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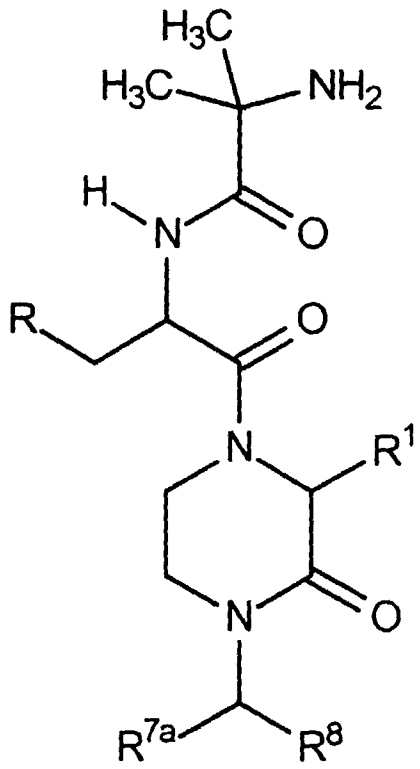
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(I)

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to compounds which comprise a nitrogen-containing ring scaffold substituted by an R^1 alkyl units selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12} linear or branched alkyl, C_3-C_8 cyclic alkyl, C_2-C_{12} linear or branched alkenyl, or haloalkyl, for example, the 2-keto-3-alkylpiperazines having the formula (I): wherein R is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, 3-fluorophenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 3,5-difluorophenyl, and 4-chlorophenyl; R^1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, *iso*-propyl, butyl, *iso*-butyl, *sec*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclopentyl, cyclopentylmethyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, benzyl, allyl, 1-methylallyl, 2-methylallyl, but-2-enyl, and propargyll; R^{7a} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $-CO_2H$, $-CONH_2$, $-CONHCH_3$, and $-CON(CH_3)_2$; R^8 is benzyl, substituted benzyl, or naphthalen-2-ylmethyl..

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