therapeutic substance.

More particularly, the present invention provides the Fumarate or a solvate thereof for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diabetes mellitus, conditions associated with diabetes mellitus and certain complications thereof.

The Fumarate or a solvate thereof may be administered per se or, preferably, as a pharmaceutical composition also comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Suitable methods for formulating the Fumarate or a solvate thereof are generally those disclosed for Compound (I) in the above mentioned publications.

Accordingly, the present invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising the Fumarate or a solvate thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

The Fumarate or a solvate thereof is normally administered in unit dosage form.

The active compound may be administered by any suitable route but usually by the oral or parenteral routes. For such use, the compound will normally be employed in the form of a pharmaceutical composition in association with a pharmaceutical carrier, diluent and/or excipient, although the exact form of the composition will naturally depend on the mode of administration.

Compositions are prepared by admixture and are suitably adapted for oral, parenteral or topical administration, and as such may be in the form of tablets, capsules, oral liquid preparations, powders, granules, lozenges, pastilles, reconstitutable powders, injectable and infusable solutions or suspensions, suppositories and transdermal devices. Orally administrable compositions are preferred, in particular shaped oral compositions, since they are more convenient for general use.

Tablets and capsules for oral administration are usually presented in a unit dose, and contain conventional excipients such as binding agents, fillers, diluents,

tabletting agents, lubricants, disintegrants, colourants, flavourings, and wetting agents. The tablets may be coated according to well known methods in the art.

Suitable fillers for use include cellulose, mannitol, lactose and other similar agents. Suitable disintegrants include starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone and starch derivatives such as sodium starch glycollate. Suitable lubricants include, for example, magnesium stearate. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable wetting agents include sodium lauryl sulphate.

Solid oral compositions may be prepared by conventional methods of blending, filling, tabletting or the like. Repeated blending operations may be used to distribute the active agent throughout those compositions employing large quantities of fillers. Such operations are, of course, conventional in the art.

Oral liquid preparations may be in the form of, for example, aqueous or oily suspensions, solutions, emulsions, syrups, or elixirs, or may be presented as a dry product for reconstitution with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid preparations may contain conventional additives such as suspending agents, for example sorbitol, syrup, methyl cellulose, gelatin, hydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, aluminium stearate gel or hydrogenated edible fats, emulsifying agents, for example lecithin, sorbitan monooleate, or acacia; non-aqueous vehicles (which may include edible oils), for example, almond oil, fractionated coconut oil, oily esters such as esters of glycerine, propylene glycol, or ethyl alcohol; preservatives, for example methyl or propyl p-hydroxybenzoate or sorbic acid, and if desired conventional flavouring or colouring agents.

For parenteral administration, fluid unit dose forms are prepared containing a compound of the present invention and a sterile vehicle. The compound, depending on the vehicle and the concentration, can be either suspended or dissolved. Parenteral solutions are normally prepared by dissolving the active compound in a vehicle and filter sterilising before filling into a suitable vial or ampoule and sealing. Advantageously, adjuvants such as a local anaesthetic, preservatives and buffering agents are also dissolved in the vehicle. To enhance the stability, the composition can be frozen after filling into the vial and the water removed under vacuum.

Parenteral suspensions are prepared in substantially the same manner except that the active compound is suspended in the vehicle instead of being dissolved and sterilised by exposure to ethylene oxide before suspending in the

sterile vehicle. Advantageously, a surfactant or wetting agent is included in the composition to facilitate uniform distribution of the active compound.

As is common practice, the compositions will usually be accompanied by written or printed directions for use in the medical treatment concerned.

As used herein the term 'pharmaceutically acceptable' embraces compounds, compositions and ingredients for both human and veterinary use: for example the term 'pharmaceutically acceptable salt' embraces a veterinarily acceptable salt.

The present invention further provides a method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diabetes mellitus, conditions associated with diabetes mellitus and certain complications thereof, in a human or non-human mammal which comprises administering an effective, non-toxic, amount of Fumarate or a solvate thereof to a human or non-human mammal in need thereof.

The compositions are formulated according to conventional methods, such as those disclosed in standard reference texts, for example the British and US Pharmacopoeias, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences (Mack Publishing Co.), Martindale The Complete Drug Reference (London, The Pharmaceutical Press) and Harry's Cosmeticology (Leonard Hill Books).Conveniently, the active ingredient may be administered as a pharmaceutical composition hereinbefore defined, and this forms a particular aspect of the present invention.

In a further aspect the present invention provides the use of Fumarate or a solvate thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diabetes mellitus, conditions associated with diabetes mellitus and certain complications thereof.

In the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diabetes mellitus, conditions associated with diabetes mellitus and certain complications thereof the Fumarate or a solvate thereof may be taken in amounts so as to provide Compound (I) in suitable doses, such as those disclosed in EP 0,306,228, WO94/05659 or WO98/55122.

No adverse toxicological effects are indicated in the above mentioned treatments for the compounds of the invention.

The following examples illustrate the invention but do not limit it in any way.

EXAMPLES

Example 1 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl] thiazolidine-2,4-dione fumarate

A mixture of fumaric acid (0.65 g), acetonitrile (20 ml) and water (0.5 ml) was heated until a clear solution was observed, and was added to a stirred solution of 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione (2.0 g) in acetonitrile (40 ml) at reflux. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 21°C with stirring. After filtration to remove a small amount of insoluble material the filtrate was maintained at 21°C for 72 hours. The product was collected by filtration, washed with acetonitrile (20 ml) and dried under vacuum to afford 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione fumarate (0.83 g) as a crystalline solid.

^{1}H-NMR (d_6-DMSO): consistent with a 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino) ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione fumarate (1:1 salt)

Example 2 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl] thiazolidine-2,4-dione fumarate

A mixture of fumaric acid (7.8 g), acetonitrile (50 ml) and water (40 ml) was heated until a clear solution was observed, and was added to a stirred solution of 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione (12.0 g) in acetonitrile (200 ml) at reflux. The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux for 20 minutes, then cooled to 21°C over 1 hour and stirred for 16 hours at 21°C. The solid was collected by filtration, washed with acetonitrile (50 ml) then dried at 21°C under vacuum for 5 hours to afford 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione fumarate (12.4 g) as a white crystalline solid.

Example 3 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl] thiazolidine-2,4-dione fumarate

A mixture of fumaric acid (26.0 g), acetonitrile (220 ml) and water (200 ml) was heated until a clear solution was observed, and was added to a stirred solution of 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione (40.0 g) in acetonitrile (800 ml). The reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 5 minutes, then cooled to 21°C with stirring and maintained at this temperature for 48 hours. The solid was collected by filtration, washed with acetonitrile (100 ml) then dried under vacuum at 21°C for 5 hours to afford 5-[4-

[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione fumarate (34.7 g) as a white crystalline solid.

Example 4 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl] thiazolidine-2,4-dione fumarate

A hot clear solution of fumaric acid (1.3 g) in tetrahydrofuran (20 ml) was added to a clear stirring solution of 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy] benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione (2.0 g) in tetrahydrofuran (20 ml) at reflux. The reaction mixture was cooled to 21°C with stirring until crystallisation was complete. The solid was collected by filtration, washed with tetrahydrofuran (30 ml) then dried under vacuum for 6.5 hours at 21°C to give 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione fumarate as a crystalline solid (1.31 g).

Characterising data recorded for the product of Example 1:

The infrared absorption spectrum of a mineral oil dispersion of the product was obtained using a Nicolet 710 FT-IR spectrometer at 2 cm^{-1} resolution (Figure 1). Data were digitised at 1 cm^{-1} intervals. Bands were observed at: 2925, 2854, 1749, 1699, 1643, 1611, 1513, 1460, 1377, 1328, 1302, 1250, 1216, 1174, 1161, 1067, 1037, 1002, 973, 928, 885, 826, 767, 735, 714, 653, 617, 603, 557, 527, 507 cm^{-1}.

The infrared spectrum of the solid product was recorded using a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum One FT-IR spectrometer fitted with a universal ATR accessory. Bands were observed at: 2932, 2765, 1749, 1693, 1642, 1611, 1541, 1513, 1468, 1411, 1382, 1357, 1328, 1303, 1270, 1250, 1235, 1216, 1174, 1161, 1146, 1066, 1036, 1002, 972, 928, 903, 884, 825, 786, 766, 736, 714 cm^{-1}.

The Raman spectrum of the product (Figure 2) was recorded with the sample in a glass vial using a Perkin-Elmer 2000R FT-Raman spectrometer, at 4 cm^{-1} resolution with excitation from a Nd:YAG laser (1064 nm) with a power output of 400mW. Bands were observed at: 3099, 3055, 2965, 2917, 1747, 1707, 1645, 1613, 1585, 1547, 1438, 1382, 1327, 1305, 1278, 1257, 1211, 1169, 1036, 985, 934, 902, 826, 779, 742, 664, 639, 617, 604, 504, 472, 441, 423, 401, 346, 287 cm^{-1}.

The X-Ray Powder Diffractogram pattern of the product (Figure 3) was recorded using the following acquisition conditions: Tube anode: Cu, Generator tension: 40

kV, Generator current: 40 mA, Start angle: 2.0 °2θ, End angle: 35.0 °2θ, Step size: 0.02 °2θ , Time per step: 2.5 seconds.Characteristic XRPD angles and relative intensities are recorded in Table 1.

Table 1

Angle	Rel. Intensity
2-Theta °	%
10.1	2.8
11.3	16.3
12.1	12.4
13.0	10
14.6	2.7
16.0	3.7
16.5	65.5
16.8	15.9
17.5	100
17.8	12.8
18.1	10.4
18.8	13
19.0	31.8
19.4	8.8
20.2	23.1
21.5	93.6
22.3	59.7
22.6	58.8
22.8	30.8
23.6	50.2
24.0	11.4
24.5	5.9
25.1	35.1
25.4	20.1
25.8	21.9

26.2	33
26.5	58.9
27.1	61.3
28.2	17.5
28.6	26.2
29.0	16
29.3	17.1
29.6	24.4
30.4	7.4
31.3	11
31.8	27
32.1	14
33.2	20.2
33.6	14
34.6	8.4

The solid-state NMR spectrum of the product (Figure 4) was recorded on a Bruker AMX360 instrument operating at 90.55 MHz: The solid was packed into a 4 mm zirconia MAS rotor fitted with a Kel-F cap and rotor spun at ca.10 kHz. The ^{13}C MAS spectrum was acquired by cross-polarisation from Hartmann-Hahn matched protons (CP contact time 3 ms, repetition time 15 s) and protons were decoupled during acquisition using a two-pulse phase modulated (TPPM) composite sequence. Chemical shifts were externally referenced to the carboxylate signal of glycine at 176.4 ppm relative to TMS and were observed at: 40.7, 52.9, 55.5, 66.0, 110.9, 116.7, 131.1, 132.4, 138.5, 140.3, 144.3, 150.6, 157.7, 168.9, 173.4, 175.8 ppm.

Properties of the Fumarate, recorded for the product of Example 3

Solid State Stability of the Fumarate

The solid state stability of the drug substance was determined by storing approximately 1.0 g of the material in a glass bottle at a) 40°C / 75% Relative Humidity (RH), open exposure, for 1 month and b) at 50°C, closed, for 1 month. The material was assayed by HPLC for final content and degradation products in both cases.

a) 40°C / 75% RH: No significant degradation observed (HPLC assay 100% initial).

b) 50°C: No significant degradation observed (HPLC assay 99% initial).

Flow Properties of the Fumarate

The ratio between the bulk density and the tapped bulk density (Hausner Ratio) of the Fumarate was determined using standard methods ("Pharmaceutics - The Science of Dosage Form Design", editor M. Aulton, 1988, published by:Churchill Livingstone).
Hausner Ratio: 1.0

Melting Point of the Fumarate

The melting point of the Fumarate was determined according to the method described in the U.S. Pharmacopoeia, USP 23, 1995, <741> "Melting range or temperature, Procedure for Class Ia", using a Buchi 545 melting point instrument.
Melting Point: 157.4°C

T_{onset} of the Fumarate

The T_{onset} of the drug substance was determined by Differential Scanning Calorimetry using a Perkin-Elmer DSC7 apparatus.
T_{onset} (10°C/minute, closed pan): 156 °C

CLAIMS:

1. A compound 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione, fumarate salt or a solvate thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1, characterised in that it provides:
(i) an infrared spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure 1; and
(ii) a Raman spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure 2; and
(iii) an X-Ray powder diffraction pattern (XRPD) substantially in accordance with Table 1 or Figure 3; and
(iv) a solid state ^{13}C NMR spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure 4.

3. A compound according to claim 1, characterised in that it provides two or more of:
(i) an infrared spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure 1;
(ii) a Raman spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure 2;
(iii) an X-Ray powder diffraction pattern (XRPD) substantially in accordance with Table 1 or Figure 3;
(iv) a solid state ^{13}C NMR spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure 4; and
(v) a melting point in the range of from 154 to 159 ^{o}C.

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3, in purified form.

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3, in a solid dosage form.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3, in a pharmaceutically acceptable form capable of being milled or in milled form

7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3, in a pharmaceutically acceptable form and having good flow properties.

8. A process for preparing the fumarate or a solvate thereof, characterised in that characterised in that 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-

pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione (Compound (I)) or a salt thereof, preferably dispersed or dissolved in a suitable solvent, is reacted with a source of fumarate ion and thereafter, if required, a solvate of the resulting Nitrate is prepared; and the Nitrate or a solvate thereof is recovered.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione fumarate or a solvate thereof. and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

10. A compound 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione fumarate or a solvate thereof for use as an active therapeutic substance.

11. A use of 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione fumarate or a solvate thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diabetes mellitus, conditions associated with diabetes mellitus and certain complications thereof.