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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB98/01711 (22) International Filing Date: 12 June 1998 (12.06.98) (30) Priority Data: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>9712270.9</td> <td>12 June 1997 (12.06.97)</td> <td>GB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60/052,185</td> <td>10 July 1997 (10.07.97)</td> <td>US</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9724678.9</td> <td>21 November 1997 (21.11.97)</td> <td>GB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60/085,499</td> <td>14 May 1998 (14.05.98)</td> <td>US</td> </tr> </table>		9712270.9	12 June 1997 (12.06.97)	GB	60/052,185	10 July 1997 (10.07.97)	US	9724678.9	21 November 1997 (21.11.97)	GB	60/085,499	14 May 1998 (14.05.98)	US	ited, Rainham Road South, Dagenham, Essex RM10 7XS (GB). LEWIS, Richard, Alan [GB/GB]; Rhône-Poulenc Rorer Limited, Rainham Road South, Dagenham, Essex RM10 7XS (GB). LYTHGOE, David, John [GB/GB]; Rhône-Poulenc Rorer Limited, Rainham Road South, Dagenham, Essex RM10 7XS (GB). McKENNA, Jeffrey, Mark [GB/GB]; Rhône-Poulenc Rorer Limited, Rainham Road South, Dagenham, Essex RM10 7XS (GB). McLAY, Iain, McParlane [GB/GB]; Rhône-Poulenc Rorer Limited, Rainham Road South, Dagenham, Essex RM10 7XS (GB). PORTER, Barry [GB/GB]; Rhône-Poulenc Rorer Limited, Rainham Road South, Dagenham, Essex RM10 7XS (GB). RATCLIFFE, Andrew, James [GB/GB]; Rhône-Poulenc Rorer Limited, Rainham Road South, Dagenham, Essex RM10 7XS (GB). WALLACE, Paul, Andrew [GB/GB]; Rhône-Poulenc Rorer Limited, Rainham Road South, Dagenham, Essex RM10 7XS (GB). (74) Agent: CAFFIN, Lee; Rhône-Poulenc Rorer Limited, Patent Dept., Rainham Road South, Dagenham, Essex RM10 7XS (GB). (81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
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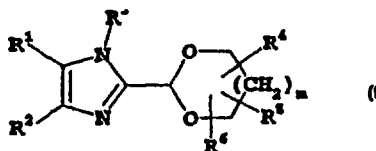


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(54) Title: IMIDAZOLYL-CYCLIC ACETALS



(57) Abstract

Compounds of formula (I) are described in which R¹ is optionally substituted heteroaryl; R² is optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted heteroaryl; R³ is a group -L¹-R⁷ or -L²-R⁸ [where L¹ is an optionally substituted alkylene linkage; R⁷ is hydrogen, aryl, cyano, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, nitro, -S(O)_nR⁹, -NH-SO₂R⁹, -C(=Z)OR¹⁰, -C(=Z)R¹⁰, -N(R¹¹)-C(=Z)R¹⁰, -NY¹Y², -SO₂-NY¹Y², -C(=Z)-NY¹Y², -N(R¹¹)-C(=Z)-NY¹Y², -N(OR¹⁰)-C(=Z)-NY¹Y², -N(OR¹⁰)-C(=Z)R¹⁰, -C(=NOR¹⁰)R¹⁰, -C(=Z)NR¹⁰OR¹², -N(R¹¹)-C(=NR¹³)-NY¹Y² or -N(R¹¹)-C(=Z)OR¹¹; L² is a direct bond or a straight- or branched-carbon chain comprising from 2 to about 6 carbon atoms and contains a double or triple carbon-carbon bond; and R⁸ is hydrogen, aryl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl; R⁴ is a group -L³-R¹⁴ [where L³ is a direct bond or an optionally substituted alkylene linkage and R¹⁴ is hydrogen, alkyl, azido, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryl, arylalkyloxy, aryloxy, carboxy (or an acid bioisostere) cycloalkyloxy, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyloxy, heteroaryloxy, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyloxy, nitro, -NY⁴Y⁵, -N(R¹⁰)-C(=Z)-R¹⁵, -N(R¹⁰)-C(=Z)-L⁴-R¹⁶, -NH-C(=Z)-NH-R¹⁵, -NH-C(=Z)-NH-L⁴-R¹⁶, -N(R¹⁰)-SO₂-R¹⁵, -N(R¹⁰)-SO₂-L⁴-R¹⁶, -S(O)_nR⁹, -C(=Z)-NY⁴Y⁵ or -C(=Z)-OR⁹; R⁵ is hydrogen, alkyl or hydroxyalkyl; or R⁴ and R⁵, when attached to the same carbon atom, may form with the said carbon atom a cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocycloalkyl ring or a group C=CH₂; R⁶ is hydrogen or alkyl; and m is zero or an integer 1 or 2; and N-oxides thereof, and their prodrugs; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates (e.g. hydrates) of compounds of formula (I) and N-oxides thereof, and their prodrugs. The compounds are TNF inhibitors and are useful as pharmaceuticals.