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(74) **Agents:** **HAGENAH, Jeffrey A.** et al.; Theravance, Inc., 901 Gateway Boulevard, South San Francisco, California 94080 (US).

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(71) **Applicant** (*for all designated States except US*):
THERAVANCE, INC. [US/US]; 901 Gateway
 Boulevard, South San Francisco, California 94080 (US).

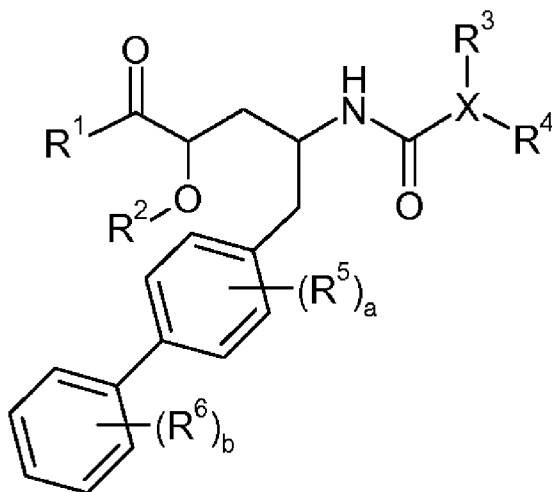
(72) Inventors; and

(75) **Inventors/Applicants (for US only): GENDRON, Roland** [CA/US]; 345 Franconia Street, San Francisco, California 94110 (US). **FLEURY, Melissa** [CA/US]; 1023 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, California 94115 (US). **HUGHES, Adam D.** [GB/US]; 1221 Judson Street, Belmont, California 94002 (US).

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(I)

(57) Abstract: In one aspect, the invention relates to compounds having the formula: where R^1 - R^6 , a, b, and X are as defined in the specification, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. These compounds have neprilysin inhibition activity. In another aspect, the invention relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising such compounds; methods of using such compounds; and processes and intermediates for preparing such compounds.