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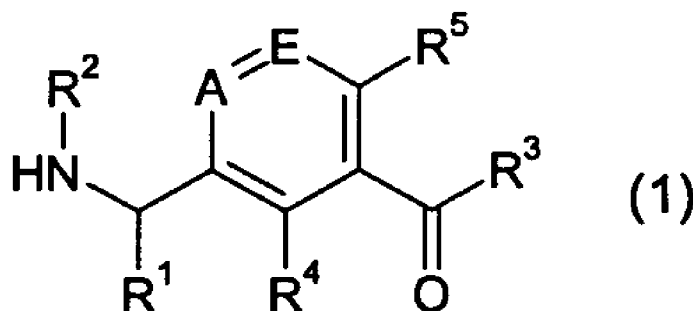
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(54) Title: PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOUNDS



(57) Abstract: The invention provides compounds that are useful in the treatment of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections. The compounds have the formula (1); or a salt, N-oxide, tautomer or stereoisomer thereof, wherein A is CH or N; E is CH or N; R¹ is selected from: an optionally substituted acyclic C₁₋₈ hydrocarbon group wherein one carbon atom of the acyclic C₁₋₈ hydrocarbon group may optionally be replaced by O, S, NRC, S(O) or SO₂, or two adjacent carbon atoms of the acyclic d-β hydrocarbon group may optionally be replaced by CONR^c, NR^cCO, NR^cSO₂ or SO₂NR^c provided that in each case at least one carbon atom of the acyclic C₁₋₈ hydrocarbon group remains; and an optionally substituted monocyclic carbocyclic or heterocyclic group of 3 to 7 ring members, of which 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 are heteroatom ring members selected from O, N and S; R² is hydrogen or X-R⁸; X is a C₁₋₈ alkanediyl group wherein one carbon atom of the C₁₋₈ alkanediyl group may optionally be bonded to a -CH₂-CH₂- moiety to form a cyclopropane-1,1-diyl group or two adjacent carbon atoms of the C₁₋₈ alkanediyl group may optionally be bonded to a -(CH₂)_n moiety, where n is 1 to 5, to form a C₃₋₇-cycloalkane-1,2-diyl group; R³ is an optionally substituted 3- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring containing 0-3 heteroatom ring members selected from N, O and S; R⁴ is hydrogen or R⁴³ wherein R⁴³ is halogen; cyano; C₁₋₄ alkyl; fluoro-1,4 alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkoxy; fluoro-C₁₋₄ alkoxy; hydroxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl; or C₁₋₂ alkoxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl; R⁵ is hydrogen or R⁵³ wherein R⁵³ is selected from C₁₋₂ alkyl optionally substituted with fluorine; C₁₋₃ alkoxy optionally substituted with fluorine; halogen; cyclopropyl; and cyano; R⁸ is hydroxy or C(=O)NR¹⁰R¹¹; provided that when R⁸ is hydroxy, there are at least two carbon atoms in line between the hydroxy group and the nitrogen atom to which X is attached; R¹⁰ is hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl; and R¹¹ is hydrogen; amino-C₂₋₄ alkyl or hydroxy-C₂₋₄ alkyl; but excluding the compounds 1-(3-benzoylphenyl)-ethylamine and 1-(3-furan-2-ylcarbonylphenyl)-ethylamine.



WO 2013/064543 A1



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