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(54) Title: **HYDROXAMIC ACID DERIVATIVES**

(57) Abstract

Hydroxamic compounds belonging to the family of 3-imino-4-oxo-1,7-dioic acid (7-N-hydroxy) diamides characterised by the presence of an oxymethyl group on the 6-position are disclosed. Preferred compounds have formula (I), wherein R₁ is a substituent of formula (II): A-(O-CR₅H)_n-O-CH₂-. A-R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, m and n are as defined in the description. The present compounds are useful in pharmaceuticals, e.g. for the suppression of TNF release and the treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory diseases, e.g. multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis, and possess an improved bioavailability. Also disclosed are processes for the preparation of these compounds, as well as intermediates therefor and pharmaceutical compositions containing them.

