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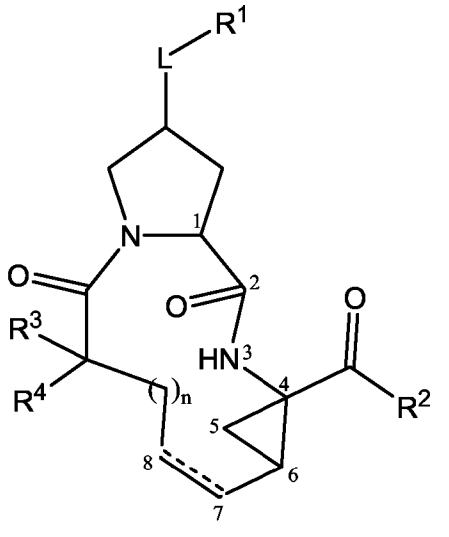
(54) Title: MACROCYLIC INHIBITORS OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS



(I)

(57) Abstract: Inhibitors of HCV of formula (I), and the *N*-oxides, salts, and stereochemically isomeric forms thereof, wherein R^1 is aryl or a saturated, a partially unsaturated or completely unsaturated 5 or 6 membered monocyclic or 8 to 12 membered bicyclic heterocyclic ring system containing one nitrogen, and optionally one to three oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen, wherein said ring system may be optionally substituted; L is a direct bond, -O-. -O-C_{1-4}alkanediyl-, -O-CO-, -O-C(=O)-NR^{5a}- or -O-C(=O)-NR^{5a}-C_{1-4}alkanediyl-; R^2 is hydrogen, $-OR^6$, $-C(O)OR^6$, $-C(=O)R^7$, $-C(=O)NR^{5a}R^{5b}$, $-C(=O)NHR^{5c}$, $-NR^{5a}R^{5b}$, $-NHR^{5c}$, $-NHSO_pNR^{5a}R^{5b}$, $-NR^{5a}SO_pR^8$, or $-B(OR^6)_2$; R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl; or R^3 and R^4 taken together may form a C_{3-7}cycloalkyl ring; n is 3, 4, 5, or 6; p is 1 or 2; aryl is phenyl, naphthyl, indanyl, or 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthyl, each of which may be optionally substituted Het is a 5 or 6 membered saturated, partially unsaturated or completely unsaturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, being optionally condensed with a benzene ring, and wherein the group Het as a whole may be optionally substituted ; pharmaceutical compositions containing compounds (I) and processes for preparing compounds (I). Bioavailable combinations of the inhibitors of HCV of formula (I) with ritonavir are also provided.

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