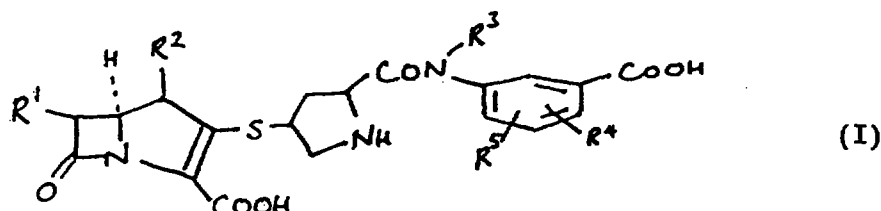


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ABSTRACT

ANTIBIOTIC COMPOUNDS

The present invention relates to carbapenems and provides a compound of the formula (I):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable ester thereof wherein:

R^1 is 1-hydroxyethyl, 1-fluoroethyl or hydroxymethyl;
 R^2 is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;
 R^3 is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;
 R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and are selected from hydrogen, halo, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, nitro, hydroxy, carboxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, aminosulphonyl, C_{1-4} alkylaminosulphonyl, di- C_{1-4} alkylaminosulphonyl, carbamoyl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbamoyl, di- C_{1-4} alkylcarbamoyl, trifluoromethyl, sulphonic acid, amino, C_{1-4} alkylamino, di- C_{1-4} alkylamino, C_{1-4} alkanoylamino, C_{1-4} alkanoyl(N - C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, C_{1-4} alkanesulphonamido and C_{1-4} alkylS(O)_n - wherein n is zero, one or two:

with the proviso that there is no hydroxy or carboxy substituent in a position ortho to the link to $-NR^3-$. Processes for their preparation, intermediates in their preparation, their use as therapeutic agents and pharmaceutical compositions containing them.

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