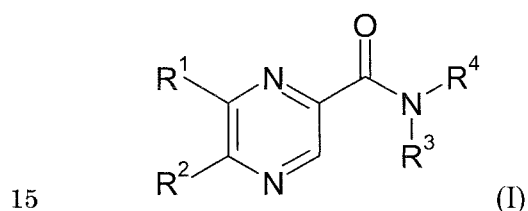


fibrosis (Garcia-Gonzalez, E. et al. Rheumatology (Oxford) 2009, 48(9), 1050-6; Yang, Y. Y. et al. Liver Int 2009, 29(5), 678-85) with a relevant expression of CB2 in myofibroblasts, the cells responsible for fibrosis progression.

Activation of CB2 receptor by selective CB2 agonist has in fact been shown to exert
5 anti-fibrotic effect in diffuse systemic sclerosis (Garcia-Gonzalez, E. et al. Rheumatology (Oxford) 2009, 48(9), 1050-6) and CB2 receptor has emerged as a critical target in experimental dermal fibrosis (Akhmetshina, A. et al. Arthritis Rheum 2009, 60(4), 1129-36) and in liver pathophysiology, including fibrogenesis associated with chronic liver diseases (Lotersztajn, S. et al. Gastroenterol Clin Biol 2007, 31(3), 255-8; Mallat, A. et al.
10 Expert Opin Ther Targets 2007, 11(3), 403-9; Lotersztajn, S. et al. Br J Pharmacol 2008, 153(2), 286-9).

The compounds of the disclosure bind to and modulate the CB2 receptor and have lower CB1 receptor activity.

In one aspect, there is provided a compound of formula (I)



wherein

R¹ is cycloalkylalkoxy or haloalkoxy;

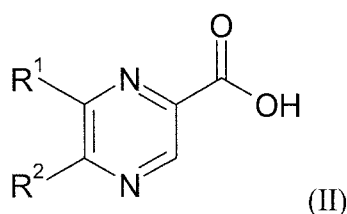
R² is cycloalkyl or haloazetidiny;

R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from alkyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl and
20 alkoxycarbonylalkyl;

or R³ and R⁴ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form heterocyclyl or substituted heterocyclyl, wherein heterocyclyl is pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, oxomorpholinyl, 2-oxo-5-aza-bicyclo[2.2.1]heptyl, 7-oxa-4-aza-spiro[2.5]octyl, piperazinyl, 2-oxa-6-aza-spiro[3.4]octyl, piperidinyl, thiomorpholinyl or 5-
25 azaspiro[2.4]heptyl, and wherein substituted heterocyclyl is heterocyclyl substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from alkyl, halogen, aminocarbonyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylthiocarbamoyl, alkylcarbonyloxy and hydroxyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

In another aspect, there is provided a process for the preparation of a compound as defined herein comprising the reaction of a compound of formula (II)



in the presence of NHR^3R^4 , an amide coupling agent and a base, wherein R^1 to R^4
5 are as defined herein.

In another aspect, there is provided a compound as defined here, when manufactured according to a process as defined herein.

In another aspect, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined herein and a therapeutically inert carrier.

10 In another aspect, there is provided the use of a compound as defined herein for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of pain, atherosclerosis, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, retinal vein occlusion, retinopathy of prematurity, ocular ischemic syndrome, geographic atrophy, diabetes mellitus, inflammation, inflammatory bowel disease, ischemia-reperfusion injury, acute
15 liver failure, liver fibrosis, lung fibrosis, kidney fibrosis, systemic fibrosis, acute allograft rejection, chronic allograft nephropathy, diabetic nephropathy, glomerulonephropathy, cardiomyopathy, heart failure, myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction, systemic sclerosis, thermal injury, burning, hypertrophic scars, keloids, gingivitis pyrexia, liver cirrhosis or tumors, regulation of bone mass, neurodegeneration, amyotrophic lateral
20 sclerosis, stroke, transient ischemic attack or uveitis.

In another aspect, there is provided a compound as defined herein for the treatment or prophylaxis of pain, atherosclerosis, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, retinal vein occlusion, retinopathy of prematurity, ocular ischemic syndrome, geographic atrophy, diabetes mellitus, inflammation, inflammatory bowel
25 disease, ischemia-reperfusion injury, acute liver failure, liver fibrosis, lung fibrosis, kidney fibrosis, systemic fibrosis, acute allograft rejection, chronic allograft nephropathy, diabetic nephropathy, glomerulonephropathy, cardiomyopathy, heart failure, myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction, systemic sclerosis, thermal injury, burning, hypertrophic scars, keloids, gingivitis pyrexia, liver cirrhosis or tumors, regulation of bone mass,
30 neurodegeneration, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, stroke, transient ischemic attack or uveitis.

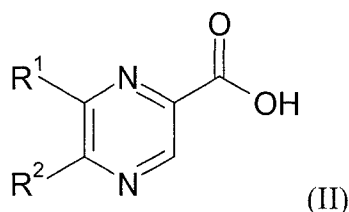
In the present description the term “alkyl”, alone or in combination, signifies a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group with 1 to 8 carbon atoms, particularly a straight or branched-chain alkyl group with 1 to 6 carbon atoms and more particularly a straight or branched-chain alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms. Examples of straight-chain and branched-chain C₁-C₈ alkyl groups are methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, tert.-butyl, the isomeric pentyls, the isomeric hexyls, the isomeric heptyls and the isomeric octyls, particularly methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl and pentyl more particularly methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, tert.-butyl and isopentyl. Particular examples of alkyl are methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl and tert.-butyl, in particular methyl, ethyl and tert.-butyl.

The term “cycloalkyl”, alone or in combination, signifies a cycloalkyl ring with 3 to 8 carbon atoms and particularly a cycloalkyl ring with 3 to 6 carbon atoms. Examples of cycloalkyl are cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl and cyclooctyl. A particular example of “cycloalkyl” is cyclopropyl.

The term “alkoxy”, alone or in combination, signifies a group of the formula alkyl-O- in which the term "alkyl" has the previously given significance, such as methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, isopropoxy, n-butoxy, isobutoxy, sec-butoxy and tert-butoxy. Particular “alkoxy” are methoxy and ethoxy, and in particular methoxy.

The term “oxy”, alone or in combination, signifies the -O- group.

The terms “halogen” or “halo”, alone or in combination, signifies fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine and particularly fluorine, chlorine or bromine, more particularly fluorine



in the presence of NHR^3R^4 , an amide coupling agent and a base, wherein R^1 to R^4 are as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6.

10. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8, when manufactured according to a process of claim 9.
11. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8 for use as therapeutically active substance.
12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 8 and a therapeutically inert carrier.
13. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of pain, atherosclerosis, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, retinal vein occlusion, retinopathy of prematurity, ocular ischemic syndrome, geographic atrophy, diabetes mellitus, inflammation, inflammatory bowel disease, ischemia-reperfusion injury, acute liver failure, liver fibrosis, lung fibrosis, kidney fibrosis, systemic fibrosis, acute allograft rejection, chronic allograft nephropathy, diabetic nephropathy, glomerulonephropathy, cardiomyopathy, heart failure, myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction, systemic sclerosis, thermal injury, burning, hypertrophic scars, keloids, gingivitis pyrexia, liver cirrhosis or tumors, regulation of bone mass,

neurodegeneration, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, stroke, transient ischemic attack or uveitis.

14. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8 for the treatment or prophylaxis of pain, atherosclerosis, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, retinal vein occlusion, retinopathy of prematurity, ocular ischemic syndrome, geographic atrophy, diabetes mellitus, inflammation, inflammatory bowel disease, ischemia-reperfusion injury, acute liver failure, liver fibrosis, lung fibrosis, kidney fibrosis, systemic fibrosis, acute allograft rejection, chronic allograft nephropathy, diabetic nephropathy, glomerulonephropathy, cardiomyopathy, heart failure, myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction, systemic sclerosis, thermal injury, burning, hypertrophic scars, keloids, gingivitis pyrexia, liver cirrhosis or tumors, regulation of bone mass, neurodegeneration, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, stroke, transient ischemic attack or uveitis.
