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(54) Title: TRITERPENE SAPONIN ANALOGS HAVING ADJUVANT AND IMMUNOSTIMULATORY ACTIVITY

(57) Abstract

The present invention is directed to novel chemical compounds in which a lipophilic moiety such as a lipid, fatty acid, polyethylene glycol or terpene is covalently attached to a non–acylated or desacylated triterpene saponin via a carboxyl group present on the 3–*O*–glucuronic acid of the triterpene saponin. The attachment of a lipophile moiety to the 3–*O*–glucuronic acid of a saponin such as *Quillaja* desacylsaponin, lucyoside P, or saponin from *Gypsophila*, *Saponaria* and *Acanthophyllum* enhances their adjuvant effects on humoral and cell mediated immunity. Additionally, the attachment of a lipophile moiety to the 3–*O*–glucuronic acid residue of non– or des–acylsaponin yields a saponin analog that is easier to purify, less toxic, chemically more stable, and possesses equal or better adjuvant properties than the original saponin.