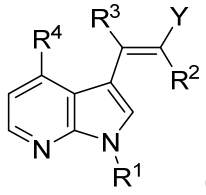
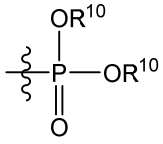
CLAIMS

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



(I)

wherein:

Y is carboxyl, ester, amide, or  ;

R^1 is aralkyl or aralkylacyl, optionally substituted by one or more R^5;

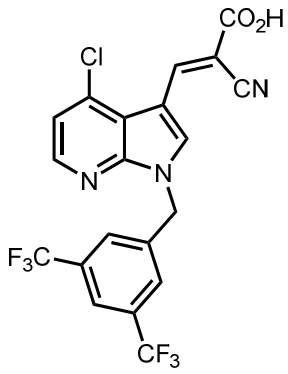
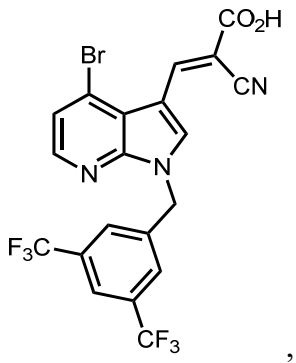
R^2 is CN or carboxyl;

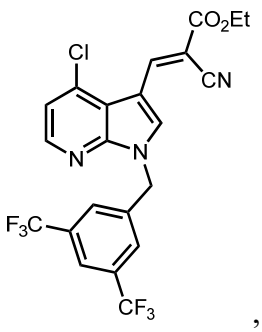
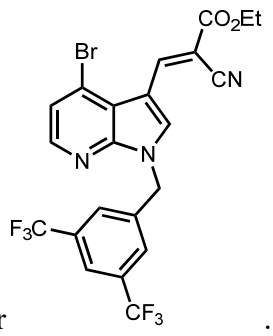
R^3 is H;

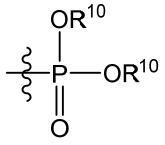
R^4 is independently alkyl as hereinbefore defined, alkenyl, alkynyl, azido, halo, hydroxy, carboxyl, ester, or CN;

R^5 is independently selected from alkyl as hereinbefore defined, alkoxy, or halo;

R^{10} is H or alkyl as hereinbefore defined; and

provided that the compound is not  ,  ,

 , or  .

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein Y is .

3. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein R^{10} is H.

4. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein R^{10} is alkyl as hereinbefore defined (e.g., ethyl).

5. The compound of any one of claims 1-4, wherein Y is ester or carboxyl.

6. The compound of any one of claims 1-5, wherein R^2 is CN.

7. The compound of any one of claims 1-5, wherein R^2 is carboxyl.

8. The compound of any one of claims 1-7, wherein R^1 is aralkyl (e.g., benzyl or phenethyl).

9. The compound of any one of claims 1-7, wherein R^1 is aralkyl (e.g., benzyl or phenethyl) and is substituted by one or more R^5 (preferably on the phenyl ring).

10. The compound of any one of claims 1-7, wherein R^1 is aralkylacyl (e.g., phenylacetyl), and is substituted by one or more R^5 (preferably on the phenyl ring).

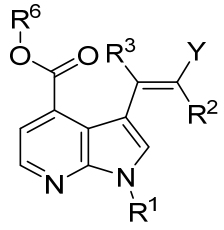
11. The compound of any one of claims 8-10, wherein R^1 is substituted by one or two R^5, and wherein each R^5 is independently selected from fluoroalkyl or fluoro.

12. The compound of any one of claims 8-10, wherein R^1 is substituted by two R^5, and wherein each R^5 is trifluoromethyl.

13. The compound of any one of claims 1-12, wherein R^4 is selected from iodo, fluoro, alkenyl (e.g., vinyl), CN, azido, alkynyl (e.g., acetylenyl), fluoroalkyl (e.g., trifluoromethyl), carboxyl, and ester (e.g., methyl ester or ethyl ester).

14. The compound of any one of claims 1-13, wherein R^4 is not chloro or bromo.

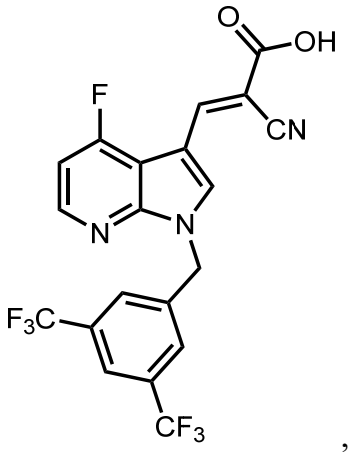
15. The compound of any one of claims 1-14, wherein the compound is represented by formula Ia:



(Ia)

wherein R^6 is H, alkyl as hereinbefore defined, aryl, or aralkyl.

16. A compound selected from: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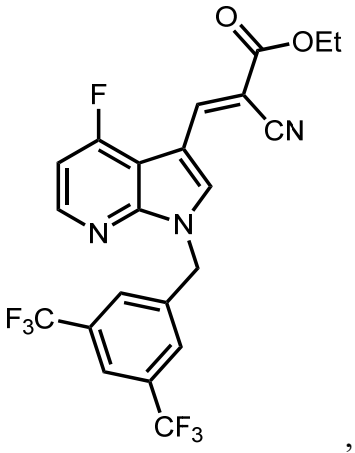
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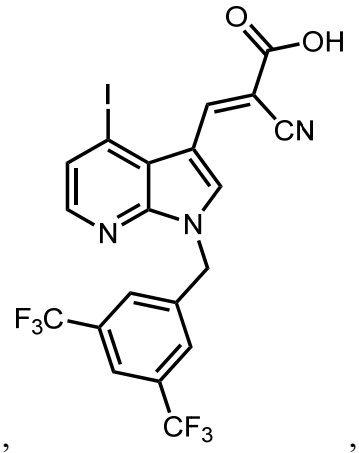
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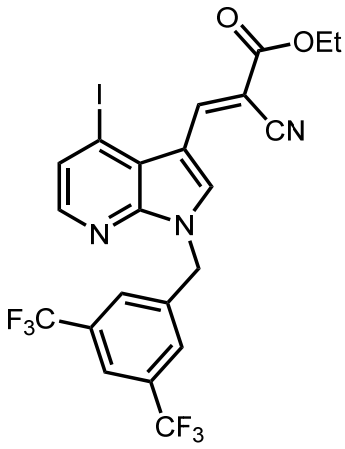
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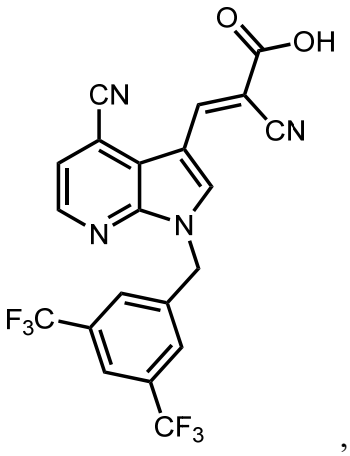
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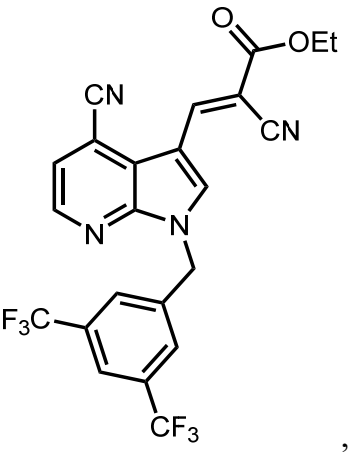
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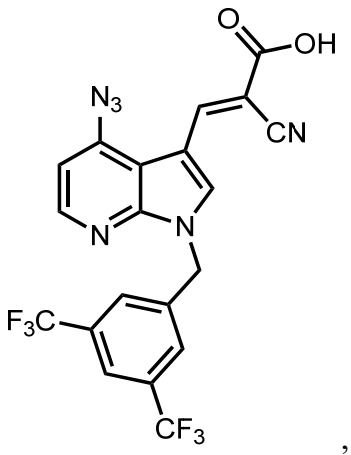
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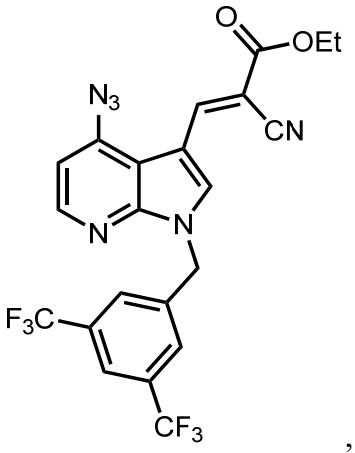
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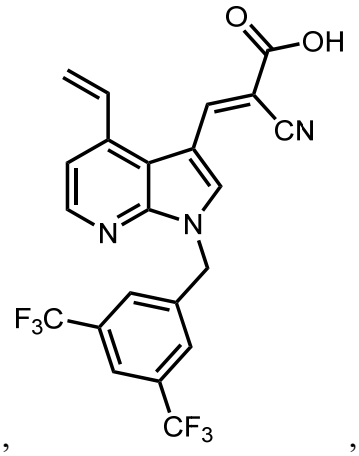
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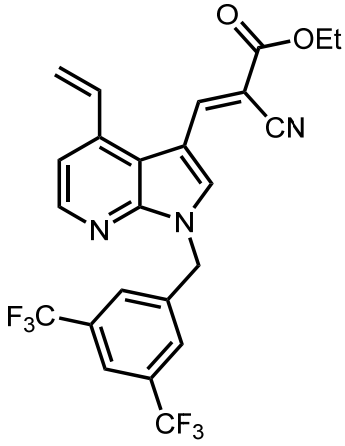
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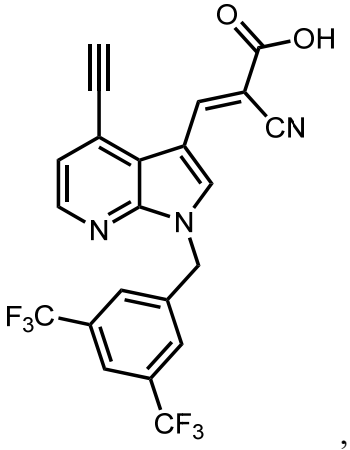
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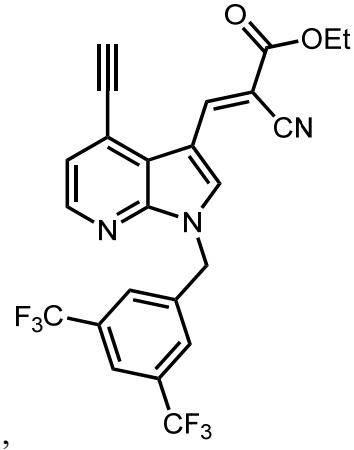
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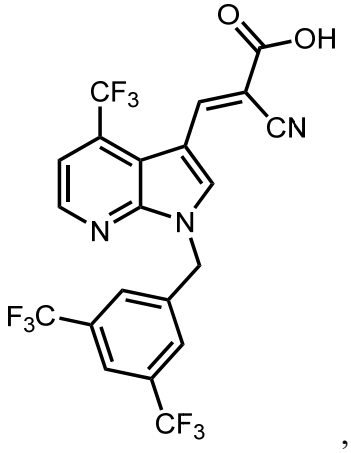
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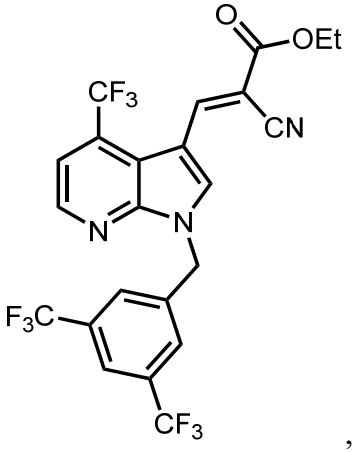
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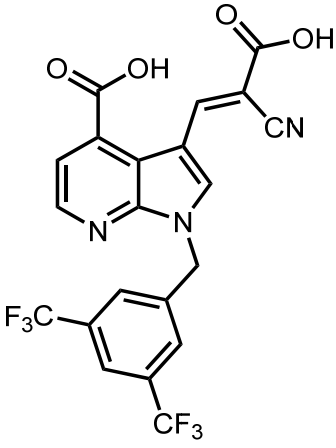
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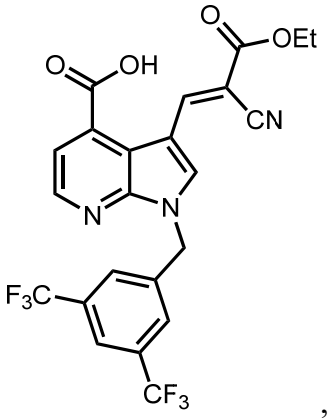

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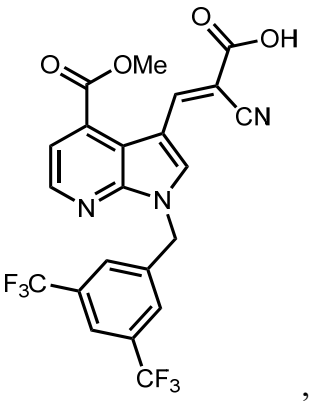

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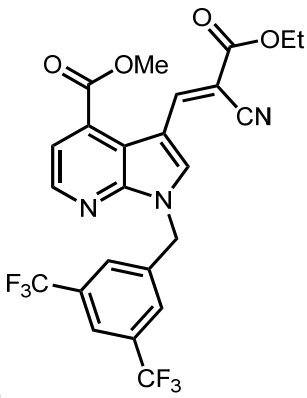

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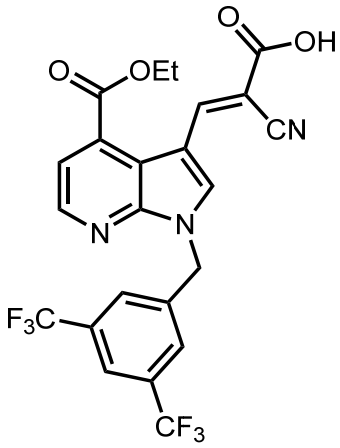

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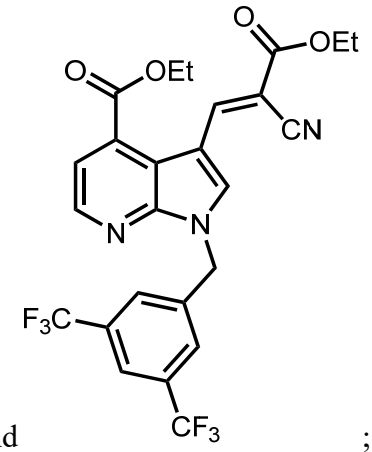

; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of any one of the preceding claims and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

18. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 17, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is formulated for topical administration.

19. Use of a compound of any one of claims 1-16 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a disease or disorder affecting hair growth.

20. The use of claim 19, wherein disease or disorder affecting hair growth is baldness or alopecia.