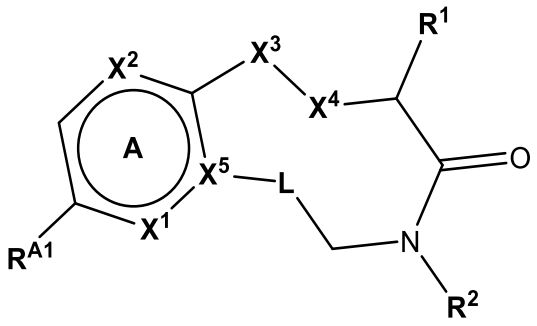
Claims

1. A compound of Formula (I)



Formula (I)

wherein

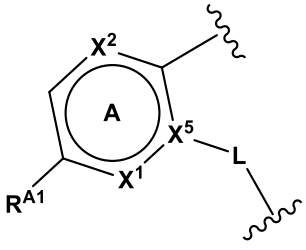
- **Ring A** is a 6-membered aromatic ring, wherein:
  - $\mathbf{R^{A1}}$ represents hydrogen, (C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{1-3})alkoxy, halogen, monocyclic (C_{3-4})cycloalkyl, or (C_1)fluoroalkyl;
  - $\mathbf{X^1}$ represents independently N or C$\mathbf{R^{A3}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{A3}}$ represents hydrogen, halogen, (C_{1-3})alkyl, or (C_{1-3})alkoxy;
  - $\mathbf{X^2}$ represents independently N or C$\mathbf{R^{A2}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{A2}}$ represents hydrogen or halogen; and
  - $\mathbf{X^5}$ represents C;

  and **L** represents:
  - linker group $\mathbf{L^1}$, wherein the backbone of said linker group $\mathbf{L^1}$ is linear and consists of a total of 3 to 6 backbone atoms; wherein said backbone atoms are independently selected from 3 to 6 carbon atoms and 0 to 2 heteroatoms independently selected from O, N or S; wherein said backbone is saturated or partially unsaturated; wherein said backbone is unsubstituted, or mono-, di- or tri-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of:
    - (C_{1-6})alkyl;
    - (C_{3-6})cycloalkan-1,1-diyl;
    - (C_{3-6})cycloalkyl;
    - hydroxy;
    - halogen; and
    - (C_{1-3})fluoroalkyl;
  - or linker group $\mathbf{L^2}$, wherein the backbone of said linker group $\mathbf{L^2}$ consists of a total of 4 to 6 backbone atoms; wherein said backbone atoms are independently selected from 3 to 5 carbon atoms and 1 or 2 heteroatoms independently selected from O, N or S; wherein said backbone is saturated or partially unsaturated; wherein 2 or 3 adjacent atoms of said backbone atoms are contained in a 3- to 6-membered saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic cyclic moiety

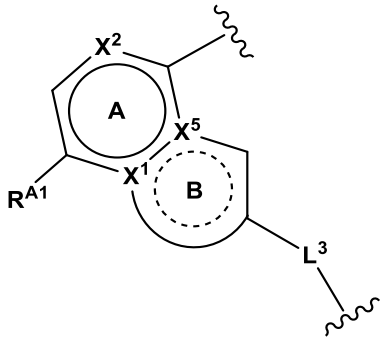
comprising a total of 0 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, N or S; wherein **L^2** is unsubstituted, or mono- or di-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of:

- (C_{1-3})alkyl; and
- halogen;

❖ or the fragment formed by



represents:



Formula (I-B)

wherein

- **Ring A** represents a 6-membered aromatic ring, wherein:
  - **X^2** represents CH or N; and
  - **R^{A1}** represents independently hydrogen, (C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{1-3})alkoxy, halogen, monocyclic (C_{3-4})cycloalkyl, or (C_1)fluoroalkyl;

  and **Ring B** represents a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic ring; wherein said **Ring B** including ring atoms **X^1** and **X^5** contains a total of 1 or 2 ring heteroatoms; wherein said heteroatoms are independently selected from N, O, or S;
- **Ring A** represents a 6-membered aromatic ring, wherein:
  - **X^2** represents CH or N; and
  - **R^{A1}** represents independently hydrogen, (C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{1-3})alkoxy, halogen, monocyclic (C_{3-4})cycloalkyl, or (C_1)fluoroalkyl;

  and **Ring B** represents a 5-membered heteroaromatic ring; wherein said **Ring B** including ring atoms **X^1** and **X^5** contains a total of 1 to 3 ring heteroatoms; wherein said heteroatoms are independently selected from N, O, or S; or
- **Ring A** represents a 6-membered aromatic ring, wherein:
  - **X^2** represents CH or N; and
  - **R^{A1}** represents independently hydrogen, (C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{1-3})alkoxy, halogen, monocyclic (C_{3-4})cycloalkyl, or (C_1)fluoroalkyl;

  and **Ring B** represents a 6-membered heteroaromatic ring; wherein said **Ring B** including ring atoms **X^1** and **X^5** contains a total of 1 or 2 ring heteroatoms; wherein said ring heteroatoms are N;

and **L³** represents:

- a linear linker group; wherein **L³** consists of a total of 3 or 4 backbone atoms; wherein said backbone atoms are independently selected from 3 or 4 carbon atoms and 0 or 1 heteroatom independently selected from O, N or S; wherein said backbone is saturated or mono-unsaturated; wherein said backbone is unsubstituted or mono-substituted with (C_{1-3})alkyl; or halogen;

X³ represents SO_2 or S(=O)(=N**R³**), wherein **R³** represents hydrogen, (C_{1-3})alkyl, monocyclic (C_{3-6})cycloalkyl, or phenyl;

X⁴ represents:

- N**R^{N1}**; wherein:
  - **R^{N1}** represents hydrogen or (C_{1-3})alkyl; and
  - **R¹** represents (C_{1-5})alkyl or $-(CH_2)_n$-(C_{3-4})cycloalkyl wherein **n** independently represents the integer 0 or 1;
- N**R^{N1}**; wherein **R¹** and **R^{N1}** together form a ring comprising **X⁴**, herein **Ring E**, wherein said **Ring E** represents:
  - a 4- to 6-membered saturated monocyclic heterocycloalkan-diyl comprising **X⁴** and zero or one ring oxygen atom; wherein said heterocycloalkan-diyl is unsubstituted, or mono- or di-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of: (C_{1-3})alkyl, halogen, (C_{1-3})alkoxy, hydroxy, phenyl, and cyano; or
  - a 6- to 8-membered saturated spiro, fused, or bridged bicyclic heterocycloalkan-diyl comprising **X⁴**;
- or CH**R^{C1}**; wherein **R¹** and **R^{C1}** together form a ring comprising **X⁴**, herein **Ring F**, wherein said **Ring F** represents a monocyclic (C_{5-6})cycloalkan-diyl or a monocyclic 5- or 6-membered heterocycloalkan-diyl comprising one ring oxygen atom; and

R² represents:

- 3-cyano-3,3-dimethylpropyl;
- $-(CH_2)_m$-(**Ring D**), wherein **m** is the integer 0 or 1, and **Ring D** represents:
  - a saturated monocyclic (C_{4-7})cycloalkyl; wherein said (C_{4-7})cycloalkyl is unsubstituted, mono-, di-, or tri-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of:
    - (C_{1-3})alkyl; wherein said (C_{1-3})alkyl independently is unsubstituted or mono-substituted with cyano;
    - halogen;
    - (C_{1-3})fluoroalkyl;
    - (C_{1-3})alkoxy;
    - (C_{3-4})cycloalkyl;

- carbamoyl;
- hydroxy;
- cyano; and
- (C_{2-3})alkynyl;

- a saturated bicyclic (C_{5-8})spirocycloalkyl; wherein said (C_{5-8})spirocycloalkyl is unsubstituted, or mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of: halogen, cyano, and hydroxy;
- a saturated fused or bridged bicyclic (C_{5-8})cycloalkyl; wherein said bicyclic (C_{5-8})cycloalkyl is unsubstituted, or mono- or di-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of: (C_{1-3})fluoroalkyl, halogen, cyano, and carbamoyl;
- a 5- or 6-membered saturated monocyclic heterocycle comprising one ring heteroatomic group selected from O, N$\mathbf{R^{N2}}$, S, or SO_2; wherein $\mathbf{R^{N2}}$ represents (C_{1-3})alkyl or cyanomethyl; wherein said heterocycle is unsubstituted, or mono-, di-, tri-, or tetra-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of: (C_{1-3})alkyl, halogen, (C_{1-3})fluoroalkyl, and oxo;
- a 9-membered saturated spiro bicyclic heterocycle comprising one ring oxygen atom; or
- a 7-membered saturated fused or bridged bicyclic heterocycle comprising one ring oxygen atom;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein**:**

Ring A is a 6-membered aromatic ring, wherein:

- $\mathbf{R^{A1}}$ represents hydrogen, (C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{1-3})alkoxy, halogen, monocyclic (C_{3-4})cycloalkyl, or (C_1)fluoroalkyl;
- $\mathbf{X^1}$ represents independently N or C$\mathbf{R^{A3}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{A3}}$ represents hydrogen, halogen, (C_{1-3})alkyl, or (C_{1-3})alkoxy;
- $\mathbf{X^2}$ represents independently N or C$\mathbf{R^{A2}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{A2}}$ represents hydrogen or halogen; and
- $\mathbf{X^5}$ represents C;

and **L** represents:

- linker group $\mathbf{L^1}$, wherein the backbone of said linker group $\mathbf{L^1}$ is linear and consists of a total of 3 to 6 backbone atoms; wherein said backbone atoms are independently selected from 3 to 6 carbon atoms and 0 to 2 heteroatoms independently selected from O, N or S; wherein said backbone is saturated or partially unsaturated; wherein said backbone is unsubstituted, or mono-, di- or tri-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of: (C_{1-6})alkyl; (C_{3-6})cycloalkan-1,1-diyl; (C_{3-6})cycloalkyl; hydroxy; halogen, and (C_{1-3})fluoroalkyl;
- or linker group $\mathbf{L^2}$, wherein the backbone of said linker group $\mathbf{L^2}$ consists of a total of 4 to 6 backbone atoms; wherein said backbone atoms are independently selected from 3 to 5 carbon atoms and 1 or 2 heteroatom independently selected from O, N or S; wherein said backbone is saturated or partially

unsaturated; wherein 2 or 3 adjacent atoms of said backbone atoms are contained in a 3- to 6-membered saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic cyclic moiety comprising a total of 0 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, N or S; wherein **L²** is unsubstituted, or mono- or di-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from (C_{1-3})alkyl or halogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A compound according to claim 2, wherein

- **L** represents linker group **L¹** and the backbone of linker group **L¹** is selected from the group consisting of: *-O-$(CH_2)_3$-, -$(CH_2)_4$-, *-S-$(CH_2)_3$-, *-O-$(CH_2)_4$-, *-(CH_2)-O-$(CH_2)_3$-, *-$(CH_2)_3$-O-(CH_2)-, -$(CH_2)_5$-, *-NH-$(CH_2)_2$-CH=CH-, *-NH-$(CH_2)_4$-, *-CH=CH-$(CH_2)_3$-, *-O-$(CH_2)_2$-CH=CH-, *-O-$(CH_2)_2$-O-(CH_2)-, *-O-$(CH_2)_5$-, and *-O-$(CH_2)_2$-NH-(CH_2)-, wherein the asterisks indicate the attachment point of linker group **L¹** to **Ring A**; wherein said backbone is unsubstituted, or mono- or di-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of: (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-6})cycloalkan-1,1-diyl, (C_{3-6})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, halogen, and (C_{1-3})fluoroalkyl; or
- **L** represents linker group **L²** and the backbone of linker group **L²** is selected from the group consisting of:
  - *-O-(CH_2)-(cyclic moiety)-, *-O-(cyclic moiety)-(CH_2)-, *-O-(cyclic moiety)-CH=CH-, *-O-(cyclic moiety)-$(CH_2)_2$-; wherein independently the cyclic moiety of such linker group **L²** represents:
    - (C_{3-6})cycloalkan-1,2-diyl;
    - phen-1,2-diyl; or
    - 5- or 6-membered heterocycloalkan-diyl; wherein said heterocycloalkan-diyl is linked to the rest of the molecule via two of its ring atoms that are in ortho position relative to one another; or
  - *-(cyclic moiety)-(CH_2)-, *-(cyclic moiety)-$(CH_2)_2$-, *-(cyclic moiety)-CH=CH-, *-(cyclic moiety)-$(CH_2)_3$-, *-O-(cyclic moiety)-, *-O-(cyclic moiety)-(CH_2)-, and *-O-(CH_2)-(cyclic moiety)-; wherein independently the cyclic moiety of such linker group **L²** represents:
    - (C_{3-6})cycloalkan-1,3-diyl;
    - 5- or 6-membered heterocycloalkan-diyl; wherein said heterocycloalkan-diyl is linked to the rest of the molecule via two of its ring atoms that are in meta position relative to one another;
    - 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl-diyl; wherein said heteroaryl-diyl is linked to the rest of the molecule via two of its ring atoms that are in meta position relative to one another;

  wherein the asterisks indicate the attachment point of linker group **L²** to **Ring A**;

  wherein said **L²** is unsubstituted, or mono- or di-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of: (C_{1-3})alkyl and halogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. A compound according to claim 2, wherein

L represents linker group **L¹**; said linker group **L¹** independently is:

-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-cyclopropan-1,1-diyl-CH_2-CH_2-; -CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-S-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-CH_2-; -CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-CH=CH-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH(ethyl)-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH(n-propyl)-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH(isopropyl)-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH(cyclopropyl)-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH(ethyl)-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CF_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-C(CH_3)$_2$-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-cyclopropan-1,1-diyl-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-C(hydroxy)(cyclopropyl)-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-; **-O-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-CH=CH-; **-CH_2-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-; **-O-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-O-CH_2-; **-NH-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-N(CH_3)-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-N(CH_3)-CH_2-CH_2-CH=CH-; **-NH-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-CH=CH-; **-NH-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; or **-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH(ethyl)-CH_2-O-CH_2-; **-O-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-N(cyclopropyl)-CH_2-; **-O-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-N(cyclopropyl)-CH_2-; **-O-CH(CF_3)-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH(CF_3)-CH_2-;-O-CH_2-CH_2-N(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-CH_2-; or **-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH=CH-;

L represents linker group **L^2**; said linker group **L^2** independently is:

-(pyrrolidin-1*,3-diyl)-CH_2-; **-(piperidin-1*,3-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-(cyclopropan-1,2-diyl)-; **-O-CH_2-(cyclobutan-1,2-diyl)-; **-O-(cyclopentan-1,2-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-(cyclohexan-1,2-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-(cyclohexan-1,3-diyl)-; **-O-(cyclohexan-1,3-diyl)-CH_2-; **-(pyrrolidin-1*,3-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-(cyclopentan-1,2-diyl)-CH=CH-; **-O-(cyclopentan-1,3-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-(cyclopentan-1,2-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-(cyclobutan-1,3-diyl)-; **-O-(tetrahydrofuran-3,4-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-(4-chloro-pyrazol-1,3*-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-(tetrahydrofuran-2,3*-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-(cyclobutan-1,2-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-(cyclopropan-1,2-diyl)-; **-O-([1,3,4]oxadiazol-2,5-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-(phen-1,2-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-(pyridin-2,6-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-([1,2,4]oxadiazol-3*,5-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-(cyclobutan-1,3-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-(tetrahydrofuran-2,4*-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-(tetrahydropyran-2,4*-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-(piperidin-1,3*-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-(cyclopentan-1,3-diyl)-; **-O-(tetrahydropyran-3,5-diyl)-CH_2-; or **-O-(cyclohexan-1,2-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-(cyclopropan-1,2-diyl)-CH_2-;-O-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-(cyclopropan-1,2-diyl)-; **-(pyrazol-1,3*-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; or **-O-(cyclopentan-1,2-diyl)-O-CH_2-;

wherein the double asterisks indicate the attachment point of the linker group **L^1**, respectively **L^2** to **Ring A**; and, where applicable, the single asterisks indicate the attachment point of (i) the linker oxygen atom which is attached to **Ring A**, or (ii) of **Ring A**, as the case may be;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. A compound according to claim 1, wherein **X^3** represents SO_2 or S(=O)(=N**R^3**), wherein **R^3** represents hydrogen or (C_{1-3})alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. A compound according to claim 1, wherein **X^4** represents CH**R^{C1}**, and **R^1** and **R^{C1}** together form a ring comprising **X^4**, herein **Ring F**, wherein **Ring F** represents a monocyclic (C_{5-6})cycloalkan-diyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. A compound according to claim 1, wherein $\mathbf{X^4}$ represents $N\mathbf{R^{N1}}$, and $\mathbf{R^1}$ and $\mathbf{R^{N1}}$ together form a ring comprising $\mathbf{X^4}$, herein **Ring E**; wherein said **Ring E** represents:

- a 5- or 6-membered saturated monocyclic heterocycloalkan-diyl comprising $\mathbf{X^4}$ and zero or one ring oxygen atom; wherein said heterocycloalkan-diyl is unsubstituted or mono-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of: (C_{1-3})alkyl, halogen, and (C_{1-3})alkoxy; or
- a 6- or 7-membered saturated fused or bridged bicyclic heterocycloalkan-diyl comprising $\mathbf{X^4}$;

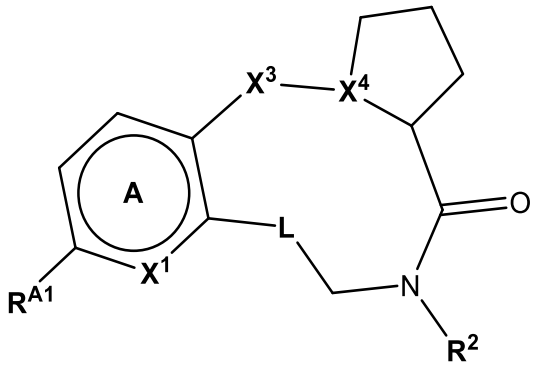
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. A compound according to claim 1, wherein $\mathbf{R^2}$ represents:

- 3-cyano-3,3-dimethylpropyl;
- $-(CH_2)_{\mathbf{m}}-$(**Ring D**), wherein **m** is the integer 0 or 1, and **Ring D** represents:
  - a saturated monocyclic (C_{4-7})cycloalkyl; wherein said (C_{4-7})cycloalkyl is mono-, di-, or tri-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of:
    - (C_{1-3})alkyl; wherein said (C_{1-3})alkyl is unsubstituted or mono-substituted with cyano;
    - halogen;
    - (C_{1-3})alkoxy;
    - (C_{3-4})cycloalkyl;
    - hydroxy; and
    - cyano;
  - a saturated bicyclic (C_{5-8})spirocycloalkyl; wherein said (C_{5-8})spirocycloalkyl is unsubstituted, or mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of: halogen, cyano, and hydroxy;
  - a saturated fused or bridged bicyclic (C_{5-8})cycloalkyl; wherein said bicyclic (C_{5-8})cycloalkyl is unsubstituted, or mono- or di-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of: (C_{1-3})fluoroalkyl, halogen, and cyano;
  - a 5- or 6-membered saturated monocyclic heterocycle comprising one ring heteroatomic group selected from O, $N\mathbf{R^{N2}}$, or SO_2; wherein $\mathbf{R^{N2}}$ represents (C_{1-3})alkyl; wherein said heterocycle is unsubstituted, or mono-, di-, tri-, or tetra-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of: (C_{1-3})alkyl and oxo;
  - a 9-membered saturated spiro bicyclic heterocycle comprising one ring oxygen atom;or
  - a 7-membered saturated fused or bridged bicyclic heterocycle comprising one ring oxygen atom;

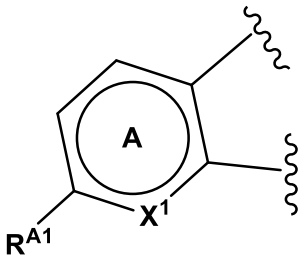
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. A compound according to claim 1 which is a compound of Formula (IV)

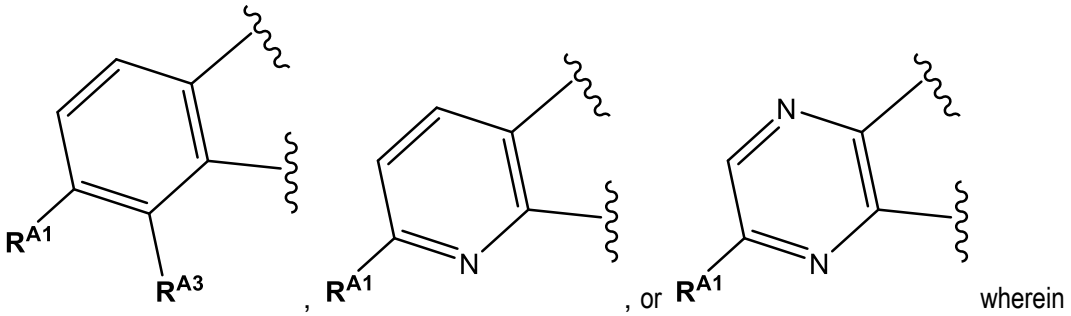


Formula (IV)

wherein the fragment



represents



wherein

- R^{A1} independently represents hydrogen, (C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{1-3})alkoxy, or halogen; and
- R^{A3}, if present, independently represents hydrogen, halogen, or (C_{1-3})alkyl;

L represents:

- linker group L^1 wherein such linker group L^1 independently is:

  **-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-$CH(CH_3)$-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-cyclopropan-1,1-diyl-CH_2-CH_2-; -CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-S-$CH(CH_3)$-CH_2-CH_2-; -CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-CH=CH-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-$CH(CH_3)$-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH(ethyl)-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH(n-propyl)-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH(isopropyl)-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH(cyclopropyl)-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-$CH(CH_3)$-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-$CH(CH_3)$-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH(ethyl)-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CF_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-$C(CH_3)_2$-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-cyclopropan-1,1-diyl-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-C(hydroxy)(cyclopropyl)-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$CH(CH_3)$-; **-O-$CH(CH_3)$-CH_2-CH=CH-; **-CH_2-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-; **-O-$CH(CH_3)$-CH_2-O-CH_2-; **-NH-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-$N(CH_3)$-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-$N(CH_3)$-CH_2-CH_2-CH=CH-; **-NH-$CH(CH_3)$-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; or **-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH(ethyl)-CH_2-O-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CF_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-$CH(CH_3)$-CH_2-$CH(CH_3)$-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-N(cyclopropyl)-CH_2-; **-O-$CH(CH_3)$-CH_2-

N(cyclopropyl)-CH_2-; **-O-CH(CF_3)-CH_2-CH_2- CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH(CF_3)-CH_2-; or **-O-CH_2-CH_2-N(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-CH_2-;

wherein the double asterisks indicate the attachment point of said linker group **L^1** to **Ring A**;

or

- linker group **L^2**; wherein such linker group **L^2** independently is: **-(pyrrolidin-1*,3-diyl)-CH_2-; **-(piperidin-1*,3-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-(cyclopropan-1,2-diyl)-; **-O-CH_2-(cyclobutan-1,2-diyl)-; **-O-(cyclopentan-1,2-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-(cyclohexan-1,2-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-(cyclohexan-1,3-diyl)-; **-O-(cyclohexan-1,3-diyl)-CH_2-; **-(pyrrolidin-1*,3-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-(cyclopentan-1,2-diyl)-CH=CH-; **-O-(cyclopentan-1,3-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-(cyclopentan-1,2-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-(cyclobutan-1,3-diyl)-; **-O-(tetrahydrofuran-3,4-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-(4-chloro-pyrazol-1,3*-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-(tetrahydrofuran-2,3*-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-(cyclobutan-1,2-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-CH_2-(cyclopropan-1,2-diyl)-; **-O-([1,3,4]oxadiazol-2,5-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-(phen-1,2-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-(pyridin-2,6-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-([1,2,4]oxadiazol-3*,5-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-(cyclobutan-1,3-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-(tetrahydrofuran-2,4*-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-(tetrahydropyran-2,4*-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-(piperidin-1,3*-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-(cyclopentan-1,3-diyl)-; **-O-(tetrahydropyran-3,5-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-(cyclohexan-1,2-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; **-O-CH_2-(cyclopropan-1,2-diyl)-CH_2-; **-O-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-(cyclopropan-1,2-diyl)-; **-(pyrazol-1,3*-diyl)-CH_2-CH_2-; or **-O-(cyclopentan-1,2-diyl)-O-CH_2-;

  wherein the double asterisks indicate the attachment point of linker group **L^2** to **Ring A**; and, where applicable, the single asterisks indicate the attachment point of (i) the linker oxygen atom which is attached to **Ring A**, or (ii) of **Ring A**, as the case may be;

X^3 represents SO_2 or S(=O)(=N**R^3**), wherein **R^3** represents hydrogen or methyl;

X^4 represents N or CH; and

R^2 represents:

- cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl; wherein said cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl independently is mono-, or di-substituted; wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of (C_{1-3})alkyl, halogen, and cyano; or
- a saturated bicyclic (C_{6-8})spirocycloalkyl; wherein said (C_{6-8})spirocycloalkyl is unsubstituted, or di-substituted with fluoro;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. A compound according to claim 1, which is selected from the following compounds:
(6R,12aS,15aR)-11-(4,4-Difluorocyclohexyl)-3,6-dimethyl-6,7,8,9,10,11,13,14,15,15a-decahydrocyclopenta[e]pyrido[2,3-b][1]oxa[4]thia[8]azacyclotridecin-12(12aH)-one 16,16-dioxide;
(6R,12aS,17S)-11-((3R,6s)-1,1-Difluorospiro[2.5]octan-6-yl)-17-imino-3,6-dimethyl-6,7,8,9,10,11,12a,13,14,15-decahydro-12H,17H-17λ^4-pyrido[2,3-b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-12-one 17-oxide;

(6R,12aS,17S)-11-((3R,6s)-1,1-Difluorospiro[2.5]octan-6-yl)-3,6-dimethyl-17-(methylimino)-6,7,8,9,10,11,12a,13,14,15-decahydro-12H,17H-17λ^4-pyrido[2,3-b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-12-one 17-oxide;

(6R,11aS)-10-((3R,6s)-1,1-Difluorospiro[2.5]octan-6-yl)-3,6-dimethyl-7,8,9,10,11a,12,13,14-octahydropyrido[2,3-b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclododecin-11(6H)-one 16,16-dioxide;

(6R,12aS)-11-(4,4-Difluorocyclohexyl)-3,6-dimethyl-6,7,8,9,10,11,12a,13,14,15-decahydro-12H-pyrido[2,3-b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-12-one 17,17-dioxide;

(6R,12aS)-11-((3R,5s)-1,1-Difluorospiro[2.3]hexan-5-yl)-3,6-dimethyl-6,7,8,9,10,11,12a,13,14,15-decahydro-12H-pyrido[2,3-b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-12-one 17,17-dioxide;

(1R,4s)-4-((6R,12aS)-3,6-Dimethyl-17,17-dioxido-12-oxo-7,8,9,10,12a,13,14,15-octahydro-6H-pyrido[2,3-b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-11(12H)-yl)-1-methylcyclohexane-1-carbonitrile; or

(1R,4s)-4-((6R,12aS)-4-Fluoro-3,6-dimethyl-17,17-dioxido-12-oxo-7,8,9,10,12a,13,14,15-octahydro-6H-benzo[b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-11(12H)-yl)-1-methylcyclohexane-1-carbonitrile;

(6R,12aS,17S)-11-((3R,6s)-1,1-Difluorospiro[2.5]octan-6-yl)-3,6-dimethyl-17-(methylimino)-6,7,8,9,10,11,12a,13,14,15-decahydro-12H,17H-17λ^4-benzo[b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-12-one 17-oxide;

(6R,12aS,17S)-11-((3R,6s)-1,1-Difluorospiro[2.5]octan-6-yl)-3,6-dimethyl-17-((methyl-d3)imino)-6,7,8,9,10,11,12a,13,14,15-decahydro-12H,17H-17λ^4-benzo[b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-12-one 17-oxide;

(1^{2}S,5^{1}S,5^{3}S,2R)-8-((3R,6s)-1,1-Difluorospiro[2.5]octan-6-yl)-2-imino-3^6-methyl-2λ^6-4-oxa-2λ^6-thia-8-aza-3(3,2)-pyridina-1(1,2)-pyrrolidina-5(1,3)-cyclohexanacyclononaphan-9-one 2-oxide;

(1^{2}S,5^{1}R,5^{3}R,2S)-8-((3R,6s)-1,1-Difluorospiro[2.5]octan-6-yl)-2-imino-3^6-methyl-2λ^6-4-oxa-2λ^6-thia-8-aza-3(3,2)-pyridina-1(1,2)-pyrrolidina-5(1,3)-cyclohexanacyclononaphan-9-one 2-oxide

(1R,4s)-1-Methyl-4-((1^{2}S,5^{1}R,5^{3}R,2S)-3^6-methyl-2-(methylimino)-2-oxido-9-oxo-2λ^6-4-oxa-2λ^6-thia-8-aza-3(3,2)-pyridina-1(1,2)-pyrrolidina-5(1,3)-cyclohexanacyclononaphane-8-yl)cyclohexane-1-carbonitrile;

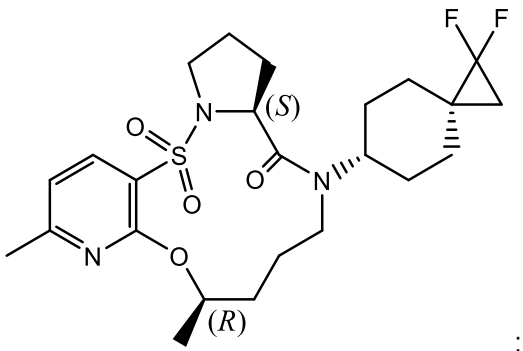
(1R,4s)-4-((6R,12aS,17S)-3,6-Dimethyl-17-(methylimino)-17-oxido-12-oxo-7,8,9,10,12a,13,14,15-octahydro-6H,17H-17λ^4-pyrido[2,3-b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-11(12H)-yl)-1-methylcyclohexane-1-carbonitrile;

(1R,4s)-4-((6R,12aS,17S)-3,6-Dimethyl-17-(methylimino)-17-oxido-12-oxo-7,8,9,10,12a,13,14,15-octahydro-6H,17H-17λ^4-benzo[b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-11(12H)-yl)-1-methylcyclohexane-1-carbonitrile;

(1R,4s)-4-((8R,12aS,17S)-3,8-Dimethyl-17-(methylimino)-17-oxido-12-oxo-7,8,9,10,12a,13,14,15-octahydro-6H,17H-17λ^4-benzo[b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-11(12H)-yl)-1-methylcyclohexane-1-carbonitrile;

(1R,4s)-1-Methyl-4-((1^{2}S,5^{1}R,5^{3}R,2S)-3^4-methyl-2-(methylimino)-2-oxido-9-oxo-2λ^6-4-oxa-2λ^6-thia-8-aza-1(1,2)-pyrrolidina-3(1,2)-benzena-5(1,3)-cyclohexanacyclononaphane-8-yl)cyclohexane-1-carbonitrile;
(1R,4s)-1-Methyl-4-((6R,8R,12aS,17S)-3,6,8-trimethyl-17-(methylimino)-17-oxido-12-oxo-7,8,9,10,12a,13,14,15-octahydro-6H,17H-17λ^4-benzo[b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-11(12H)-yl)cyclohexane-1-carbonitrile;
(6R,12aS,17S)-11-((3R,6s)-1,1-Difluorospiro[2.5]octan-6-yl)-3,6-dimethyl-17-((methyl-d3)imino)-6,7,8,9,10,11,12a,13,14,15-decahydro-12H,17H-17λ^4-pyrido[2,3-b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-12-one 17-oxide;
(1R,4s)-4-((6R,12aS,17S)-3,6-Dimethyl-17-((methyl-d3)imino)-17-oxido-12-oxo-7,8,9,10,12a,13,14,15-octahydro-6H,17H-17λ^4-pyrido[2,3-b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-11(12H)-yl)-1-methylcyclohexane-1-carbonitrile;
(1R,4s)-4-((6R,12aS,17S)-3,6-Dimethyl-17-((methyl-d3)imino)-17-oxido-12-oxo-7,8,9,10,12a,13,14,15-octahydro-6H,17H-17λ^4-benzo[b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-11(12H)-yl)-1-methylcyclohexane-1-carbonitrile;
(1R,4s)-4-((8R,12aS,17S)-3,8-Dimethyl-17-((methyl-d3)imino)-17-oxido-12-oxo-7,8,9,10,12a,13,14,15-octahydro-6H,17H-17λ^4-benzo[b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-11(12H)-yl)-1-methylcyclohexane-1-carbonitrile;
(1R,4s)-1-Methyl-4-((6R,8R,12aS,17S)-3,6,8-trimethyl-17-(methylimino)-17-oxido-12-oxo-7,8,9,10,12a,13,14,15-octahydro-6H,17H-17λ^4-pyrido[2,3-b]pyrrolo[1,2-e][1]oxa[4]thia[5,8]diazacyclotridecin-11(12H)-yl)cyclohexane-1-carbonitrile; or
(1R,4s)-4-((6R,12aS)-6-Ethyl-3-methyl-17,17-dioxido-12-oxo-6,7,9,10,12a,13,14,15-octahydropyrido[2,3-e]pyrrolo[1,2-h][1,4]dioxa[7]thia[8,11]diazacyclotridecin-11(12H)-yl)-1-methylcyclohexane-1-carbonitrile;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. A compound according to claim 1, which is



;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as active principle, one or more compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one therapeutically inert excipient.

13. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a medicament.

14. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in improving wakefulness.

15. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the preparation of a medicament:

- for the treatment of hypersomnia including narcolepsy, narcolepsy associated with inherited disorders; narcolepsy associated with tumors, narcolepsy associated with head trauma, idiopathic hypersomnia, or Kleine-Levin syndrome;
- for improving symptoms of excessive daytime sleepiness (EDS) including:
    - improving symptoms of EDS in subjects having a circadian rhythm sleep-wake disorder;
    - improving symptoms of EDS due to or associated with a medical disorder, wherein said medical disorder is especially an objective sleep disturbance, obesity, diabetes, a neurodegenerative disorder, an auto-immune disorder, a psychiatric disorder, or insufficient sleep syndrome;
    - improving symptoms of EDS due to a medication or substance;
- for the treatment of eating disorders, obesity, neuropsychiatric disorders, pain, inflammation, or cognitive impairments associated with diminished wakefulness; or
- for the treatment of fatigue including:
    - improving symptoms of fatigue accompanied by poor concentration and memory;
    - improving symptoms of chronic fatigue associated with cancer or chemotherapy;
    - improving symproms of chronic fatigue associated with infections, (chronic) inflammatory diseases, autoimmune diseases or neurological diseases;
    - treatment of chronic fatigue associated with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome;
- for improving symptoms of cognitive impairment including age-related cognitive disorders;
- for the treatment of attention deficit including attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder; or
- for the treatment of mood disorders associated with reduced hedonic drive including depression, schizophrenia, or addiction.

16. Use of a compound of Formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11, or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the preparation of a medicament for improving wakefulness.