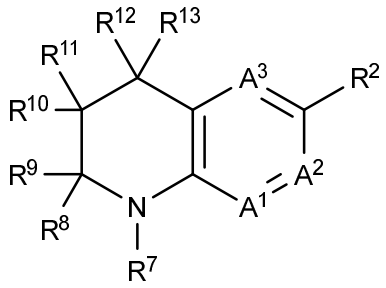
Claims

1. A compound of formula I:



in which

A^1 is N or CR^3;

A^2 is N or CR^4;

A^3 is N or CR^5;

R^3, R^4 and R^5, which may be the same or different, are each hydrogen, $alkyl_{C1-10}$, $alkene_{C2-12}$, aryl, aralkyl, halogen, trifluoroalkyl, cyano, nitro, $-NR^aR^b$, $-OR^a$, glycol, $-C(O)R^a$, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-OC(O)R^a$, $-S(O)R^aR^b$, $-C(O)NR^aR^b$ or a solubilising group;

R^7 is propynyl, $-(CH_2)_nC{\equiv}CH$, $-(CH_2)_nSH$, $-(CH_2)_nSO_2F$ or $-(CH_2)_nC{=}CH_2$, $alkyl_{C1-10}$ substituted by aryl or heteroaryl;

R^8, R^9, R^{10} and R^{11}, which may be the same or different, are each hydrogen or $alkyl_{C1-4}$, aryl, halogen, trifluoroalkyl, $-OR^c$ or glycol, or together one pair of R^8 and R^{10} or R^9 and R^{11} represent a bond;

R^{12} and R^{13}, which may be the same or different, are each hydrogen, $alkyl_{C1-4}$ or together one pair of R^{10} and R^{12} or R^{11} and R^{13} represent a bond, or R^{12} and R^{13} together form a group:

$$=CR^{14}R^{15}$$

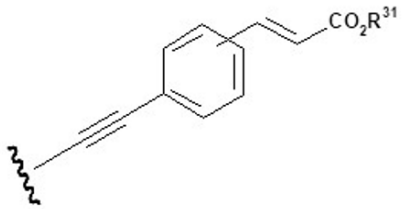
provided that the pair of R^{10} and R^{12} or R^{11} and R^{13} does **not** represent a bond if a pair from R^8, R^9, R^{10} and R^{11} represents a bond;

R^{14} and R^{15}, which may be the same or different, are each hydrogen or $alkyl_{C1-10}$; and

R^a, R^b and R^c, which may be the same or different, are each hydrogen or $alkyl_{C1-10}$;

n is an integer from 1 to 6;

R^2 is a group VII:



VII

in which

R^{31} is hydrogen, $alkyl_{C1-10}$, $alkene_{C2-12}$, aryl or a photocleavable group;

and isomers thereof;

in free or in salt form.

2. The compound according to claim 1 wherein A^1 is CR^3, A^2 is CR^4, A^3 is CR^5; and R^2, R^3, R^4, and R^5 are each as defined in claim 1.

3. The compound according to claim 1 wherein R^8, R^9, R^{10} and R^{11} are each hydrogen.

4. The compound according to claim 1 wherein R^8 and R^{10} or R^9 and R^{11} represent a bond.

5. The compound according to claim 1 wherein R^{12} and R^{13} are the same or different; R^{12} and R^{13} may each represent $alkyl_{C1-4}$.

6. The compound of formula I according to claim 1 that is selected from the group consisting of:

(2*E*)-3-(4-2-[4,4-dimethyl-1-(propyn-2-yl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-6-yl] ethynylphenyl)prop-2-enoic acid; and

(2*E*)-3-(4-2-[4,4-dimethyl-1-(propyn-2-yl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-6-yl] ethynylphenyl)prop-2-enoic acid methyl ester;

and isomers thereof;
in free or in salt form.

7. A composition comprising the compound according to claim 1 in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients; said composition being for use in the generation of reactive oxygen species when said compound is activated by light.

8. The composition according to claim 7 for use in the treatment of one or more of a cancer selected from head and neck tumours, breast cancer, gynaecological tumours, brain tumours, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer, mesothelioma, and pancreatic cancer, or a disease caused by a pathogenic organism selected from bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites, protozoa and toxins, as well as cells and tissues infected or infiltrated therewith.