satisfactory, although a certain skin whitening effect may be recognized, or they may sometimes cause another undesired effect (side effect) at a concentration where a skin whitening effect can be exerted. Therefore, there is a demand for a new ingredient that has high safety and exhibits excellent skin whitening effect, and research and development therefor are underway.

[0004]

Cetraxate or its salt is a compound that is one of the active ingredients for a skin whitening agent having been recently developed, which is degraded by metabolism to tranexamic acid (Patent Literature 1). Tranexamic acid is known to exhibit an inhibitory effect on production of prostaglandin E2 which activates melanocytes, and an inhibitory effect on tyrosinase, so as to provide a skin whitening effect. It has been reported that cetraxate exhibits a skin whitening effect by the activity of the compound itself, in addition to the skin whitening effect of tranexamic acid which is a metabolite of cetraxate.

[0005]

In this regard, it has been confirmed that the aminocarboxylic acid derivative described in Patent Literature 2 has an antiulcer effect, and its use as a pharmaceutical product has been proposed. Incidentally, the structure of the compound partially agrees with that of tranexamic acid.

[Citation List]

[Patent Literature]

[0006]

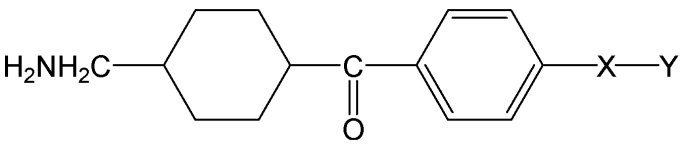
[Patent Literature 1] Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2008-110967

[Patent Literature 2] Japanese Examined Patent Publication No. 64-4508

[Summary]

[0006a]

In one aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a skin whitening agent comprising a compound represented by the following Formula (1), or an acid addition salt thereof:



(1)

wherein, X represents an alkylene group having 1 to 2 carbon atoms, where a hydrogen atom may be substituted with a methyl group; Y represents $COOR^1$ or CH_2OR^2; R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, or an optionally branched alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms; and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally branched acyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

[0006b]

In another aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a skin external composition for skin whitening comprising the skin whitening agent disclosed herein.

[Technical Problem]

[0007]

An object of the present invention is to provide a skin whitening agent having high safety and excellent skin whitening effect.

[Solution to Problem]

[0008]

The present inventors diligently conducted studies in search of a compound having a skin whitening effect to find that an aminocarboxylic acid derivative and an acid