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(54) Title: HETEROCYCLIC AROMATIC COMPOUNDS USEFUL AS GROWTH HORMONE SECRETAGOGUES (I) (a) (b) (c) (57) Abstract Heterocyclic aromatic compounds are provided which are useful in stimulating endogenous production or release of growth hormone and in treating obesity, osteoporosis (improving bone density) and in improving muscle mass and muscle strength. The heterocyclic aromatic compounds have structure (I) including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and all stereoisomers thereof, wherein X_a is heteroaryl, preferably (a), (b) or (c) and R₁, R_{1a}, R₆, Y, X_b, A, B, Z, R₃, R₄, R_{4a}, R₅ and R_{5a} are as defined herein.		