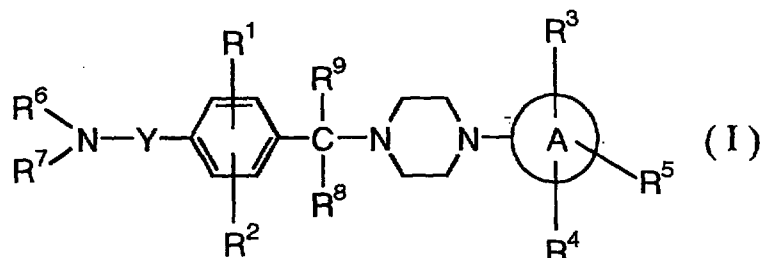


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a piperazine compound of the formula



- 5 wherein R¹ and R² are each hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, amino, substituted amino, nitro, hydroxy or cyano, R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are each hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, nitro, amino, substituted amino or hydroxy, R⁶ and R⁷ are each hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkyl substituted by halogen, aralkyl, acyl or lower acyl substituted by
10 halogen, R⁸ and R⁹ are each hydrogen or lower alkyl, Y is lower alkylene and the like, and ring A is phenyl, pyrimidyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazyl or imidazolyl, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and pharmaceutical agents containing these compounds. The compound of the present invention has superior TNF- α production inhibitory effect
15 and/or IL-10 production promoting effect, and, since it is free of or shows only strikingly reduced expression of an effect on the central nervous system, the compound is useful as a highly safe and superior TNF- α production inhibitor an/or IL-10 production promoter and is useful as an agent for the prophylaxis or treatment of various diseases caused
20 by abnormal TNF- α production, diseases curable with IL-10, such as chronic inflammatory diseases, acute inflammatory diseases, inflammatory diseases due to infection, autoimmune diseases, allergic diseases, and TNF- α mediated diseases.