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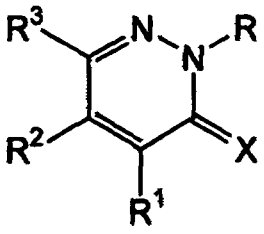
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(54) Title: PROSTAGLANDIN ENDOPEROXIDE H SYNTHASE BIOSYNTHESIS INHIBITORS

(57) Abstract

The present invention describes pyridazinone compounds of formula (I) which are cyclooxygenase (COX) inhibitors, and in particular, are selective inhibitors of cyclooxygenase–2 (COX–2). COX–2 is the inducible isoform associated with inflammation, as opposed to the constitutive isoform, cyclooxygenase–1 (COX–1) which is an important "housekeeping" enzyme in many tissues, including the gastrointestinal (GI) tract and the kidneys. The selectively of these compounds for COX–2 minimizes the unwanted GI and renal side–effects seen with currently marketed non–steroidal anti–inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).



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