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International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : C07K 14/81, A61K 38/55 — A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/45330

(43) International Publication Date: 15 October 1998 (15.10.98)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/SE98/00622

(22) International Filing Date: 3 April 1998 (03.04.98)

(30) Priority Data:
9701245-4 4 April 1997 (04.04.97) SE

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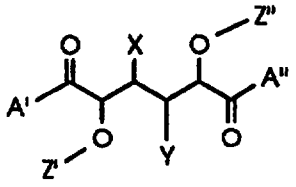
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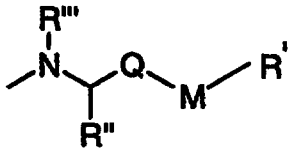
(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published
*With international search report.*

(54) Title: ANTIVIRAL PROTEASE INHIBITORS




(I)




(II)

(57) Abstract

Compounds of formula (I), wherein A' and A'' are independently the same or different group of formula (II) wherein: R' is H, $CH_3$, $C(CH_3)_2$, $-OR^a$, $-N(R^a)_2$, $-N(R^a)OR^a$ or –DP; R''' is H or $CH_3$; $R^a$ is H, $C_1$–$C_3$ alkyl; D is a bond, alkylene, –C(=O)–, –S(O)– or $-S(O)_2-$; P is an optionally substituted, mono or bicyclic carbo– or heterocycle; R'' is H, any of the sidechains found in the natural amino acids, carboxacetamide, or a group $(CH_2)_nDP$; M is a bond or –C(=O)N(R''')–; Q is absent, a bond, –CH(OH)– or $-CH_2-$; or R'' together with Q, M and R' define an optionally substituted 5 or 6 membered carbo– or heterocyclic ring which is optionally fused with a further 5 or 6 membered carbo– or heterocyclic ring; with the proviso that R' is $-OR^a$, $-N(R^a)_2$, $-N(R^a)OR^a$ or –DP, if M is a bond and Q is absent; X is H, OH, $OCH_3$; Y is H, OH, $OCH_3$, but X and Y are not both H; Z' and Z'' are independently $-(CH_2)_mP$ where P is as defined above; n and m are independently 0, 1 or 2; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs thereof have utility as aspartyl protease inhibitors of HIV. They can be prepared in a facile two step synthesis from novel 2,5–di–O–benzyl–L–mannaro–1,4:6,3–dilactone intermediates.