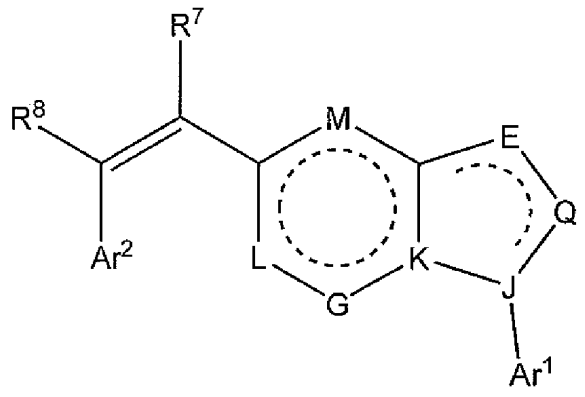
Claims

1. A compound having the following general Formula Ia or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



Formula Ia

wherein,

E and J are N;

M, Q and L are C-R;

G is C-H or N;

K is C;

R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, haloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, alkyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, acyloxy, arylacyloxy, heteroarylacyloxy, alkylsulfonyloxy, arylsulfonyloxy, thio, alkylthio, arylthio, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, cycloalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, arylamino, heteroarylamino, acylamino, arylacylamino, heteroarylacylamino, alkylsulfonylamino,

arylsulfonylamino, acyl, arylacyl, heteroarylacyl, alkylsulfinyl, arylsulfinyl, heteroarylsulfinyl, hydroxysulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, heteroarylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, substituted aminosulfonyl, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkyloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, substituted carbamoyl, halogen, cyano, isocyano and nitro;

each of R^7 and R^8 are H and the double bond has a cis configuration

Ar^1 is substituted phenyl, unsubstituted phenyl, or pyridyl substituted with an alkoxy group; and

Ar^2 is substituted phenyl or unsubstituted phenyl.

2. The compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of: 5-[(Z)-2-(4-tert-butylphenyl)vinyl]-1-(4-isopropoxyphenyl)-benzimidazole; and 2-[4-[(Z)-2-[1-(4-isopropoxyphenyl)benzimidazol-5-yl]vinyl]phenyl]-propan-2-ol.

3. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient and a compound according to any one of claims 1 or 2.

4. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 or 2, or a composition according to claim 3, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of a viral infection or disease associated therewith.

5. The use according to claim 4, wherein the mammal is a human.

6. The use according to claim 4, wherein the viral infection is an Arenavirus infection; optionally, wherein the Arenavirus is selected from the group consisting of Lassa, Junín, Machupo, Guanarito, Sabia, Whitewater Arroyo, Chapare, LCMV, LCMV-like viruses; optionally, wherein said LCMV-like viruses are selected from the group consisting of Dandenong, Tacaribe, and Pichinde.

7. The use according to any one of claims 4-6, wherein the use further comprises co-administration of at least one agent selected from the group consisting of antiviral agent, vaccine, and interferon.