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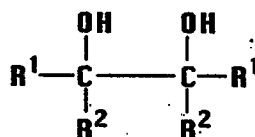
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The invention concerns delayed release flavourant compositions.

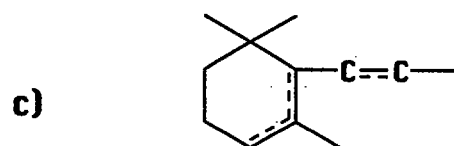
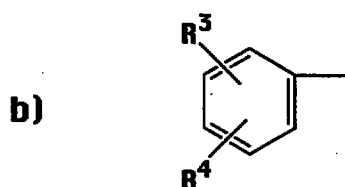
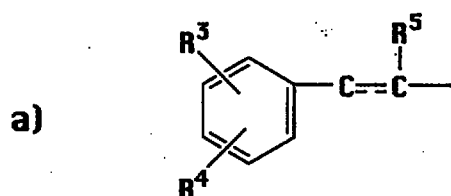
In particular, these compositions are selected from the group consisting of

- a) smoking compositions and
- 5 b) foodstuffs, in particular
 - b1) bakeable foodstuffs and
 - b2) microwaveable foodstuffs

containing flavour-release additives, namely 1,2-diols of the formula



10 wherein R^1 is one of the radicals



15



where

R^2 is H, lower alkyl

R^3, R^4 are H, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy,
or $R^3 + R^4$ together are methylenedioxy,

5 R^5 is lower alkyl

and the broken lines represent in the ring one additional bond
and in the side chain an optional bond.

These diols I possess no detectable flavour or odour themselves at
normal temperatures and atmospheric conditions but function mainly as
10 flavour precursors, in as far as they release a flavourant upon heating at
higher temperatures, e.g. temperatures leading to pyrolysis and thermolysis
respectively. The diols I thus may be used as flavourants in smoking
compositions, e.g. in tobacco compositions or tobacco substitutes, as
sustained flavourants and odorants to mask or enhance the flavours and
15 odours of burning tobacco products, as flavour additives to foods, in
particular bakeable and microwaveable foods.

The term lower alkyl and the alkyl portion of lower alkoxy radical
suitably refers to straight or branched alkyl residues carrying from 1 to 6
carbon atoms. Suitable examples for the individual residues are as follows:

20 R^2 H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , etc.

R^3, R^4 H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , n- or iso- C_3H_7 , t- C_4H_9 , etc.

R^5 CH_3 , C_2H_5 , n- or iso- C_3H_7 , t- C_4H_9 , C_5H_{11} , C_6H_{13} , etc.

Although the two radicals R^1 of formula I may be different from each
other and the two radicals R^2 may also be different from each other, in the
25 preferred aspects these radicals R^1 and R^2 respectively are the same.

As used herein the term "organoleptic" refers to compounds I which
stimulate the sense of smell or taste, and are thus perceived as having a
characteristic odour and/or flavour.

The terms "odour", "fragrance" and "smell" are used interchangeably
30 whenever a compound is referred to as an organoleptic which is intended to
stimulate the sense of smell.



The terms "flavour", "flavouring" and "flavourant" are also used interchangeably whenever an organoleptic compound is referred to which is intended to stimulate the sense of taste.

5 An "organoleptically effective amount" is a level or amount of the compounds(s) I present in a material at which the incorporated compound(s) exhibit(s) a sensory effect, e.g. by stimulating the sense of smell or taste.

10 The terms "tobacco" and "tobacco substitutes" are used in the conventional sense and include smokable as well as non-smokable forms in which tobacco is regularly used, e.g. cigarettes, snuff chewable compositions, etc.

The term "tobacco paper" refers to smokable paper used to contain tobacco, e.g. tobacco rolling paper.

The terms "food" and "foodstuff" are used interchangeably.

15 The term "food product" would consequently designate the product of the process to which the foodstuff(s) containing the diol I is (are) subjected to.

The term "tobacco substitute" is meant to include non-tobacco filled materials such as smoking products from sugar beet pulp, coffee bean hulls and other cellulosic or carbohydrate materials, etc.

20 The preferred compounds I are

1,6-diphenyl-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol,
2,5-dihexyl-1,6-diphenyl-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol and
1,2-bis(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-1,2-ethanediol.

Further suitable compounds I include

25 3,4-dimethyl-1,6-bis(2,6,6-trimethyl-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol,
3,4-dimethyl-1,6-bis(2,6,6-trimethyl-2-cyclohexen-1-yl)-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol,
1,2-bis(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-1,2-ethanediol,
1,2-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,2-ethanediol,
1,2-diphenyl-1,2-ethanediol or
30 1,6-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol.



The compounds I possess organoleptic properties and therefore permit the development of methods useful in enhancing the flavour of foods. These compounds are also useful in enhancing the odour, masking any unpleasant odour or enhancing the flavour of tobacco products.

5 These compounds may be used individually in an amount effective to enhance a characteristic flavour or odour of a given material. The compounds may also be mixed with other flavour or fragrance components in an amount sufficient to provide the desired flavour or odour characteristic.

10 The amount required to produce the desired, overall effect varies depending upon the particular compound chosen, the product in which it will be used, and the particular effect desired.

For example, depending upon the selection and concentration of the compounds I used, addition of the compounds I either singly or as a mixture
15 to cigarette tobacco at levels ranging from about 5 ppm to about 50 000 ppm tends to enhance the smoking flavour and/or mask undesirable smoking odours. An important property of these compounds I is that the flavourant or odorant is covalently bound as a non-volatile compound and it is only when the tobacco product is ignited and burns that the flavourant or odorant is
20 released.

Addition of the diols I of formula I either separately or as a mixture at levels suitably ranging from about 5 ppm to about 50 000 ppm by weight onto the media enclosing the tobacco serves to incorporate the odorant/flavourant in the side-stream smoke as the tobacco product burns. Air borne
25 flavourants and/or odorants along with other combustion products are thus introduced. This newly formed odorant or flavourant serves to enhance or mask the smoking odours depending upon selection and use levels of the compounds I.

The diols I are also particularly useful in the flavouring and
30 aromatizing of cooked foods. Addition of the diols either singly or as a mixture to a cake batter, e.g. a microwave cake batter, serves to impart appropriate baking aromas to the cake as it is heated in the microwave as well as impart flavouring in the finished product. Typically, diols I are employed at levels ranging from about 0.0005 to about 10%, in particular
35 from 0.05 to about 5.00%.





In addition to the baking aromas, other pleasant organoleptic properties may be provided, the palette is broad and may comprise - depending on the compound I used - floral, fruity, sweet, herbaceous, balsamic, spicy, cinnamon, woody, vanillin notes.

5 Noteworthy are, furthermore, the stability of the novel flavourants.

A suitable temperature range may extend from about 70°C to about 300°C, or even more.

The compounds I may be incorporated into the foodstuff or the smoking composition, e.g. the tobacco product along with other ingredients. Such
10 other ingredients include emulsifiers, carriers, binders, sweeteners, stabilizers, buffers and solvents, etc.

The addition of the diol I may generally be effected according to methods known in the art, e.g. as such or dissolved in any suitable solvent, e.g. in an alcohol, such as ethanol or aqueous ethanol, etc. It may then be sprayed or
15 injected into the tobacco and/or tobacco substitute matrix. Such method ensures an even distribution of the flavourant additive throughout the filler, and thereby facilitates the production of a more uniform smoking composition. Alternatively, the flavourant may be incorporated as part of a concentrated tobacco extract which is applied to a fibrous tobacco web as in
20 the manufacture of reconstituted tobacco. Another suitable procedure is to incorporate the flavourant in tobacco or tobacco substitute filler in a concentration between about 0.5-5 weight percent, based on the weight of filler, and then subsequently to blend the treated filler with filler which does not contain flavourant additive. Naturally, the additive can also be present as
25 a surface coating or absorbed component of the paper wrapper, and/or the additive can be incorporated as a component of the adhesive formulation which is utilized to seal the sideseam of cigarette paper wrappers.

A large number of the compounds I - actually the majority thereof - are known. In as far as the novel compounds are concerned, the following
30 applies:

Pinacol diols can be prepared from the corresponding aldehydes and ketones by standard methods known to those skilled in the art - see Comprehensive Organic Synthesis, Barry M. Trost, ed., Vol. 3, 1991, pp 563-579. For example, reaction of aldehydes or ketones with metals - e.g. Zn,
35 Mg, Ce, Al(Hg) or Ti - and acid - e.g. acetic acid - provides pinacol diols I.

Various aldehydes and ketones can also be transformed by electrochemical means to their pinacol diols. Pinacol diols can also be prepared by reduction of benzoin. All these methods are outlined by B.M. Trost.

The two novel compounds of this invention, i.e. 1,6-bis (4-methoxy-phenyl)-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol and 2,5-diethyl-1,6-diphenyl-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol are thus easily obtained by subjecting 1,4-methoxycinnamaldehyde or α -hexylcinnamaldehyde to pinacolisation as outlined above.

The following examples are set forth herein to illustrate methods of synthesis of the pinacol diol derivatives I and their use as flavourants and flavour precursors. These examples are intended only to illustrate the embodiments of this invention and are in no way meant to limit the scope thereof.

All parts, proportions, percentages and ratios used herein are by weight unless otherwise indicated.

15

Example 1

1,6-Diphenyl-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol

A mixture of cinnamaldehyde (200 g, 1.5 mol), zinc (98.9 g, 1.5 mol), water (380 ml), and ether (230 ml) was heated to reflux under a nitrogen atmosphere. Acetic acid (175 ml) was added over a 2 hour period. The reaction was heated at reflux for an additional 3 hours. The mixture was cooled and filtered. Ethyl acetate and ether (1:2) were added and the mixture was washed sequentially with water (2 x), aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution until neutral, brine, and dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The syrup obtained was crystallized from ethyl acetate to give meso-1,6-diphenyl-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol.

mp: 150-152°C, $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.42-7.20 (10 H, m), 6.71 (2 H, d, $J = 15.87$ Hz), 6.29 (2 H, dd, $J = 6.41$ and 15.87 Hz), 4.49-4.39 (2 H, m), 2.24 (2 H, OH). IR (KBr) 3298, 2908, 1449, 963, 746 cm^{-1} . MS m/e (% abundance) 266 (1), 133 (100), 115 (22), 77 (25), 55 (67).

d,l-1,6-Diphenyl-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol can be isolated from the reaction mixture.



$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.42-7.20 (10 H, m), 6.72 (2 H, d, $J = 16.17$ Hz), 6.34-6.18 (2 H, m), 4.32-4.24 (2 H, m), 2.55 (2 H, s). IR (KBr) 3313, 1449, 1047, 970, 690 cm^{-1} . MS m/e (% abundance) 266 (1), 133 (100), 115 (25), 55 (29).

Example 2

5 1,6-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol

In a fashion similar to that described in Example 1, 1,4-methoxycinnamaldehyde was treated with zinc and acetic acid to provide 1,6-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol.

mp: 145-146°C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.34-7.28 (4 H, m), 6.86-6.61 (4 H, m), 6.69-
10 6.59 (2 H, m), 6.29-6.06 (2 H, m), 3.80 (6 H, s). IR (KBr) 3365, 2956, 2838, 1606, 1512, 1252, 1031 cm^{-1} . MS m/e (% abundance) 326 (1), 163 (100), 55 (18).

Example 3

2,5-Dihexyl-1,6-diphenyl-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol

In a fashion similar to that described in Example 1, α -hexyl-
15 cinnamaldehyde was treated with zinc and acetic acid to provide 2,5-dihexyl-1,6-diphenyl-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol.

mp: 86-86.5, $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.38-7.16 (10 H, m), 6.73 (2 H, bs), 4.33 (2 H, bs), 2.56-2.46 (4 H, m), 2.14-2.06 (2 H, m), 1.60-1.49 (4 H, m), 1.40-1.21 (10 H, m), 0.90-0.84 (6 H, m). IR (KBr) 3455, 3296, 2922, 2853, 1454, 1091, 699 cm^{-1} .
20 MS m/e (% abundance) 434 (3), 218 (46), 217 (100), 91 (22).

Example 4

Preparation of an α -hexylcinnamaldehyde cigarette

An ethyl acetate solution of the compound from Example 3 was applied to cigarette papers at the rate of 1000 ppm. (Application rates of 5 to 50'000
25 ppm may actually be useful). The paper was incorporated into cigarettes. Prior to smoking, no odour of α -hexylcinnamaldehyde was observed. Upon smoking, a noticeable and persistent floral odour was observed in the room air. The floral odour was, actually, already observed on first puff.



Example 5

Preparation of a vanillin cigarette

An alcohol/water solution of the compound 1,2-bis(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-1,2-ethanediol was applied to cigarette papers at the rate of
5 500 ppm. The paper was incorporated into cigarettes. Prior to smoking, no odor of vanillin was observed. Upon smoking a faint, but distinct odour of vanillin was observed in the room air.

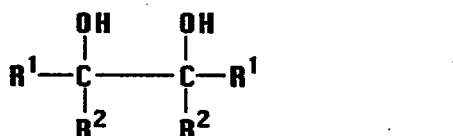
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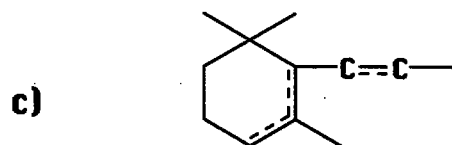
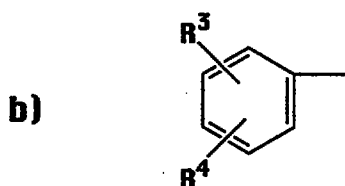
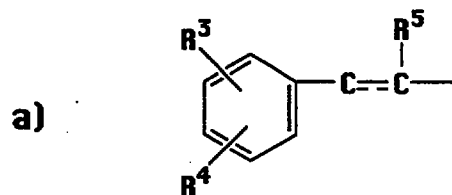


Claims

1. A delayed release flavourant composition, selected from the group consisting of a) a smoking composition comprising an admixture of a combustible filler [being natural tobacco, reconstituted tobacco or a tobacco substitute,] and b) a foodstuff containing an organoleptically effective amount of a flavorant-release additive, the flavourant-release additive being a 1,2 diol of the formula



wherein R¹ is one of the radicals



where

R² is H, lower alkyl

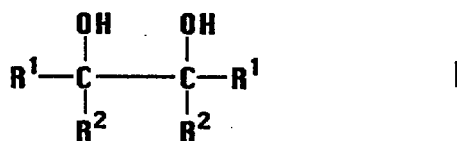
R³, R⁴ are H, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy,
or R³ + R⁴ together are methylenedioxy,

R⁵ is lower alkyl

and the broken lines represent in the ring one additional bond
and in the side chain an optional bond.

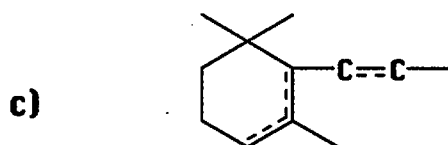
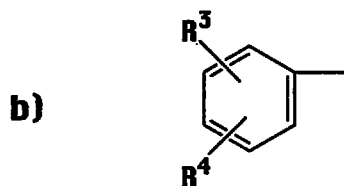
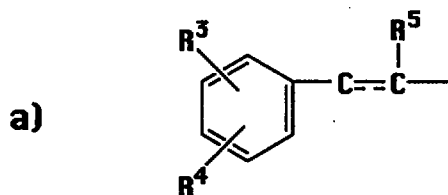


2. A cigarette smoking product comprising a combustible filler [being natural tobacco, reconstituted tobacco or a tobacco substitute,] and a paper wrapper which has incorporated therein a flavorant-release additive, the flavorant-release additive being a 1,2 diol of the formula



5

wherein R^1 is one of the radicals



where

R^2 is H, lower alkyl

R^3, R^4 are H, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy,
or $\text{R}^3 + \text{R}^4$ together are methylenedioxy,

R^5 is lower alkyl

and the broken lines represent in the ring one additional bond
and in the side chain an optional bond.

3. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the foodstuff is a
bakeable foodstuff.

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4. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the foodstuff is a microwaveable foodstuff.

5. A composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the concentration of the flavourant - release additive is ca. 0,0005 to ca. 10 % ,
5 preferably ca.0,005 to ca. 5 % w/w.

6. A composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the flavourant additive is released preferably during ignition and burning of the smoking composition, e.g. the tobacco product or during the baking or the microwaving process of the foodstuff.

10 7. A composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein R^3 and R^4 in the formula I a) diol is hydrogen.

8. A composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein R^2 is hydrogen

15 9. A composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein R^2 in the formula I b) diol is methyl.

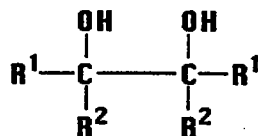
10. A composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein R^2 in the formula I c) diol is methyl and there is an optional bond in the side chain of the molecule.

20 11. A composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the compound of Formula I is

1,6-diphenyl-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol,
3,4-dimethyl-1,6-bis(2,6,6-trimethyl-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol,
3,4-dimethyl-1,6-bis(2,6,6-trimethyl-2-cyclohexen-1-yl)-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol,
1,2-bis(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-1,2-ethanediol,
25 1,2-bis(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-1,2-ethanediol,
1,2-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,2-ethanediol,
1,2-diphenyl-1,2-ethanediol,
1,6-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol or
2,5-dihexyl-1,6-diphenyl-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol.

30 12. A method of flavouring a smoking composition, e.g. tobacco, or a food, comprising adding to the smoking composition, e.g. tobacco, or treating a food with an organoleptically effective amount of a 1,2 - diol of the formula



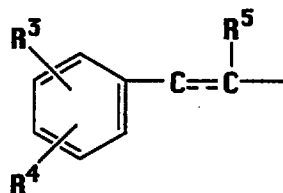


wherein R^1 is one of the radicals

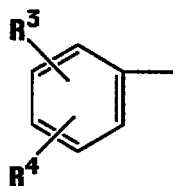
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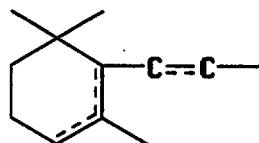
a)



b)



c)



where

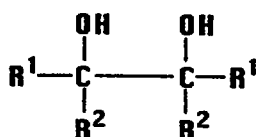
R^2 is H, lower alkyl

R^3, R^4 are H, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy,
or $\text{R}^3 + \text{R}^4$ together are methylenedioxy,

R^5 is lower alkyl

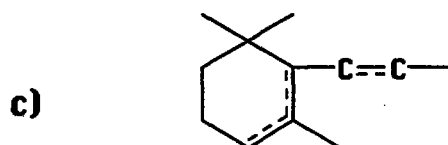
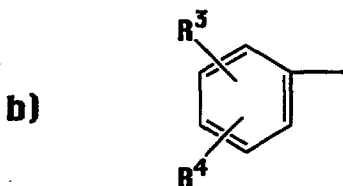
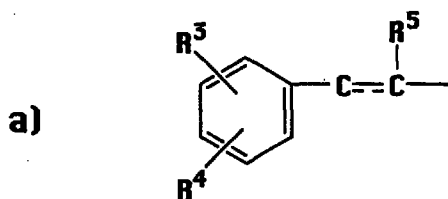
and the broken lines represent in the ring one additional bond
and in the side chain an optional bond.

- 15 13. A method of flavouring a smoking composition, e.g. tobacco, or a food, comprising igniting and burning the smoking composition, e.g. tobacco, or baking or microwaving the foodstuff containing an organoleptically effective amount of a 1,2 -diol of the formula





wherein R^1 is one of the radicals



where

R^2 is H, lower alkyl

R^3, R^4 are H, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy,
or $R^3 + R^4$ together are methylenedioxy,

R^5 is lower alkyl

and the broken lines represent in the ring one additional bond
and in the side chain an optional bond.

14. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the 1,2 diol of Formula I is

- 15 1,6-diphenyl-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol,
- 3,4-dimethyl-1,6-bis(2,6,6-trimethyl-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol,
- 3,4-dimethyl-1,6-bis(2,6,6-trimethyl-2-cyclohexen-1-yl)-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol,
- 1,2-bis(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-1,2-ethanediol,
- 1,2-bis(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-1,2-ethanediol,
- 20 1,2-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,2-ethanediol,
- 1,2-diphenyl-1,2-ethanediol,
- 1,6-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol or
- 2,5-dihexyl-1,6-diphenyl-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol.

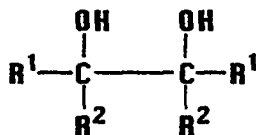
15. 1,6-bis (4-Methoxyphenyl)-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol.



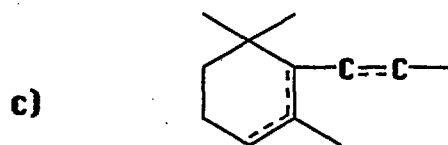
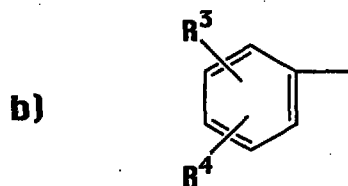
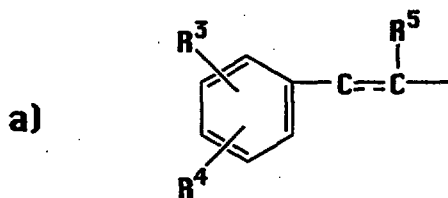
16. 2,5-Dihexyl-1,6-diphenyl-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol.

17. Process for the preparation of 1,6-bis (4-methoxyphenyl)-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol or of 2,5-dihexyl-1,6-diphenyl-1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol, comprising subjecting 1,4 -methoxycinnamaldehyde or α -hexyl-
5 cinnamaldehyde to pinacolisation in a manner known per se.

18. The use of the 1,2 - diols of the formula



wherein R^1 is one of the radicals



where

- 15 R^2 is H, lower alkyl
 R^3, R^4 are H, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy,
or $\text{R}^3 + \text{R}^4$ together are methylenedioxy,
 R^5 is lower alkyl
and the broken lines represent in the ring one additional bond
20 and in the side chain an optional bond,

as delayed flavourant release additives for smoking compositions and for food.

