COMPOUNDS

The present invention relates to novel hydantoin derivatives, processes for their preparation, pharmaceutical compositions containing them and their use in therapy.

Metalloproteinases are a superfamily of proteinases (enzymes) whose numbers in recent years have increased dramatically. Based on structural and functional considerations these enzymes have been classified into families and subfamilies as described in N.M. Hooper (1994) FEBS Letters 354:1-6. Examples of metalloproteinases include the matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) such as the collagenases (MMP1, MMP8, MMP13), the gelatinases (MMP2, MMP9), the stromelysins (MMP3, MMP10, MMP11), matrilysin (MMP7), metalloelastase (MMP12), enamelysin (MMP19), the MT-MMPs (MMP14, MMP15, MMP16, MMP17); the reprolysin or adamalysin or MDC family which includes the secretases and sheddases such as TNF converting enzymes (ADAM10 and TACE); the astacin family which include enzymes such as procollagen processing proteinase (PCP); and other metalloproteinases such as aggrecanase, the endothelin converting enzyme family and the angiotensin converting enzyme family.

Metalloproteinases are believed to be important in a plethora of physiological disease processes that involve tissue remodelling such as embryonic development, bone formation and uterine remodelling during menstruation. This is based on the ability of the metalloproteinases to cleave a broad range of matrix substrates such as collagen, proteoglycan and fibronectin. Metalloproteinases are also believed to be important in the processing, or secretion, of biological important cell mediators, such as tumour necrosis factor (TNF); and the post translational proteolysis processing, or shedding, of biologically important membrane proteins, such as the low affinity IgE receptor CD23 (for a more complete list see N. M. Hooper *et al.*, (1997) Biochem. J. 321:265-279).

Metalloproteinases have been associated with many diseases or conditions. Inhibition of the activity of one or more metalloproteinases may well be of benefit in these diseases or conditions, for example: various inflammatory and allergic diseases such as, inflammation of the joint (especially rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and gout), inflammation of the

gastro-intestinal tract (especially inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis and gastritis), inflammation of the skin (especially psoriasis, eczema, dermatitis); in tumour metastasis or invasion; in disease associated with uncontrolled degradation of the extracellular matrix such as osteoarthritis; in bone resorptive disease (such as osteoporosis and Paget's disease); in diseases associated with aberrant angiogenesis; the enhanced collagen remodelling associated with diabetes, periodontal disease (such as gingivitis), corneal ulceration, ulceration of the skin, post-operative conditions (such as colonic anastomosis) and dermal wound healing; demyelinating diseases of the central and peripheral nervous systems (such as multiple sclerosis); Alzheimer's disease; extracellular matrix remodelling observed in cardiovascular diseases such as restenosis and atherosclerosis; asthma; rhinitis; and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD).

MMP12, also known as macrophage elastase or metalloelastase, was initially cloned in the mouse by Shapiro *et al* [1992, Journal of Biological Chemistry 267: 4664] and in man by the same group in 1995. MMP12 is preferentially expressed in activated macrophages, and has been shown to be secreted from alveolar macrophages from smokers [Shapiro *et al*, 1993, Journal of Biological Chemistry, 268: 23824] as well as in foam cells in atherosclerotic lesions [Matsumoto *et al*, 1998, Am. J. Pathol. 153: 109]. A mouse model of COPD is based on challenge of mice with cigarette smoke for six months, two cigarettes a day six days a week. Wild-type mice developed pulmonary emphysema after this treatment. When MMP12 knock-out mice were tested in this model they developed no significant emphysema, strongly indicating that MMP12 is a key enzyme in the COPD pathogenesis. The role of MMPs such as MMP12 in COPD (emphysema and bronchitis) is discussed in Anderson and Shinagawa, 1999, Current Opinion in Anti-inflammatory and Immunomodulatory Investigational Drugs 1(1): 29-38. It was recently discovered that smoking increases macrophage infiltration and macrophage-derived MMP-12 expression in human carotid artery plaques Kangavari [Matetzky S, Fishbein MC *et al.*, Circulation 102:(18), 36-39 Suppl. S, Oct 31, 2000].

MMP9 (Gelatinase B; 92kDa TypeIV Collagenase; 92kDa Gelatinase) is a secreted protein which was first purified, then cloned and sequenced, in 1989 [S.M. Wilhelm *et al* (1989) J. Biol. Chem. 264 (29): 17213-17221; published erratum in J. Biol. Chem. (1990) 265

(36): 22570]. A recent review of MMP9 provides an excellent source for detailed information and references on this protease: T.H. Vu & Z. Werb (1998) (In : Matrix Metalloproteinases, 1998, edited by W.C. Parks & R.P. Mecham, pp. 115 – 148, Academic Press. ISBN 0-12-545090-7). The following points are drawn from that review by T.H. Vu & Z. Werb (1998).

The expression of MMP9 is restricted normally to a few cell types, including trophoblasts, osteoclasts, neutrophils and macrophages. However, the expression can be induced in these same cells and in other cell types by several mediators, including exposure of the cells to growth factors or cytokines. These are the same mediators often implicated in initiating an inflammatory response. As with other secreted MMPs, MMP9 is released as an inactive Pro-enzyme which is subsequently cleaved to form the enzymatically active enzyme. The proteases required for this activation *in vivo* are not known. The balance of active MMP9 versus inactive enzyme is further regulated *in vivo* by interaction with TIMP-1 (Tissue Inhibitor of Metalloproteinases -1), a naturally-occurring protein. TIMP-1 binds to the C-terminal region of MMP9, leading to inhibition of the catalytic domain of MMP9. The balance of induced expression of ProMMP9, cleavage of Pro- to active MMP9 and the presence of TIMP-1 combine to determine the amount of catalytically active MMP9 which is present at a local site. Proteolytically active MMP9 attacks substrates which include gelatin, elastin, and native Type IV and Type V collagens; it has no activity against native Type I collagen, proteoglycans or laminins.

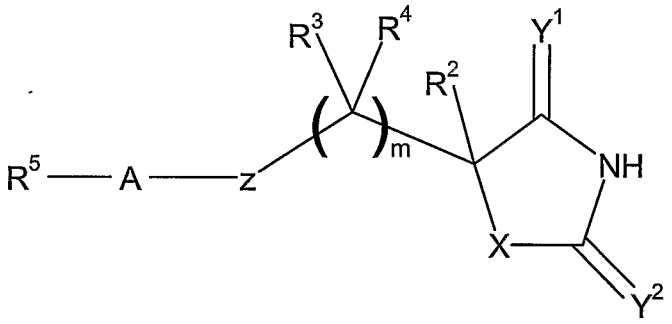
There has been a growing body of data implicating roles for MMP9 in various physiological and pathological processes. Physiological roles include the invasion of embryonic trophoblasts through the uterine epithelium in the early stages of embryonic implantation; some role in the growth and development of bones; and migration of inflammatory cells from the vasculature into tissues.

MMP9 release, measured using enzyme immunoassay, was significantly enhanced in fluids and in AM supernatants from untreated asthmatics compared with those from other populations [Am. J. Resp. Cell & Mol. Biol., Nov 1997, 17 (5):583-591]. Also, increased MMP9 expression has been observed in certain other pathological conditions, thereby

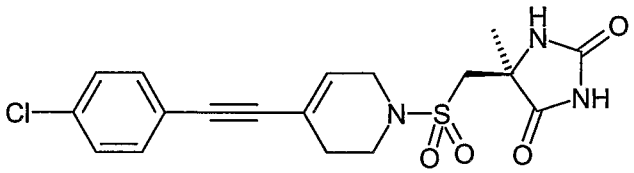
implicating MMP9 in disease processes such as COPD, arthritis, tumour metastasis, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, and plaque rupture in atherosclerosis leading to acute coronary conditions such as myocardial infarction.

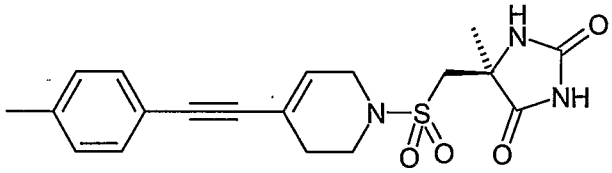
A number of metalloproteinase inhibitors are known (see for example the reviews of MMP inhibitors by Beckett R.P. and Whittaker M., 1998, Exp. Opin. Ther. Patents, 8(3):259-282, and by Whittaker M. *et al*, 1999, Chemical Reviews 99(9):2735-2776).

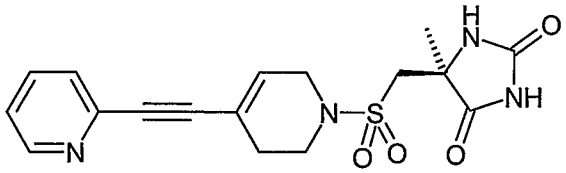
WO 02/074767 discloses hydantoin derivatives of formula



that are useful as MMP inhibitors, particularly as potent MMP12 inhibitors. The following three compounds are specifically disclosed in WO 02/074767

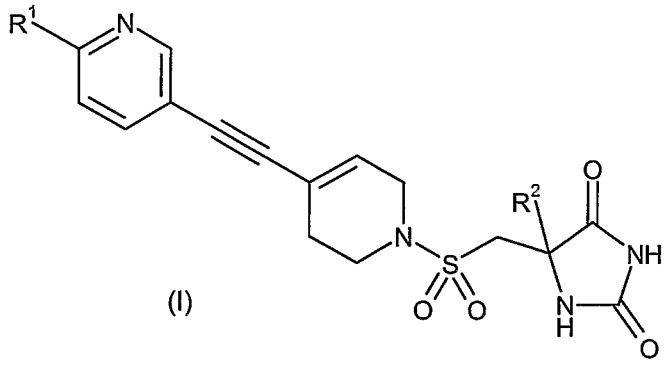






We have now discovered a group of compounds that are inhibitors of metalloproteinases and are of particular interest in inhibiting MMPs such as MMP12 and MMP9. The compounds of the present invention have beneficial potency, selectivity and/or pharmacokinetic properties. The compounds of the present invention are within the generic scope of WO 02/074767 but are of a type not specifically exemplified therein.

In accordance with the present invention, there is therefore provided a compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R^1 represents C1 to 2 alkyl, cyclopropyl, F, CN, OCH_3, SCH_3 or OCF_3; said alkyl or cyclopropyl group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluoro atoms; and

R^2 represents C1 to 3 alkyl

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

The compounds of formula (I) may exist in enantiomeric forms. It is to be understood that all enantiomers, diastereomers, racemates and mixtures thereof are included within the scope of the invention.

Compounds of formula (I) may also exist in various tautomeric forms. All possible tautomeric forms and mixtures thereof are included within the scope of the invention.

In one embodiment, R^1 represents C1 to 2 alkyl or cyclopropyl; said alkyl or cyclopropyl group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluoro atoms.

In another embodiment, R^1 represents C1 to 2 alkyl optionally further substituted by one or more fluoro atoms.

In one embodiment, R^1 represents trifluoromethyl.

In one embodiment, R^1 represents methyl.

In one embodiment, R^1 represents ethyl.

In one embodiment, R^2 represents methyl or ethyl. In one embodiment, R^2 represents methyl.

In one embodiment, R^1 represents C1 to 2 alkyl optionally further substituted by one or more fluoro atoms and R^2 represents methyl or ethyl.

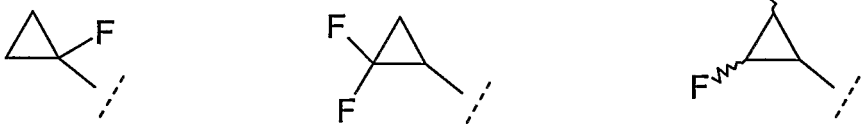
In one embodiment, R^1 represents C1 to 2 alkyl optionally further substituted by one or more fluoro atoms and R^2 represents methyl.

In one embodiment, R^1 represents CF_3 and R^2 represents methyl or ethyl.

Unless otherwise indicated, the term "C1 to 3 alkyl" referred to herein denotes a straight or branched chain alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms. Examples of such groups include methyl, ethyl, n-propyl and i-propyl. The term "C1 to 2 alkyl" denotes methyl or ethyl.

Examples of a C1 to 2 alkyl optionally further substituted by one or more fluoro atoms include CF_3, CH_2F, CH_2CF_3, CF_2CH_3 and CF_2CF_3.

Examples of a cyclopropyl ring optionally further substituted by one or more fluoro atoms include 1-fluoro-1-cyclopropyl, 2,2-difluoro-1-cyclopropyl and 2,3-difluoro-1-cyclopropyl:



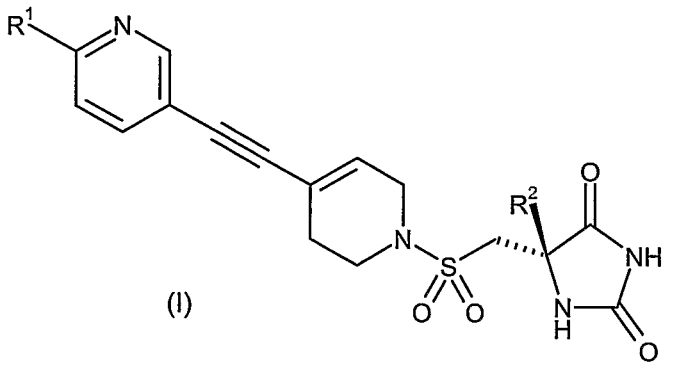
Examples of compounds of the invention include:
(5*S*)-5-({[4-[(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2*H*)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)-5-methylimidazolidine-2,4-dione;
(*5S*)-5-({[4-[(6-fluoropyridin-3-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(*2H*)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)-5-methylimidazolidine-2,4-dione;
5-{[1-({[(*4S*)-4-methyl-2,5-dioxoimidazolidin-4-yl]methyl}sulfonyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl]ethynyl}pyridine-2-carbonitrile;
(5*S*)-5-({[4-[(6-ethylpyridin-3-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2*H*)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)-5-methylimidazolidine-2,4-dione;
(5*S*)-5-methyl-5-({[4-{[6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-3-yl]ethynyl}-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2*H*)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)imidazolidine-2,4-dione;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Each exemplified compound represents a particular and independent aspect of the invention.

The compounds of formula (I) may exist in enantiomeric forms. Therefore, all enantiomers, diastereomers, racemates and mixtures thereof are included within the scope of the invention. The various optical isomers may be isolated by separation of a racemic mixture of the compounds using conventional techniques, for example, fractional crystallisation, or HPLC. Alternatively the optical isomers may be obtained by asymmetric synthesis, or by synthesis from optically active starting materials.

Where optically isomers exist in the compounds of the invention, we disclose all individual optically active forms and combinations of these as individual specific embodiments of the invention, as well as their corresponding racemates.

Preferably the compounds of formula (I) have (5S)-stereochemistry as shown below:



(I)

Where tautomers exist in the compounds of the invention, we disclose all individual tautomeric forms and combinations of these as individual specific embodiments of the invention.

The present invention includes compounds of formula (I) in the form of salts. Suitable salts include those formed with organic or inorganic acids or organic or inorganic bases. Such

salts will normally be pharmaceutically acceptable salts although non-pharmaceutically acceptable salts may be of utility in the preparation and purification of particular compounds. Such salts include acid addition salts such as hydrochloride, hydrobromide, citrate, tosylate and maleate salts and salts formed with phosphoric acid or sulphuric acid. In another aspect suitable salts are base salts such as an alkali metal salt, for example, sodium or potassium, an alkaline earth metal salt, for example, calcium or magnesium, or an organic amine salt, for example, triethylamine.

Salts of compounds of formula (I) may be formed by reacting the free base or another salt thereof with one or more equivalents of an appropriate acid or base.

The compounds of formula (I) are useful because they possess pharmacological activity in animals and are thus potentially useful as pharmaceuticals. In particular, the compounds of the invention are metalloproteinase inhibitors and may thus be used in the treatment of diseases or conditions mediated by MMP12 and/or MMP9 such as asthma, rhinitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD), arthritis (such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis), atherosclerosis and restenosis, cancer, invasion and metastasis, diseases involving tissue destruction, loosening of hip joint replacements, periodontal disease, fibrotic disease, infarction and heart disease, liver and renal fibrosis, endometriosis, diseases related to the weakening of the extracellular matrix, heart failure, aortic aneurysms, CNS related diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and Multiple Sclerosis (MS), and hematological disorders.

In general, the compounds of the present invention are potent inhibitors of MMP9 and MMP12. The compounds of the present invention also show good selectivity with respect to a relative lack of inhibition of various other MMPs such as MMP8, MMP14 and MMP19. In addition, the compounds of the present invention also, in general, have improved log D values, in particular, having log D values in the range of $0.5 < \log D < 2.0$. Log D is a parameter that reflects the lipophilicity of a compound at physiological pH. As a consequence of these favourable log D values, the compounds of the present invention

possess improved solubility characteristics and reduced plasma protein binding, leading to improved pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as hereinbefore defined for use in therapy.

In another aspect, the invention provides the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as hereinbefore defined in the manufacture of a medicament for use in therapy.

In another aspect, the invention provides the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as hereinbefore defined in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of diseases or conditions in which inhibition of MMP12 and/or MMP9 is beneficial.

In another aspect, the invention provides the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as hereinbefore defined in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of inflammatory disease.

In another aspect, the invention provides the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as hereinbefore defined in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of an obstructive airways disease such as asthma or COPD.

In the context of the present specification, the term "therapy" also includes "prophylaxis" unless there are specific indications to the contrary. The terms "therapeutic" and "therapeutically" should be construed accordingly.

Prophylaxis is expected to be particularly relevant to the treatment of persons who have suffered a previous episode of, or are otherwise considered to be at increased risk of, the

disease or condition in question. Persons at risk of developing a particular disease or condition generally include those having a family history of the disease or condition, or those who have been identified by genetic testing or screening to be particularly susceptible to developing the disease or condition.

The invention further provides a method of treating a disease or condition in which inhibition of MMP12 and/or MMP9 is beneficial which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as hereinbefore defined.

The invention also provides a method of treating an obstructive airways disease, for example, asthma or COPD, which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as hereinbefore defined.

For the above-mentioned therapeutic uses the dosage administered will, of course, vary with the compound employed, the mode of administration, the treatment desired and the disorder to be treated. The daily dosage of the compound of formula (I)/salt (active ingredient) may be in the range from 0.001 mg/kg to 75 mg/kg, in particular from 0.5 mg/kg to 30 mg/kg. This daily dose may be given in divided doses as necessary. Typically unit dosage forms will contain about 1 mg to 500 mg of a compound of this invention.

The compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof may be used on their own but will generally be administered in the form of a pharmaceutical composition in which the formula (I) compound/salt (active ingredient) is in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier. Depending on the mode of administration, the pharmaceutical composition will preferably comprise from 0.05 to 99 %w (per cent by weight), more preferably from 0.10 to 70 %w, of active ingredient, and, from 1 to 99.95 %w, more preferably from 30 to 99.90 %w, of a pharmaceutically

acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier, all percentages by weight being based on total composition. Conventional procedures for the selection and preparation of suitable pharmaceutical formulations are described in, for example, "Pharmaceuticals - The Science of Dosage Form Designs", M. E. Aulton, Churchill Livingstone, 1988.

Thus, the present invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as hereinbefore defined in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

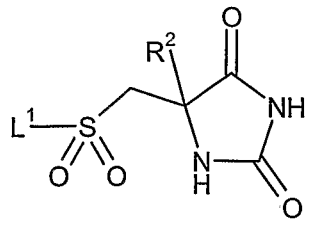
The invention further provides a process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition of the invention which comprises mixing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as hereinbefore defined with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

The pharmaceutical compositions of this invention may be administered in a standard manner for the disease or condition that it is desired to treat, for example by oral, topical, parenteral, buccal, nasal, vaginal or rectal administration or by inhalation. For these purposes the compounds of this invention may be formulated by means known in the art into the form of, for example, tablets, capsules, aqueous or oily solutions, suspensions, emulsions, creams, ointments, gels, nasal sprays, suppositories, finely divided powders or aerosols for inhalation, and for parenteral use (including intravenous, intramuscular or infusion) sterile aqueous or oily solutions or suspensions or sterile emulsions.

In addition to the compounds of the present invention the pharmaceutical composition of this invention may also contain, or be co-administered (simultaneously or sequentially) with, one or more pharmacological agents of value in treating one or more diseases or conditions referred to hereinabove such as “Symbicort” (trade mark) product.

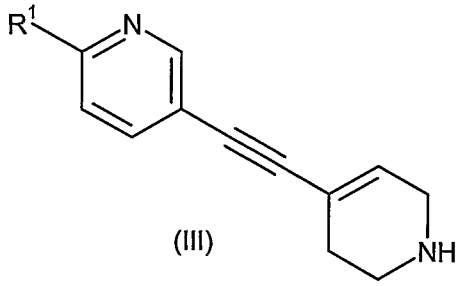
The present invention further provides a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as defined above which, comprises:

a) reaction of a compound of formula (II)



(II)

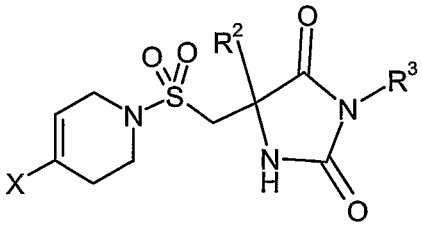
wherein R^2 is as defined in formula (I) and L^1 represents a leaving group, with a compound of formula (III) (or a salt thereof)



(III)

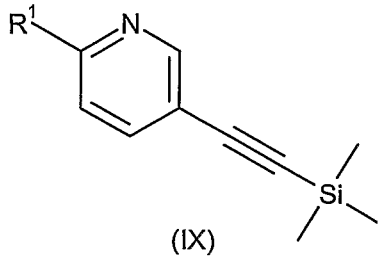
wherein R^1 is as defined in formula (I); or

b) reaction of a compound of formula (X)



(X)

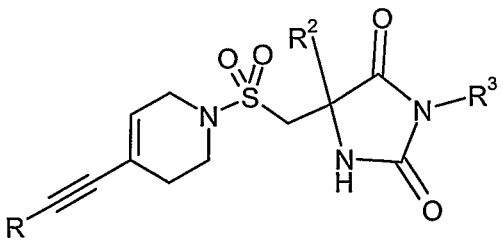
wherein R^2 is as defined in formula (I), R^3 is H or a suitable protecting group and X is a leaving group such as halide or triflate; with an acetylenic compound of formula (IX)



(IX)

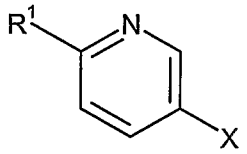
wherein R^1 is as defined in formula (I); or

c) reaction of a compound of formula (XI)



(XI)

wherein R represents H or trimethylsilyl, R^2 is as defined in formula (I) and R^3 represents H or a suitable protecting group; with an aryl halide or triflate of formula (VI)



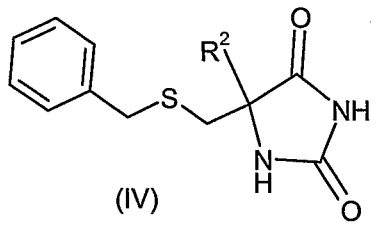
(VI)

wherein R^1 is as defined in formula (I) and X represents halide or triflate;

and optionally thereafter forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In the above process, suitable leaving groups L^1 include halo, particularly chloro. The reaction is preferably performed in a suitable solvent optionally in the presence of an added base for a suitable period of time, typically 0.5 to 24 h, at ambient to reflux temperature. Typically solvents such as pyridine, dimethylformamide, tetrahydrofuran, acetonitrile or dichloromethane are used. When used, the added base may be an organic base such as triethylamine, diisopropylethylamine, N-methylmorpholine or pyridine, or an inorganic base such as an alkali metal carbonate. The reaction is typically conducted at ambient temperature for 0.5 to 16 h, or until completion of the reaction has been achieved, as determined by chromatographic or spectroscopic methods. Reactions of sulfonyl halides with various primary and secondary amines are well known in the literature, and the variations of the conditions will be evident for those skilled in the art.

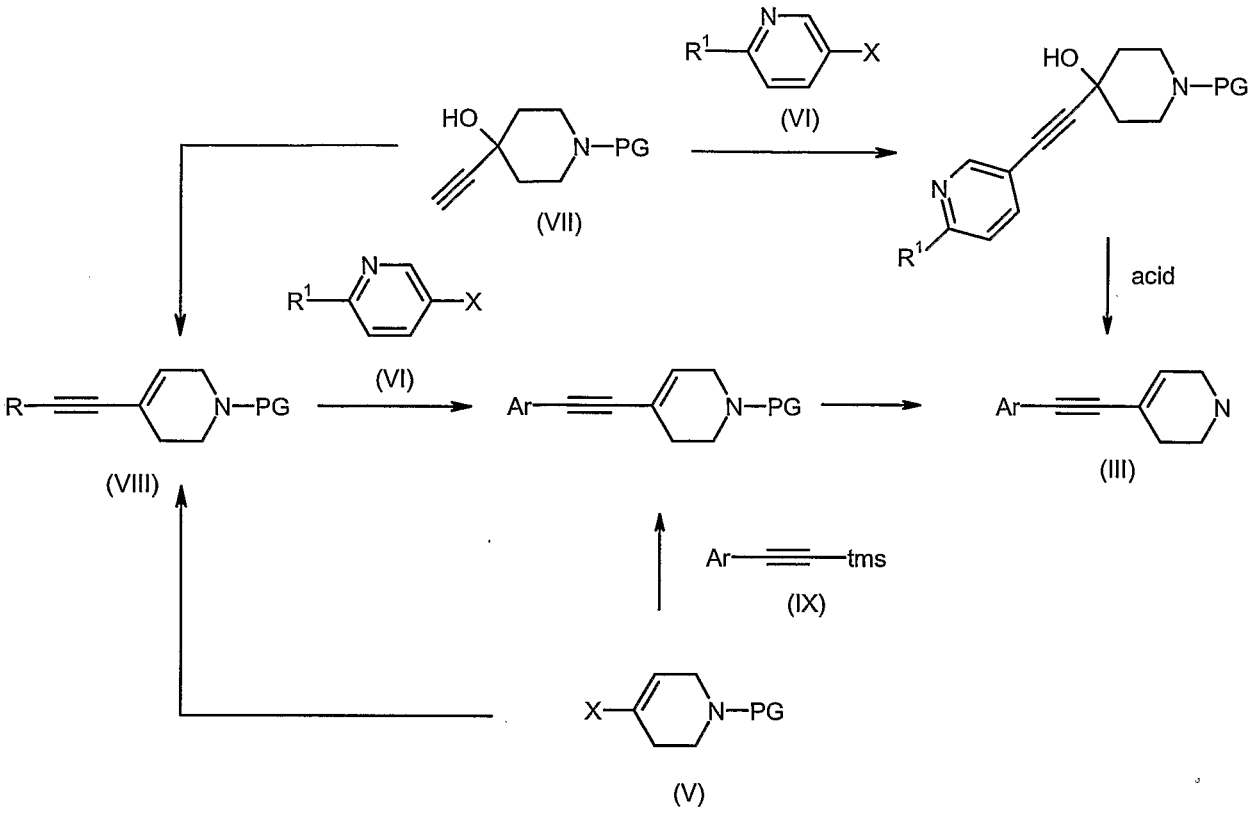
Sulfonylchlorides of formula (II) (wherein L^1 represents chlorine) are conveniently prepared by oxidative chlorination of compounds of formula (IV)



(IV)

using methods that will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art (Mosher, J., *J. Org. Chem.* **1958**. *23*, 1257; Griffith, O., *J. Biol. Chem.* **1983**. *258*, (3), 1591; WO 02/074767).

Compounds of formula (III) can be prepared by various methods described in the literature or variations thereon as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art of synthetic organic chemistry. Suitable methods include, but are not limited to, those described below and are shown in Scheme 1.



Scheme 1

In Scheme 1, PG represents a suitable protecting group such as t-Boc; X represents a leaving group such as a halide or a triflate; R represents hydrogen or trimethylsilyl; tms represents trimethylsilyl; Ar represents a 5-pyridinyl ring substituted at the 2-position by R^1; and R^1 is as defined in formula (I).

The reaction between the aryl- or vinyl derivative [(V) or (VI)] and an acetylene [(VII), (VIII) or (IX)] can be accomplished, optionally in a suitable solvent, using a catalyst such as a suitable palladium salt, for example, $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$, with/or without an added copper salt and with an amine base such as piperidine, triethylamine, diisopropylamine or diisopropylethylamine. When used, the added solvent may be, for example, tetrahydrofuran, acetonitrile or N,N-dimethylformamide. The reaction is conducted at

ambient to reflux temperature for 20 minutes to several hours until chromatographic or spectroscopic methods indicate completion of the reaction. Palladium catalysed reactions involving acetylenic compounds are well known in the literature, and variations of the conditions will be evident for those skilled in the art. General methodology of this type is described in, for example, Brandsma, L., *Synthesis of Acetylenes, Allenes and Cumulenes: Methods and Techniques,* 2004, Elsiever Academic Press,. Chapter 16, pages 293-317; *Transition Metals-Catalysed Couplings of Acetylenes with sp^2-halides,* Sonogashira, K. *J. Organomet. Chem.*, **2002**, *653*, 46-49; Tykwinski, R. R., *Angew. Chem. Int.Ed.*, **2003**, *42*, 1566-1568.

The vinyl triflate (V) wherein X is O-triflate and PG is t-Boc can be prepared as described in the literature (Wustrow, D. J., *Synthesis*, **1991**, 993-995).

The acetylenic compound (VIII) can be prepared from the triflate (V) via a palladium catalysed coupling reaction with trimethylsilylacetylene followed by, if necessary, deprotection of the trimethylsilyl group using, for example, potassium fluoride in a suitable solvent. Alternatively, preparation of compound (VIII) wherein R is H and PG is t-Boc can be accomplished by dehydrating a compound of formula (VII), for example, by mesylation followed by treatment with a suitable base, for example, diisopropylethylamine.

Acetylenic heteroaryl compounds of formula (IX) can be prepared by various methods described in the literature.

In process (b), the reactions are carried out using methods similar to those described above for the preparation of compounds of formula (VIII). If necessary, one nitrogen in the hydantoin ring of compounds of formula (X) can be protected using SEMCl (R^3 = SEM) before the palladium catalysed reaction is performed. Compounds of formula (X) can be prepared by acid catalysed deprotection of compounds of formula (V) (PG = t-Boc), followed by reaction with a compound of formula (II), in the same way as described above for the preparation of compounds of formula (I).

In process (c), the reactions are carried out in a similar manner to those described above for the preparation of compounds of formula (VIII). If necessary, one nitrogen of the hydantoin ring of compounds of formula (XI) can be protected using SEMCl (R^3 = SEM) before the palladium catalysed reaction is performed. Compound (XI) is conveniently prepared from compound (VIII) wherein R is trimethylsilyl and PG is t-Boc by acid catalysed removal of the t-Boc group (for example, using acetyl chloride in methanol), followed by reaction with a compound of formula (II), as described above for the reaction between compounds of formulae (II) and (III).

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that in the processes of the present invention certain potentially reactive functional groups such as hydroxyl or amino groups in the starting reagents or intermediate compounds may need to be protected by suitable protecting groups. Thus, the preparation of the compounds of the invention may involve, at various stages, the addition and removal of one or more protecting groups.

Suitable protecting groups and details of processes for adding and removing such groups are described in 'Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry', edited by J.W.F. McOmie, Plenum Press (1973) and 'Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis', 3rd edition, T.W. Greene and P.G.M. Wuts, Wiley-Interscience (1999).

The compounds of the invention and intermediates thereto may be isolated from their reaction mixtures and, if necessary further purified, by using standard techniques.

The present invention will now be further explained by reference to the following illustrative examples.

General Methods

^{1}H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian *Inova* 400 MHz or a Varian *Mercury*-VX 300 MHz instrument. The central peaks of chloroform-*d* (δ_H 7.27 ppm), dimethylsulfoxide-d_6 (δ_H 2.50 ppm), acetonitrile-d_3 (δ_H 1.95 ppm) or methanol-d_4 (δ_H 3.31

ppm) were used as internal references. Column chromatography was carried out using silica gel (0.040-0.063 mm, Merck). A Kromasil KR-100-5-C_{18} column (250 × 20 mm, Akzo Nobel) and mixtures of acetonitrile/water with 0.1 % TFA at a flow rate of 10 mL/min were used for preparative HPLC. Unless stated otherwise, starting materials were commercially available. All solvents and commercial reagents were of laboratory grade and were used as received.

The following method was used for LC/MS analysis:
Instrument Agilent 1100; Column Waters Symmetry 2.1 × 30 mm; Mass APCI; Flow rate 0.7 mL/min; Wavelength 254 or 220 nm; Solvent A: water + 0.1% TFA; Solvent B: acetonitrile + 0.1% TFA ; Gradient 15-95%/B 2.7 min, 95% B 0.3 min.

The following method was used for LC analysis:
Method A. Instrument Agilent 1100; Column: Kromasil C18 100 × 3 mm, 5µ particle size, Solvent A: 0.1%TFA/water, Solvent B: 0.08%TFA/acetonitrile Flow rate 1 mL/min, Gradient 10-100%/B 20 min, 100% B 1 min. Absorption was measured at 220, 254 and 280 nm.
Method B. Instrument Agilent 1100; Column: XTerra C 8, 100 × 3 mm, 5µ particle size, Solvent A: 15mM NH_3/water, Solvent B: acetonitrile Flow rate 1 mL/min, Gradient 10-100%/B 20 min, 100% B 1 min. Absorption was measured at 220, 254 and 280 nm.

Abbreviations:

Ac	acetyl
DMF	*N*,*N*-dimethylformamide
DMSO	dimethyl sulfoxide
eq.	equivalent
Et	ethyl
LDA	lithium diisopropyl amide
Me	methyl
MS	mass spectroscopy
tert	tertiary
THF	tetrahydrofuran

TFA trifluoroacetic acid

Example 1

(5*S*)-5-({[4-[(6-Methoxypyridin-3-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2*H*)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)-5-methylimidazolidine-2,4-dione trifluoroacetate

tert-Butyl 4-[(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihydropyridine-1(2*H*)-carboxylate (85 mg, 0.27 mmol) was dissolved in THF (4 mL) and HCl (4 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. The resulting 2-methoxy-5-(1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-ylethynyl)pyridine hydrochloride was dissolved in EtOH/toluene and concentrated (three times) and then dried under vacuum. The product was dissolved in THF (3 mL) and DMSO (1 mL) and diisopropylethylamine (106 µL, 0.62 mmol) was added under argon. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C and a solution of [(4*S*)-4-methyl-2,5-dioxoimidazolidin-4-yl]methanesulfonyl chloride (73 mg, 0.32 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3.5 hours, concentrated and purified on preparative HPLC to give the product as a solid (4 mg).

^{1}H-NMR (CD_3CN): δ 8.48 (1H, s); 8.26 (1H, m); 7.68 (1H, dd); 6.77 (1H, d); 6.29 (1H, s); 6.14 (1H, m); 3.91 (3H, s); 3.86 (2H, m); 3.41 (2H, q); 3.39 (2H, m); 2.41 (2H, m); 1.47 (3H, s).

APCI-MS m/z: 405 [MH^+ - CF3COOH].

a) *tert*-Butyl 4-[(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihydropyridine-1(2*H*)-carboxylate

To a solution of *tert*-butyl 4-hydroxy-4-[(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)ethynyl]piperidine-1-carboxylate (285 mg, 0.86 mmol) in dichloromethane (2.5 mL) and pyridine (2.5 mL) at 0 °C was added phosphorous tribromide (85 µL, 0.90 mmol). After 2.5 hours, more phosphorous tribromide (30 µL) was added and the reaction was stirred for another 2 hours. The mixture was poured into water and the pH was neutralised to 7 with citric acid (10 %). The aqueous layer was extracted four times with dichloromethane and the combined organic layers were washed with water, dried and concentrated to a yellow oil (185 mg). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography using a gradient of 0 to 100% EtOAc in heptane which gave the subtitle compound as an oil (85 mg).

^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 8.25 (1H, m); 7.60 (1H, m); 6.71 (1H, d); 6.11 (1H, m); 4.03 (2H, m); 3.95 (3H, s); 3.55 (2H, m); 2.34 (2H, m); 1.51 (3H, s); 1.49 (9H, s).
APCI-MS m/z: 315 [MH^+].

b) *tert*-Butyl 4-hydroxy-4-[(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)ethynyl]piperidine-1-carboxylate
The subtitle compound was prepared following a method by Yamanaka, et al, *Synth. Commun.*, **1983**, 312-314. To a solution of 5-bromo-2-methoxypyridine (188 mg, 0.99 mmol) and *tert*-butyl 4-ethynyl-4-hydroxypiperidine-1-carboxylate (250 mg, 1.11 mmol) in Et_3N (1.5 mL) was added CuI (5 mol %) and $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (3 mol %) and the mixture was heated at 80 °C for 4 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography using a gradient of 10 to 100% EtOAc in heptane which gave the subtitle compound as a solid (285 mg).
^{1}H-NMR (DMSO-d_6): δ 8.26 (1H, m); 7.75 (1H, dd); 6.83 (1H, d); 5.75 (1H, s); 3.86 (3H, s); 3.59 (2H, m); 3.24 (2H, m); 1.81 (2H, m); 1.61 (2H, m); 1.40 (9H, s).
APCI-MS m/z: 277 [MH^+-56].

c) *tert*-Butyl 4-ethynyl-4-hydroxypiperidine-1-carboxylate
Prepared from *tert*-butyl 4-oxopiperidine-1-carboxylate as in WO 00/35908.
^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 3.77 (dd, 2H), 3.26 (ddd, 2H), 2.52 (s, 1H), 2.03 (s, 1H), 1.89 (tdd, 2H), 1.70 (ddd, 2H), 1.44 (d, 9H).
GCMS-MS m/z: 225 [M^+].

d) [(4*S*)-4-Methyl-2,5-dioxoimidazolidin-4-yl]methanesulfonyl chloride
Prepared according to methods described in the following publications: Mosher, J., *J. Org. Chem.*, **1958**, *23*, 1257; Griffith, O., *J. Biol. Chem.*, **1983**, *258*, (3), 1591 and WO 02/074767.

Example 2

(*5S*)-5-({[4-[(6-Fluoropyridin-3-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(*2H*)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)-5-methylimidazolidine-2,4-dione trifluoroacetate

The title compound was obtained from 5-bromo-2-fluoropyridine by the same method as described for Example 1.

^{1}H-NMR (DMSO-d_6): δ 10.77 (1H, bs); 8.38 (1H, d); 8.06 (2H, m); 7.27 (1H, m); 6.29 (1H, m); 3.81 (3H, s); 3.75 (2H, m); 3.48 (2H, m); 3.30 (2H, m); 2.33 (2H, m); 1.34 (3H, s).

APCI-MS m/z: 393 [MH^+ - CF3COOH].

Example 3

5-{[1-({[(*4S*)-4-Methyl-2,5-dioxoimidazolidin-4-yl]methyl}sulfonyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl]ethynyl}pyridine-2-carbonitrile trifluoroacetate

The title compound was obtained from 5-bromopyridine-2-carbonitrile by the same method as described for Example 1.

^{1}H-NMR (CD_3CN): δ 8.71 (1H, s); 8.48 (1H, bs); 7.94 (1H, dd); 7.80 (1H, d); 6.29 (2H, m); 3.89 (2H, q); 3.41 (2H, q); 3.39 (2H, t); 2.44 (2H, m); 1.46 (3H, s).

APCI-MS m/z: 400 [MH^+ - CF3COOH].

Example 4

(5*S*)-5-({[4-[(6-Ethylpyridin-3-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2*H*)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)-5-methylimidazolidine-2,4-dione

The title compound was prepared by a method described by Nishihara, et al., *J. Org. Chem.*, **2000**, *65*, 1780-1787. To a solution of 2-ethyl-5-[(trimethylsilyl)ethynyl]pyridine (0.22 g, 1.1 mmol) and 1-({[(4*S*)-4-methyl-2,5-dioxoimidazolidin-4-yl]methyl}sulfonyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.42 g, 1 mmol) was added CuCl (10 mol %) and $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (5 mol %) and the mixture was heated at 85 °C for 6 hours. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc (20 mL) and water (10 mL), and the aqueous layer was extracted three times with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, water and concentrated to a brown oil. Purification on preparative HPLC gave the title compound as a solid (20 mg).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6): δ 10.75 (1H, s); 8.56 (1H, d, J = 1.8 Hz); 8.02 (1H, s); 7.80 (1H, m); 7.32 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz); 6.24 (1H, s); 3.81 (2H, d, J = 3.2 Hz); 3.45 (2H, q, J = 26.9 Hz); 3.34 - 3.21 (2H, m); 2.75 (2H, q, J = 20.8 Hz); 2.34 (2H, m); 1.29 (3H, s); 1.19 (3H, t, J = 7.6 Hz).

APCI-MS m/z: 403 [MH^+].

a) 2-Ethyl-5-[(trimethylsilyl)ethynyl]pyridine

5-Bromo-2-ethyl-pyridine (0.707 g, 3.8 mmol) (prepared according to *J. Org. Chem.*, **1988**, *53(2)*, 386-390), ethynyl(trimethyl)silane (1.6 mL, 11.4 mmol), CuI (0.072 g, 0.38 mmol) and $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (0.267 g, 0.38 mmol) in Et_3N (5 mL) were stirred at 80 °C for 4 h. After cooling the solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue chromatographed to give 0.25 g (32 %) of the subtitle compound.

APCI-MS m/z: 204 [MH^+].

b) 1-({[(4*S*)-4-Methyl-2,5-dioxoimidazolidin-4-yl]methyl}sulfonyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate

1,2,3,6-Tetrahydropyridin-4-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate hydrochloride was reacted with [(4*S*)-4-methyl-2,5-dioxoimidazolidin-4-yl]methanesulfonyl chloride (Example 1d) in the same way as for the preparation of Example 1.

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6): δ 10.77 (1H, s), 8.04 (1H, d), 6.10 (1H, t), 3.88 (2H, q), 3.36-3.58 (4H, m), 2.50-2.56 (2H, m), 1.32 (3H, s).

APCI-MS m/z: 422 [MH^+].

c) 4-{[(Trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]oxy}-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridinium chloride

tert-Butyl 4-{[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]oxy}-3,6-dihydropyridine-1(2*H*)-carboxylate (3.77 g, 11.4 mmol) was dissolved in THF (15 mL) and concentrated hydrochloric acid (15 mL) was added. After 1 hour, the solvent was evaporated and the product dried by azeotropic evaporation with toluene and methanol to give a beige solid (88 %) that was used without further purification.

^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 9.72 (2H, s), 6.22 (1H, s), 3.75 (2H, q), 3.30 (2H, t), 2.65 (2H, td).

APCI-MS m/z: 232 [MH^+].

d) *tert*-Butyl 4-{[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]oxy}-3,6-dihydropyridine-1(2*H*)-carboxylate

A solution of *N*-boc-piperidin-4-one (10.14 g, 50 mmol) in THF (80 mL) was added dropwise to a cooled solution (-78 °C) of 2M LDA in THF (30 mL, 60 mmol, 1.2 eq.) and THF (80 mL) over approximately 30 minutes. After stirring a further 10 minutes, a solution of 1,1,1-trifluoro-*N*-phenyl-*N*-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]methanesulfonamide (20 g, 56 mmol, 1.1 eq.) in THF (80 mL) was added and the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. The solution was washed with water, the aqueous layer washed with EtOAc (× 2), and the organic phases combined and washed with saturated ammonium chloride solution, brine, dried (sodium sulphate) and evaporated. The residue was filtered through neutral alumina (200 g) eluting with n-heptane followed by n-heptane/EtOAc 9:1. After evaporation, the ^{1}H-NMR spectrum showed some triflating agent still present but the product was used without further purification. Yield 13.17 g (79.5 %). (Wustrow, D: J., *Synthesis*, **1991**, 993-995).

^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 5.77 (1H, s), 4.05 (2H, q), 3.64 (2H, t), 2.45 (2H, quintet), 1.48 (9H, s).

GCMS-MS m/z: 274 [M-57].

Example 5

(5*S*)-5-Methyl-5-({[4-{[6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-3-yl]ethynyl}-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2*H*)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)imidazolidine-2,4-dione

The title compound was synthesized in the same way as Example 4 but starting from 2-trifluoromethyl-5-(trimethylsilanylethynyl)pyridine and 1-({[(4*S*)-4-methyl-2,5-dioxoimidazolidin-4-yl]methyl}sulfonyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (Example 4b).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6): δ 10.75 (1H, s); 8.81 (1H, s); 8.14 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz); 8.02 (1H, s); 7.80 (1H, m); 7.19 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz); 7.32 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz); 6.24 (1H, s); 3.81 (2H, d, J = 3.2 Hz); 3.34 - 3.21 (2H, m); 3.30 (3H, s); 2.75 (2H, q, J = 20.8 Hz); 2.34 (2H, m); 1.19 (3H, t, J = 7.6 Hz).

APCI-MS m/z: 443 [MH^+].

a) 2-Trifluoromethyl-5-(trimethylsilanylethynyl)pyridine

The title compound was prepared from 5-iodo-2-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine in 98 % yield in the same way as Example 4a.

APCI-MS m/z: 244 [MH^+].

b) 5-Iodo-2-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine

A solution of 6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-3-amine (1.9 g, 12 mmol) in tetrafluoroboronic acid (50%, 23 mL) was cooled in an ice bath. To the resulting slurry, $NaNO_2$ (1.0 g, 16 mmol) was added in small portions under stirring. After 15 minutes, a solution of KI (2.4 g, 14 mmol) in water (25 mL) was added in small portions. The mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and then stirred for a further 40 minutes. The solution was decolourized with $Na_2S_2O_3$ (10 % aq.) and carefully neutralized with saturated aqueous $NaHCO_3$. The aqueous solution was extracted with EtOAc/diethyl ether (2 × 50 mL). The organic layers were dried and purified on column chromatography with EtOAc/heptane (1:2) to give the title compound (1.2 g).

APCI-MS m/z: 274 [MH^+].

Pharmacological Example

Isolated Enzyme Assays

MMP12

Recombinant human MMP12 catalytic domain may be expressed and purified as described by Parkar A.A. *et al*, (2000), Protein Expression and Purification, 20, 152. The purified enzyme can be used to monitor inhibitors of activity as follows: MMP12 (50 ng/ml final concentration) is incubated for 60 minutes at room temperature with the synthetic substrate Mca-Pro-Cha-Gly-Nva-His-Ala-Dpa-NH_2 (10 μM) in assay buffer (0.1M "Tris-HCl" (trade mark) buffer, pH 7.3 containing 0.1M NaCl, 20mM $CaCl_2$, 0.020 mM ZnCl and 0.05% (w/v) "Brij 35" (trade mark) detergent) in the presence (10 concentrations) or

absence of inhibitors. Activity is determined by measuring the fluorescence at λex 320 nm and λem 405 nm. Percent inhibition is calculated as follows:

% Inhibition is equal to the [$Fluorescence_{plus\ inhibitor}$ - $Fluorescence_{background}$] divided by the [$Fluorescence_{minus\ inhibitor}$ - $Fluorescence_{background}$].

MMP8

Purified pro-MMP8 is purchased from Calbiochem. The enzyme (at 10 μg/ml) is activated by p-amino-phenyl-mercuric acetate (APMA) at 1 mM for 2.5 h, 35 °C. The activated enzyme can be used to monitor inhibitors of activity as follows: MMP8 (200 ng/ml final concentration) is incubated for 90 minutes at 35 °C (80% H_2O) with the synthetic substrate Mca-Pro-Cha-Gly-Nva-His-Ala-Dpa-NH_2 (12.5 μM) in assay buffer (0.1M "Tris-HCl" (trade mark) buffer, pH 7.5 containing 0.1M NaCl, 30mM $CaCl_2$, 0.040 mM ZnCl and 0.05% (w/v) "Brij 35" (trade mark) detergent) in the presence (10 concentrations) or absence of inhibitors. Activity is determined by measuring the fluorescence at λex 320 nm and λem 405 nm. Percent inhibition is calculated as follows:

% Inhibition is equal to the [$Fluorescence_{plus\ inhibitor}$ - $Fluorescence_{background}$] divided by the [$Fluorescence_{minus\ inhibitor}$ - $Fluorescence_{background}$].

MMP9

Recombinant human MMP9 catalytic domain was expressed and then purified by Zn chelate column chromatography followed by hydroxamate affinity column chromatography. The enzyme can be used to monitor inhibitors of activity as follows: MMP9 (5 ng/ml final concentration) is incubated for 30 minutes at RT with the synthetic substrate Mca-Pro-Cha-Gly-Nva-His-Ala-Dpa-NH_2 (5 μM) in assay buffer (0.1M "Tris-HCl" (trade mark) buffer, pH 7.3 containing 0.1M NaCl, 20mM $CaCl_2$, 0.020 mM ZnCl and 0.05% (w/v) "Brij 35" (trade mark) detergent) in the presence (10 concentrations) or absence of inhibitors. Activity is determined by measuring the fluorescence at λex 320 nm and λem 405 nm. Percent inhibition is calculated as follows:

% Inhibition is equal to the [Fluorescence$_{plus\ inhibitor}$ - Fluorescence$_{background}$] divided by the [Fluorescence$_{minus\ inhibitor}$ - Fluorescence$_{background}$].

MMP14

Recombinant human MMP14 catalytic domain may be expressed and purified as described by Parkar A.A. *et al*, (2000), Protein Expression and Purification, 20, 152. The purified enzyme can be used to monitor inhibitors of activity as follows: MMP14 (10 ng/ml final concentration) is incubated for 60 minutes at room temperature with the synthetic substrate Mca-Pro-Cha-Gly-Nva-His-Ala-Dpa-NH_2 (10 μM) in assay buffer (0.1M "Tris-HCl" (trade mark) buffer, pH 7.5 containing 0.1M NaCl, 20mM $CaCl_2$, 0.020 mM ZnCl and 0.05% (w/v) "Brij 35" (trade mark) detergent) in the presence (5 concentrations) or absence of inhibitors. Activity is determined by measuring the fluorescence at λex 320 nm and λem 405 nm. Percent inhibition is calculated as follows: % Inhibition is equal to the [Fluorescence$_{plus\ inhibitor}$ - Fluorescence$_{background}$] divided by the [Fluorescence$_{minus\ inhibitor}$ - Fluorescence$_{background}$].

A protocol for testing against other matrix metalloproteinases, including MMP9, using expressed and purified pro MMP is described, for instance, by C. Graham Knight *et al.*, (1992) FEBS Lett., 296(3), 263-266.

MMP19

Recombinant human MMP19 catalytic domain may be expressed and purified as described by Parkar A.A. *et al*, (2000), Protein Expression and Purification, 20:152. The purified enzyme can be used to monitor inhibitors of activity as follows: MMP19 (40 ng/ml final concentration) is incubated for 120 minutes at 35 °C with the synthetic substrate Mca-Pro-Leu-Ala-Nva-Dpa-Ala-Arg-NH_2 (5 μM) in assay buffer (0.1M "Tris-HCl" (trade mark) buffer, pH 7.3 containing 0.1M NaCl, 20mM $CaCl_2$, 0.020 mM ZnCl and 0.05% (w/v) "Brij 35" (trade mark) detergent) in the presence (5 concentrations) or absence of inhibitors. Activity is determined by measuring the fluorescence at λex 320 nm and λem 405 nm. Percent inhibition is calculated as follows: % Inhibition is equal to the

[Fluorescence$_{plus\ inhibitor}$ - Fluorescence$_{background}$] divided by the [Fluorescence$_{minus\ inhibitor}$ - Fluorescence$_{background}$].

Protein Binding

Plasma protein binding was determined by ultrafiltration in an automated 96 well format assay. On each test occasion the plasma protein binding of a reference compound (budesonide) was monitored in parallel.

Test compounds (10 mM dissolved in DMSO) were added to plasma to a final concentration of 10 µM and equilibrated at room temperature for 10 minutes. 350 µL of the plasma was transferred to an ultrafiltration plate, Microcon-96 (10kDa cutoff, Millipore). The ultrafiltration plate was centrifuged at 3000G for 70 minutes at room temperature. After centrifugation, the concentration of the compounds in the obtained plasma water (the unbound fraction) was determined by LC-MS/MS using a 3-point calibration curve and compared to the concentration in the original spiked plasma.

The analyses were performed using a gradient chromatographic system with acetic acid/acetonitrile as mobile phases. The detection was done using a triple quadropole mass spectrometer, API3000 or API4000, from Applied Biosystems, with an electrospray interface.

Protocol for Determination of Solubility

The solubility of test compounds in 0.1M phosphate buffer, pH 7.4, was determined as follows:

The test compound (1 mg) was weighed into a 2 mL glass vial with a screw cap and 0.1M phosphate buffer pH 7.4. (1.00 mL) was added. The sample vial was then sonicated for about 10 minutes and then placed on a shake board overnight at 20 °C. The contents of

the sample vial were then filtered through a Millipore Millex-LH 0.45 μm filter into a new 2 mL glass vial to give a clear solution. The clear solution (40 μL) was transferred to a new 2 mL glass vial and diluted with 0.1M phosphate buffer, pH 7.4 (960 μL).

A standard calibration curve for each particular test compound was established using solutions of known concentration. These solutions of known concentration were normally chosen to have concentrations of ~10 μg/mL and ~50 μg/mL. They were prepared by dissolving a known weight of the compound in 99.5 % ethanol (500 μL) and then sonicating for one minute if necessary. If the compound was still not completely dissolved, DMSO (500 μL) was added and the mixture sonicated for an additional one minute. The resulting solution was then diluted to the appropriate volume with a mixture of acetonitrile/100 mM ammonium acetate pH 5.5 20-50/80-50. If necessary, a further, more dilute, standard solution was prepared by dilution.

Test compound solutions and standard solutions were then analysed by HPLC with UV-detection using the following parameters and the solubility of the test compound in 0.1M phosphate buffer was thereby determined:

HPLC-equipment:	HP1100/HP1050
Column:	HyPURITY Advanced, 5 μm, 125 x 3mm
Column temperature:	RT
Flow rate:	1 mL/min
Mobile phase:	A = acetonitrile
	B = 100 mM ammonium acetate pH 5.5
Isocratic ratio:	A/B 20-50/80-50
UV detector:	254 nm (220-280 nm)
Injection volume:	20 μL
Chromatographic data handling system:	ATLAS/Xchrome

Protocol for Determination of Log D

Log D values at pH 7.4 were determined using a shake flask method. An appropriate small amount of the test compound was placed in a 2 mL glass vial with a screw cap at room temperature and 600 µL of 1-octanol (saturated with 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.4) was added. The vial was then sonicated for one minute so as to dissolve the compound completely. Then 600 µL of 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.4 (saturated with 1-octanol) was added and the vial was shaken for 4 minutes to mix the two phases. The two phases were then separated by centrifugation of the sample at 1000g for 10 minutes at room temperature. Finally, the separated aqueous and organic phases were analysed in duplicate by HPLC using the following conditions:

Injector:	Spark Holland, Endurance		
Pump:	HP1050		
Detector:	Kratos, Spectroflow 783		
Column:	YMC Pro C18, 5 µm, 50x4mm, Part no. AS12S050504QT		
Column temperature:	RT		
Flow rate:	1 mL/min		
Mobile phase:	A = acetonitrile		
	B = 25 mM formic acid		
	C = 100 mM ammonium acetate pH 5.5		
	D = 0.05 % ammonium acetate		
Gradient:	0.00 min	A/B or A/C or A/D	5/95
	5.00 min	A/B or A/C or A/D	100/0
	7.00 min	A/B or A/C or A/D	100/0
	7.02 min	A/B or A/C or A/D	5/95
UV detector:	254 nm		
Injection volume:	50 µL of undiluted aqueous phase and 5 µL of 10 times diluted (with methanol) organic phase		
Injection cycle time:	11 min		
Centrifuge:	Hettich, Universal 30RF		

Vortex: Scientific Industries, Vortex-2 genie

Chromatographic data handling system: ATLAS/Xchrome

The log $D_{pH7.4}$ value was automatically calculated (see equation below) by an Excel sheet after manual typing of compound peak area responses which were reported from the ATLAS chromatographic data handling system.

Calculation of log $D_{pH\ 7.4}$ by equation:

$$\text{Log D} = \left(\frac{[\text{Analyte}]_{org}}{[\text{Analyte}]_{aq}}\right) = \log\left(\frac{\text{Area}_{org} \times \text{Dilution factor}_{org}}{\text{Area}_{aq} \times \text{Dilution factor}_{aq} \times \frac{V_{inj}\,(org)}{V_{inj}\,(aq)}}\right)$$

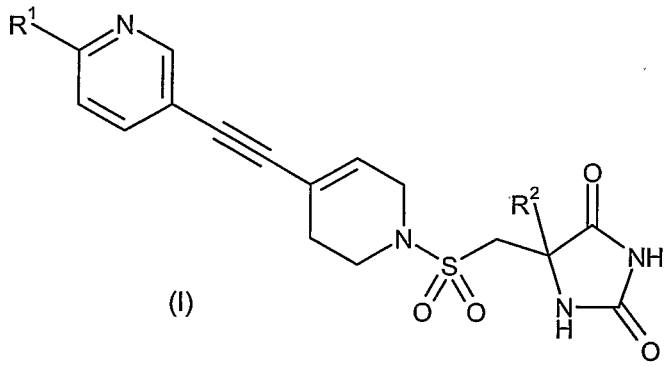
The following table shows data for a representative selection of the compounds of the present invention and for selected compounds from WO 02/074767.

Table

Compound	hMMP12 IC_{50} (nM)	hMMP9 IC_{50} (nM)	hMMP8 IC_{50} (nM)	hMMP14 IC_{50} (nM)	hMMP19 IC_{50} (nM)	Solubility pH 7.4 (µM)	Protein binding (% free)
Example 5	5	7	430	>10,000	3,340	41	
Example 4	3	8	780	>10,000	>10,000	1297	9.7
WO 02/074767, page 119 (5*S*)-5-methyl-5-({[4-(pyridin-2-ylethynyl)-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2*H*)-yl]sulfonyl}-methyl)-imidazolidine-2,4-dione	140	11,245	>1,000	>1,000	6,200	1597	

CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



(I)

wherein

R^1 represents C1 to 2 alkyl, cyclopropyl, F, CN, OCH_3, SCH_3 or OCF_3; said alkyl or cyclopropyl group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluoro atoms; and

R^2 represents C1 to 3 alkyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 represents C1 to 2 alkyl optionally further substituted by one or more fluoro atoms.

3. A compound according to Claim 2, wherein R^1 represents CF_3.

4. A compound according to Claim 2, wherein R^1 represents ethyl.

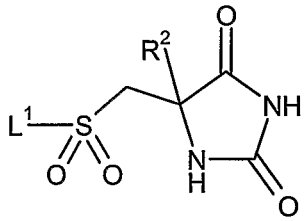
5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein R^2 represents methyl or ethyl.

6. A compound according to Claim 5, wherein R^2 represents methyl.

7. A compound according to claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of:
(5*S*)-5-({[4-[(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2*H*)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)-5-methylimidazolidine-2,4-dione;
(5*S*)-5-({[4-[(6-fluoropyridin-3-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2*H*)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)-5-methylimidazolidine-2,4-dione;
5-{[1-({[(4*S*)-4-methyl-2,5-dioxoimidazolidin-4-yl]methyl}sulfonyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl]ethynyl}pyridine-2-carbonitrile;
(5*S*)-5-({[4-[(6-ethylpyridin-3-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2*H*)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)-5-methylimidazolidine-2,4-dione;
(5*S*)-5-methyl-5-({[4-{[6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-3-yl]ethynyl}-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2*H*)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)imidazolidine-2,4-dione;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

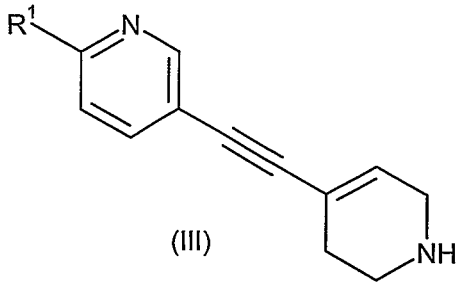
8. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof which comprises:

a) reaction of a compound of formula (II)



(II)

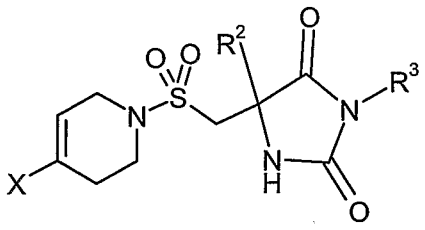
wherein R^2 is as defined in formula (I) and L^1 represents a leaving group, with a compound of formula (III) (or a salt thereof)



(III)

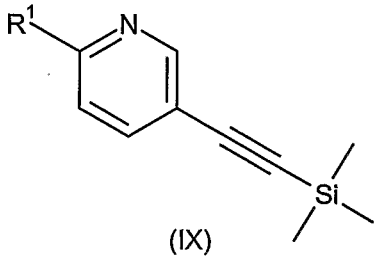
wherein R^1 is as defined in formula (I); or

b) reaction of a compound of formula (X)



(X)

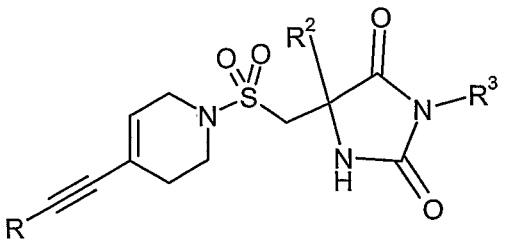
wherein R^2 is as defined in formula (I), R^3 is H or a suitable protecting group and X is a leaving group such as halide or triflate; with an acetylenic compound of formula (IX)



(IX)

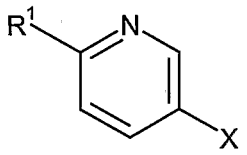
wherein R^1 is as defined in formula (I); or

c) reaction of a compound of formula (XI)



(XI)

wherein R represents H or trimethylsilyl, R^2 is as defined in formula (I) and R^3 represents H or a suitable protecting group; with an aryl halide or triflate of formula (VI)



(VI)

wherein R^1 is as defined in formula (I) and X represents halide or triflate; and optionally thereafter forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

10. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 9 which comprises mixing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

11. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 for use in therapy.

12. Use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of an obstructive airways disease.

13. Use according to claim 12, wherein the obstructive airways disease is asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

14. A method of treating a disease or condition mediated by MMP12 and/or MMP9 which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7.

15. A method of treating an obstructive airways disease which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7.