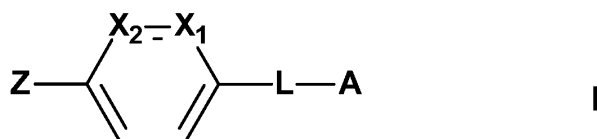


## CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula I:

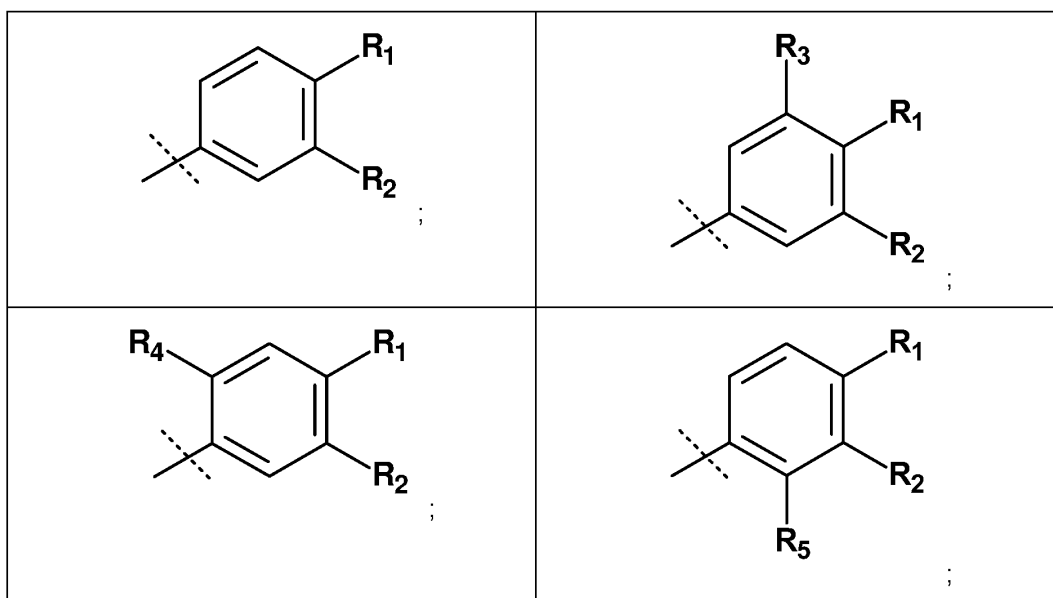


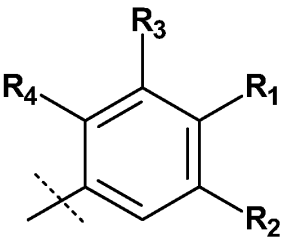
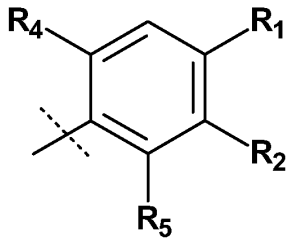
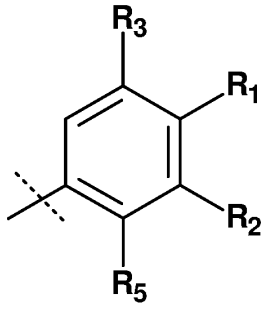
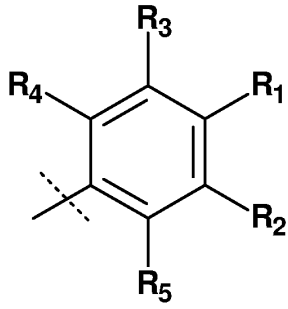
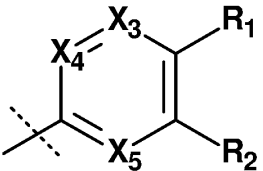
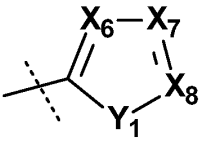
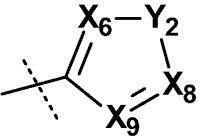
wherein:

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently represent N or  $CR_a$

$R_a$  independently represents H,  $NH_2$ , halo,  $C_{1-5}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-5}$  alkoxy,  $C_{2-5}$  alkenyl and  $C_{2-5}$  alkynyl (which latter four groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halo substituents);

A is selected from the group consisting of:



|                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |   |
|    |   |
|   |  |
|  |                                                                                     |

where:

the dotted line represents the point of attachment to the rest of the molecule;

each R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>5</sub> is independently selected from halo, C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-5</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>2-5</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2-5</sub> alkynyl, which latter four groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halo substituents;

X<sub>3</sub> represents N, CH or CR<sub>3</sub>, where R<sub>3</sub> is as defined above, X<sub>4</sub> represents N, CH or CR<sub>4</sub>, where R<sub>4</sub> is as defined above, X<sub>5</sub> represents N, CH or CR<sub>5</sub>, where R<sub>5</sub> is as defined above, provided that only one or two of X<sub>3</sub> to X<sub>5</sub> is N;

each X<sub>6</sub> to X<sub>9</sub> independently represents N, CH or CR<sub>6</sub>, where each R<sub>6</sub> is independently selected from C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-5</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>2-5</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2-5</sub> alkynyl, which four groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halo substituents;

wherein in any moiety A, one of  $R_1$  to  $R_6$  may be piperazine, methylpiperazine or ethylpiperazine, each of which may be connected to the rest of the moiety A *via* a carbon or nitrogen atom in the piperazine ring;

$Y_1$  represent  $NR_N$ , O or S;

$Y_2$  represents  $NR_N$ ,  $NR_Y$  O or S;

$R_N$  represents H,  $C_{1-5}$  alkyl,  $C_{2-5}$  alkenyl,  $C_{2-5}$  alkynyl, which latter three groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halo substituents;

$R_Y$  represents piperazine, methylpiperazine or ethylpiperazine, each of which is connected to the nitrogen atom in  $Y_2$  *via* a carbon atom in the piperazine ring;

L is a linking group of the formula:

$-M-(CR_LR_M)_a-C(O)-NR_7-$ ;

$-M-(CR_LR_M)_a-NR_7-C(O)-$ ; or

$-M-C(O)-(CR_NR_O)-C(O)-M-$

where M represents a covalent bond, O or NH;

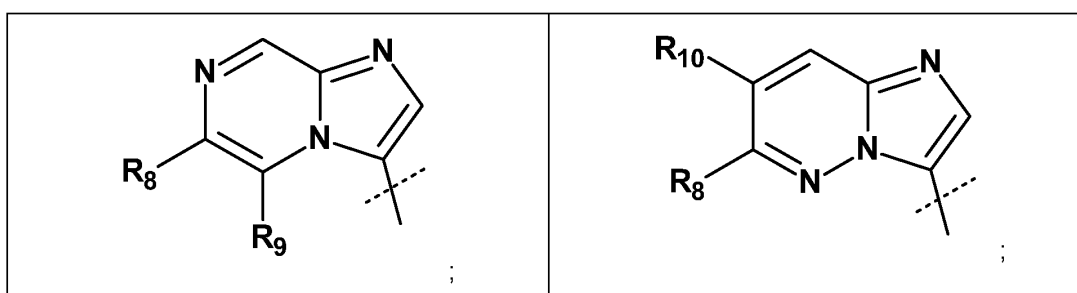
$R_L$  and  $R_M$  each independently represent H, methyl, ethyl, fluoro or chloro, or  $R_L$  and  $R_M$  together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a  $C_3$  or  $C_4$  cycloalkyl ring, carbonyl or thiocarbonyl group;

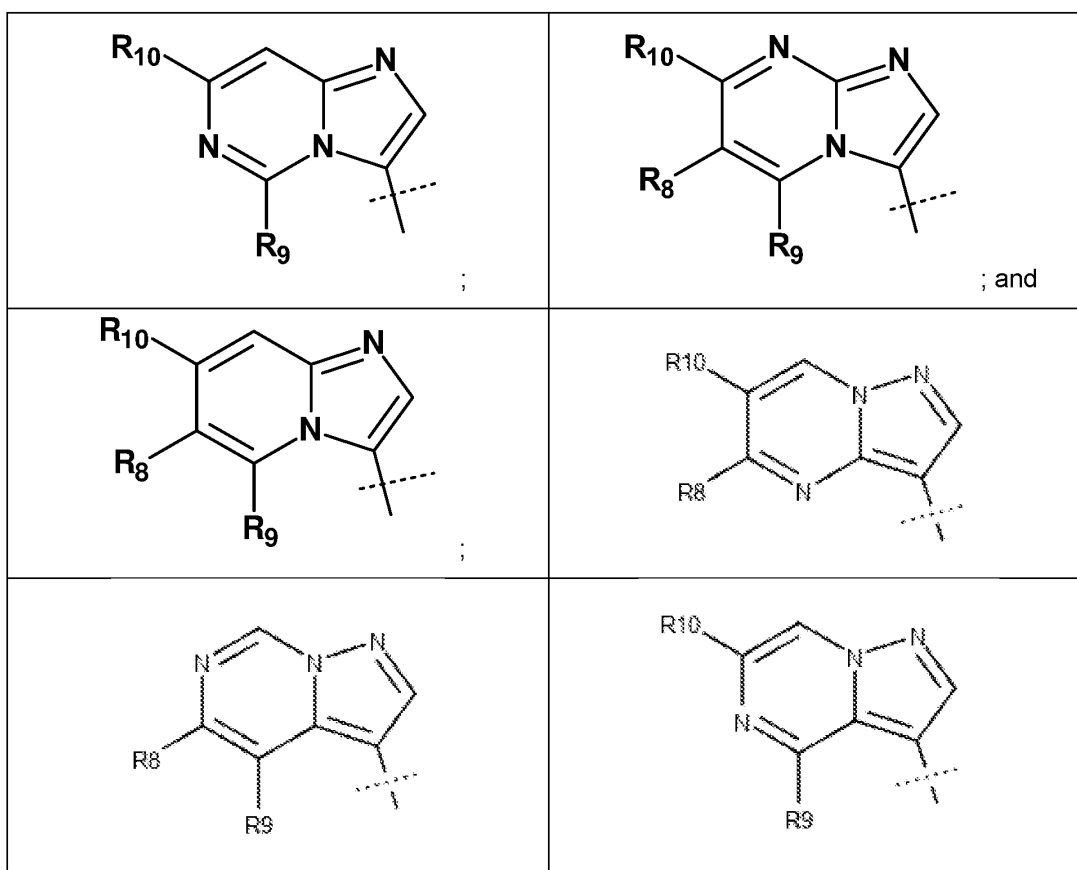
a represents 0 or 1;

$R_7$  and  $R_7'$  represent H or an optionally substituted alkyl group;

$R_N$  and  $R_O$  each independently represent H, methyl, ethyl, fluoro or chloro;

Z represents a heterocycle selected from the group consisting of:



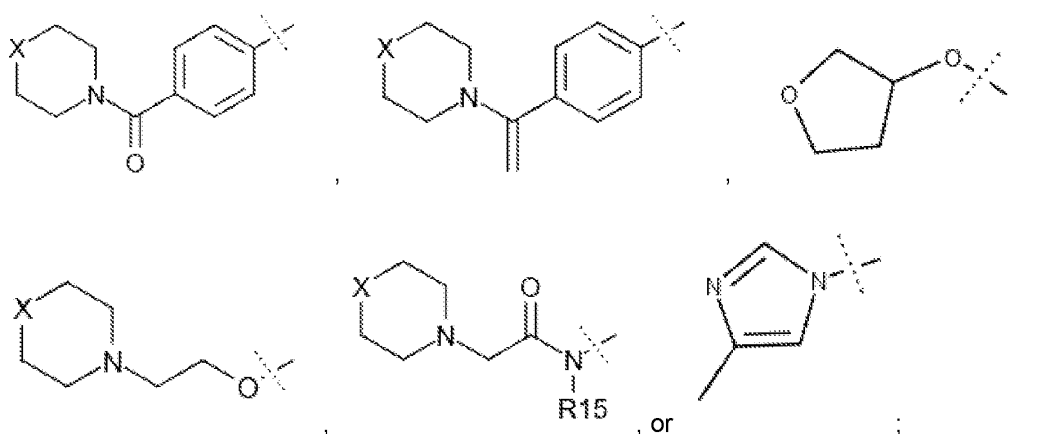


where:

the dotted line represents the point of attachment to the rest of the molecule, and Z is attached to the rest of the molecule *via* a covalent bond, or *via* a -O- or -NH- group;

each of R<sub>8</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> are independently selected from H, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>5</sub> alkoxy (which latter two groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halo groups), OC(O)R<sub>11</sub>, C(O)OR<sub>12</sub>, C<sub>2</sub> to C<sub>5</sub> alkynyl (which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halo groups) or NR<sub>13</sub>R<sub>14</sub>, and O-(C<sub>1-4</sub> alkenenyl)-O-C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl,

and one of R<sub>8</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> may be a group of the formula:



where X represents O, NR<sub>x</sub>,

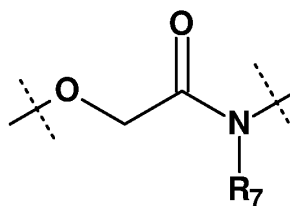
R<sub>x</sub> represents H or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl,

R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> each independently represent, at each occurrence, optionally substituted alkyl;

R<sub>13</sub> and R<sub>14</sub> each independently represent, at each occurrence, H or optionally substituted alkyl;

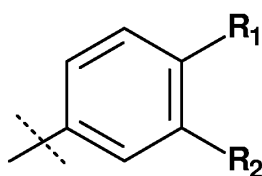
R<sub>15</sub> represents H or C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof,



provided that when X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> are both CH, L is

, and A is



, then Z is not an optionally substituted heteroaryl selected from optionally substituted tetrazolyl or optionally substituted imidazopyridinyl.

2. A compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, wherein R<sub>a</sub> independently represents H, NH<sub>2</sub>, F, Cl, or C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl, which C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl group is unsubstituted or substituted by one, two or three fluoro or chloro substituents,

optionally wherein R<sub>a</sub> is H or F.

3. A compound according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein  $X_1$  is selected from N and CH, and  $X_2$  is selected from CH and CF.

4. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, wherein:

each  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  independently represents halo,  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-3}$  alkoxy,  $C_{2-3}$  alkenyl and  $C_{2-3}$  alkynyl (which four groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halo substituents), optionally wherein each  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  independently represents fluoro, chloro, methyl or ethyl, which methyl and ethyl groups may be unsubstituted or substituted by one, two or three fluoro or chloro groups.

5. A compound according to Claim 1 or 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, wherein:

$Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  independently represent O,  $NC_{1-3}$  alkyl or NH; and/or

$R_6$  independently represents  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-3}$  alkoxy,  $C_{2-3}$  alkenyl and  $C_{2-3}$  alkynyl (which four groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halo substituents),

optionally wherein  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  independently represent O, NMe or NH, and/or

$R_6$  independently represents fluoro, chloro, methyl or ethyl, which methyl and ethyl groups may be unsubstituted or substituted by one, two or three fluoro or chloro groups.

6. A compound according to Claim 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, wherein each of  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  independently represents methyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro or chloro.

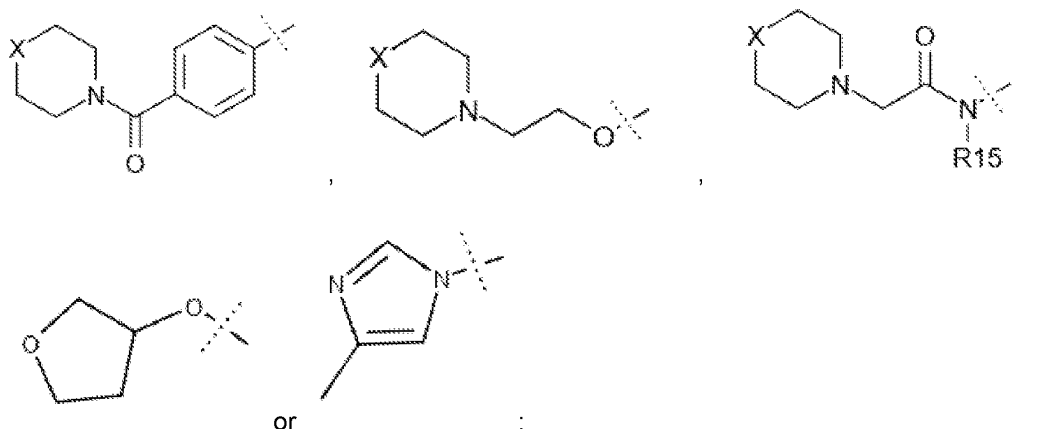
7. A compound according to any one of the preceding Claims, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, wherein:

(a) each  $R_8$  to  $R_{10}$  independently represents H, hydroxy, Me,  $C_{1-2}$  alkoxy (which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halo groups),  $OC(O)R_{11}$ ,  $C(O)OR_{12}$ ,  $C_2$  to  $C_3$  alkynyl (which is substituted by one or more halo groups),  $O-(C_{1-2}$  alkylene)- $O-C_{1-2}$  alkyl, or  $NR_{13}R_{14}$ ,

$R_{11}$  and  $R_{12}$  each independently represent methyl or ethyl,

$R_{13}$  and  $R_{14}$  each independently represent H, methyl or ethyl; or

(b) one of  $R_8$  to  $R_{10}$  represents a group of the formula

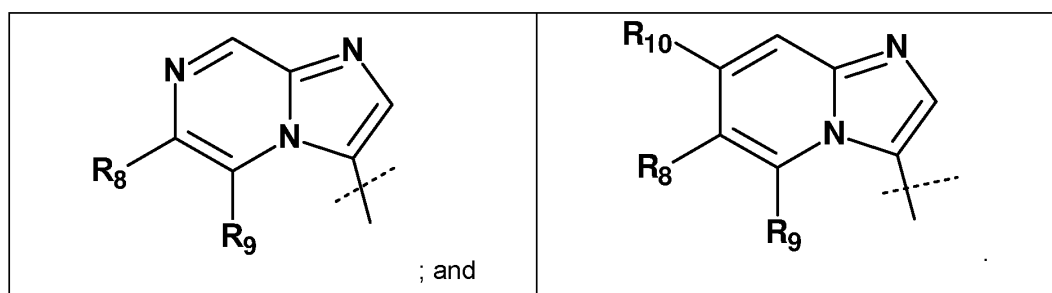


where X represents O, NH, or N-C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl,

R<sub>15</sub> represents methyl,

and the remaining two of R<sub>8</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> are as defined in part (a).

8. A compound according to any one of the preceding Claims, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, wherein Z represents a heterocycle selected from:



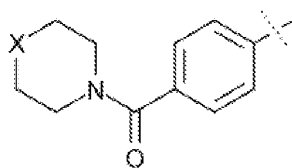
9. A compound according to any one of the preceding Claims, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, wherein:

(a) when any of R<sub>8</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> is a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>5</sub> alkyl group, it is an unsubstituted methyl group; and/or

(b) when any of R<sub>8</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> is a C<sub>2</sub> to C<sub>5</sub> alkynyl group, it is a C<sub>2</sub> to C<sub>5</sub> alkynyl group which is substituted by one or more halo groups.

10. A compound according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein:

R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub>, when present, are H, and



$R_8$  is selected from H and , where X is O or NH.

11. A compound according to any one of any one of the preceding Claims, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, wherein A is selected from the group consisting of:

|                                                                                          |                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                          | <p>where only one of <math>X_3</math> to <math>X_5</math> is N;</p>                   |
| <p>where only one of <math>X_6</math>, <math>X_8</math> or <math>X_9</math> is N; or</p> | <p>where only one of <math>X_6</math>, <math>X_7</math> or <math>X_8</math> is N.</p> |

12. A compound according to Claim 11, wherein A is selected from the group consisting of:

|                                                                                       |                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                       | <p>where only one of <math>X_3</math> to <math>X_5</math> is N;</p> |
| <p>where only one of <math>X_6</math>, <math>X_8</math> or <math>X_9</math> is N;</p> |                                                                     |

and where when present:

R<sub>1</sub> is selected from Cl and CH,

R<sub>2</sub> is CF<sub>3</sub>,

X<sub>3</sub> and X<sub>5</sub> are CH,

X<sub>4</sub> is N,

X<sub>6</sub> is N,

X<sub>8</sub> and X<sub>9</sub> are CH,

Y<sub>2</sub> are selected from N-CH<sub>3</sub> and O.

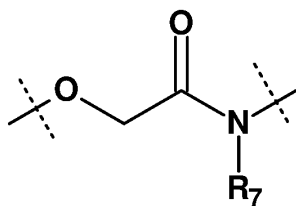
13. A compound according to any one of the preceding Claims, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, wherein:

M represents O or NH; and/or

R<sub>L</sub> and R<sub>M</sub> each independently represent H, methyl or chloro, or R<sub>L</sub> and R<sub>M</sub> together represent thiocarbonyl or cyclopropyl; and/or

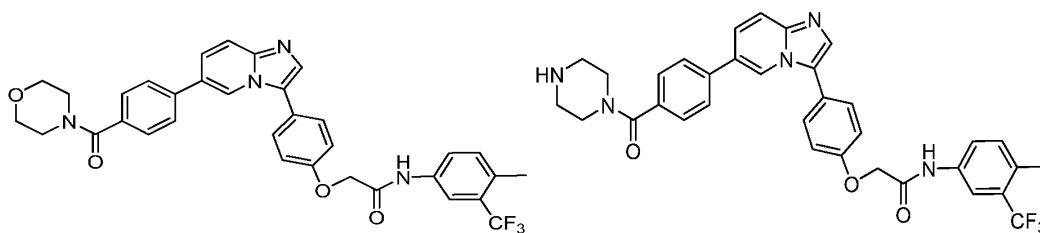
a represents 1.

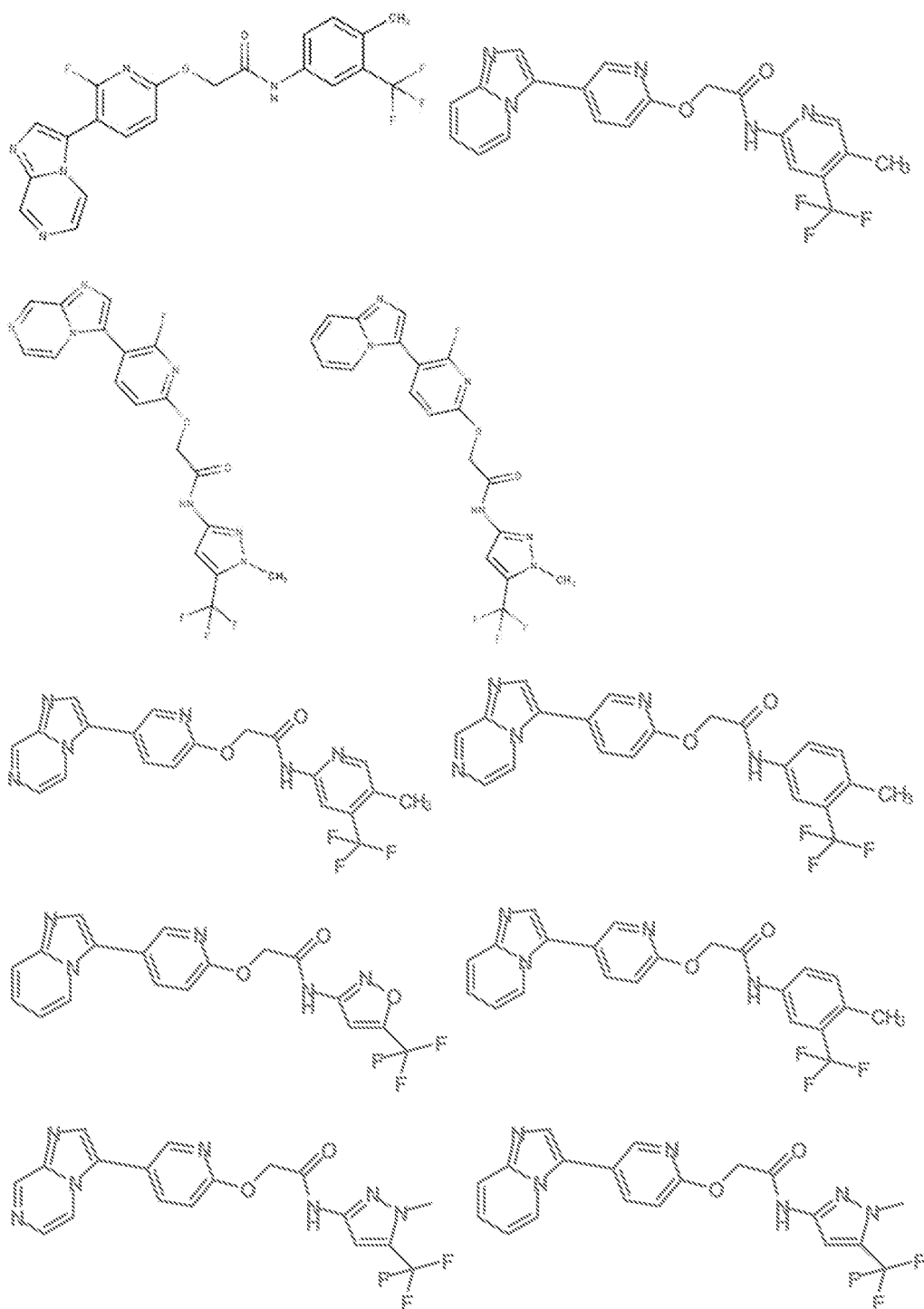
14. A compound according to any one of the preceding Claims, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, wherein L represents:

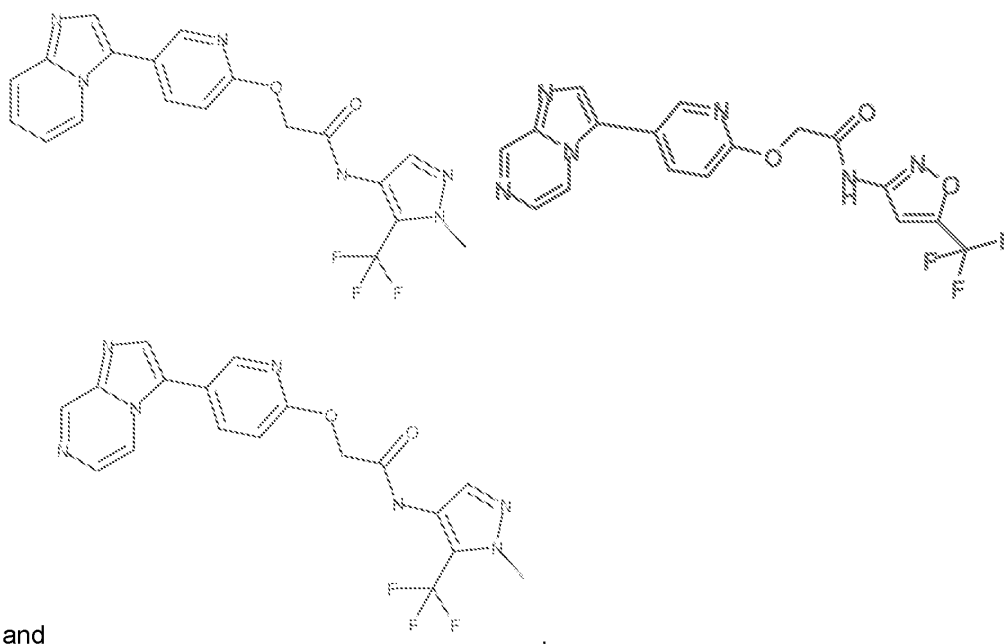


where the dotted lines represent the point of attachment to the rest of the molecule.

15. A compound according to Claim 1 which is selected from:

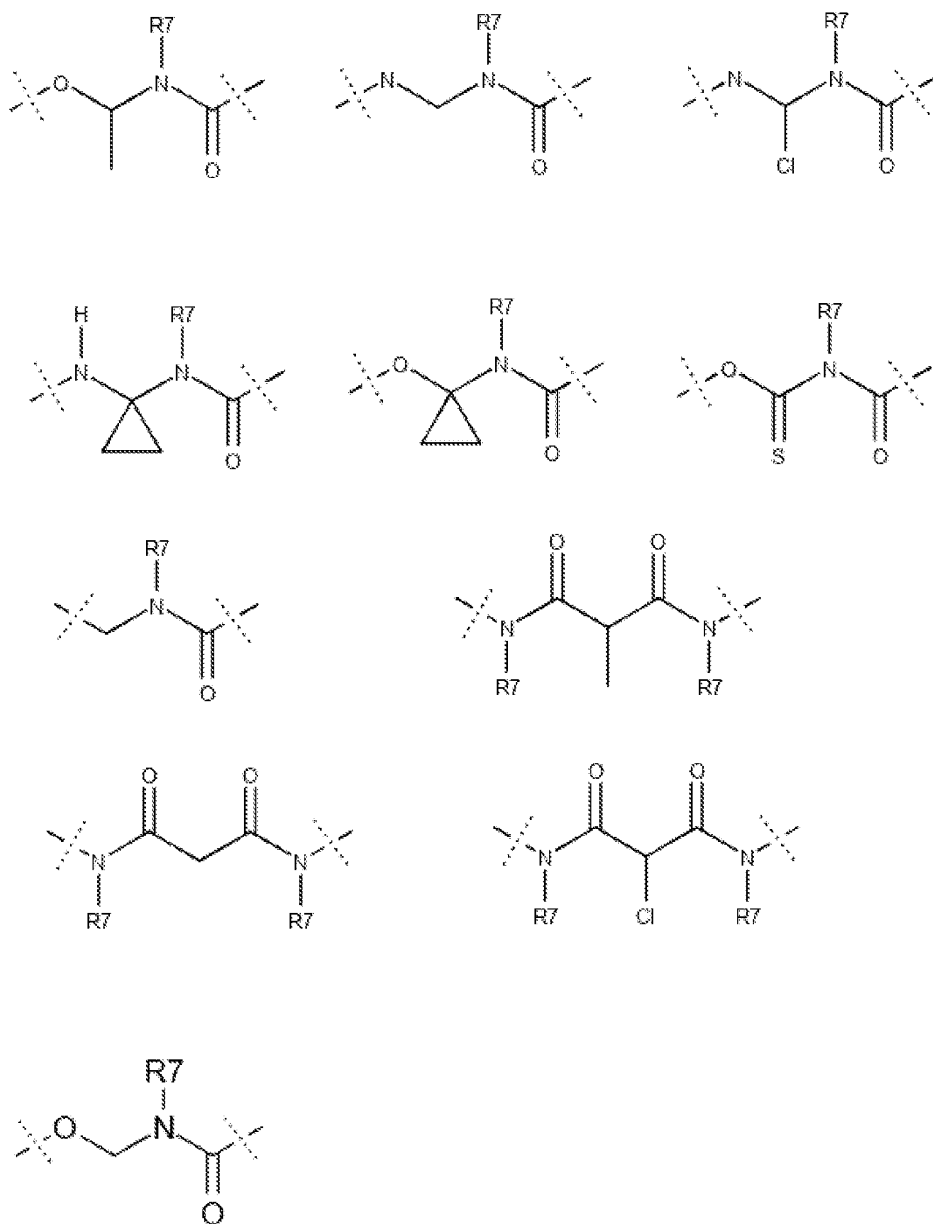




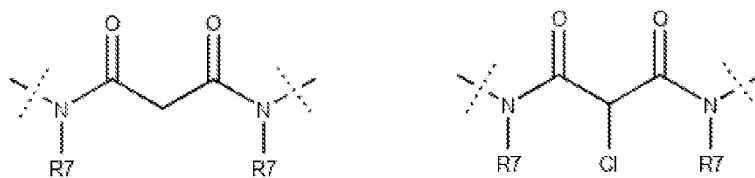


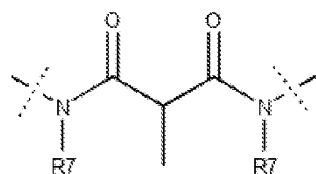
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof.

16. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 13, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, wherein L is selected from:



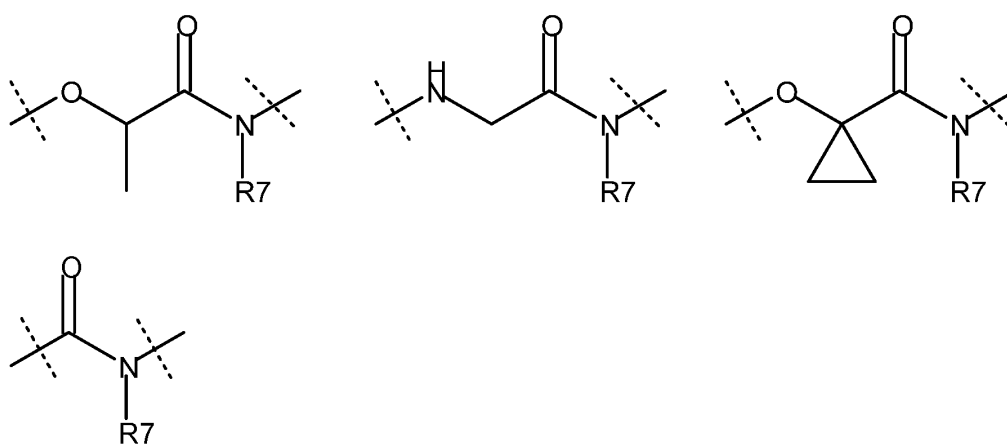
optionally wherein L is selected from



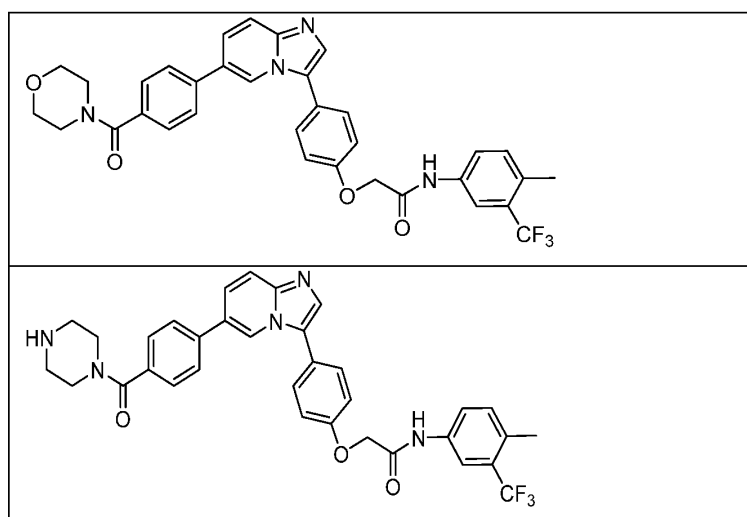


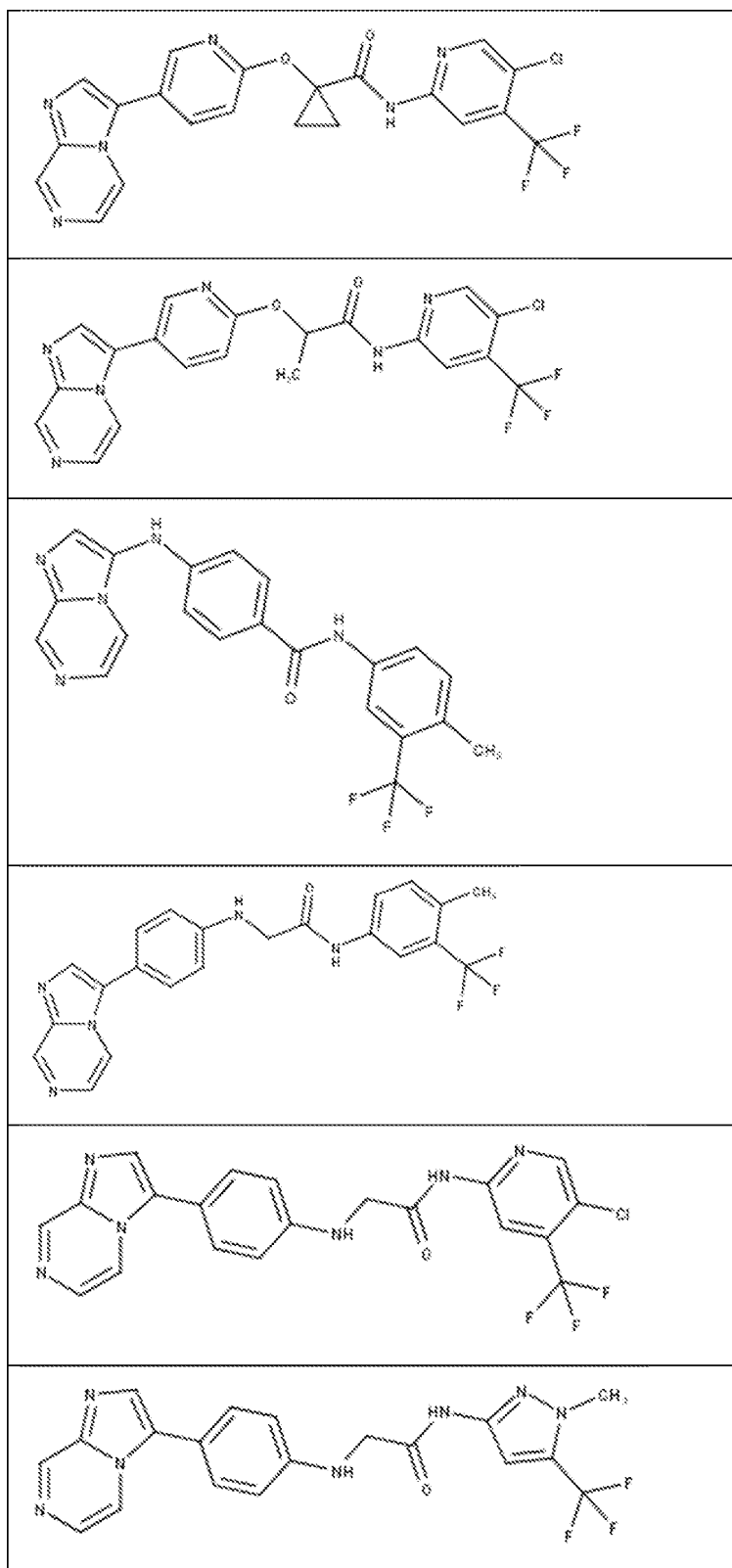
and

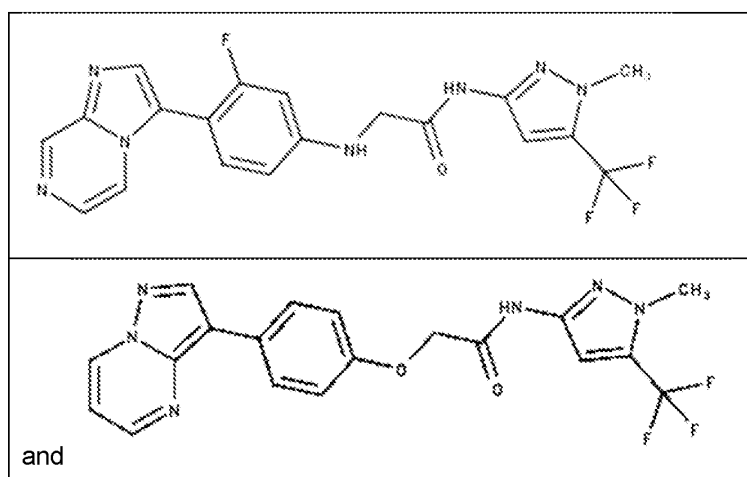
17. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 13, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, wherein L is:



18. A compound according to Claim 1 which is selected from:







or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof.

19. Use of a compound of formula I as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 18, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament to treat one or more of macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and angiogenesis.

20. A method of treating one or more of macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and angiogenesis, which method comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 18 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof.

21. A compound of formula I as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 18 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, for use in treating one or more of macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and angiogenesis.

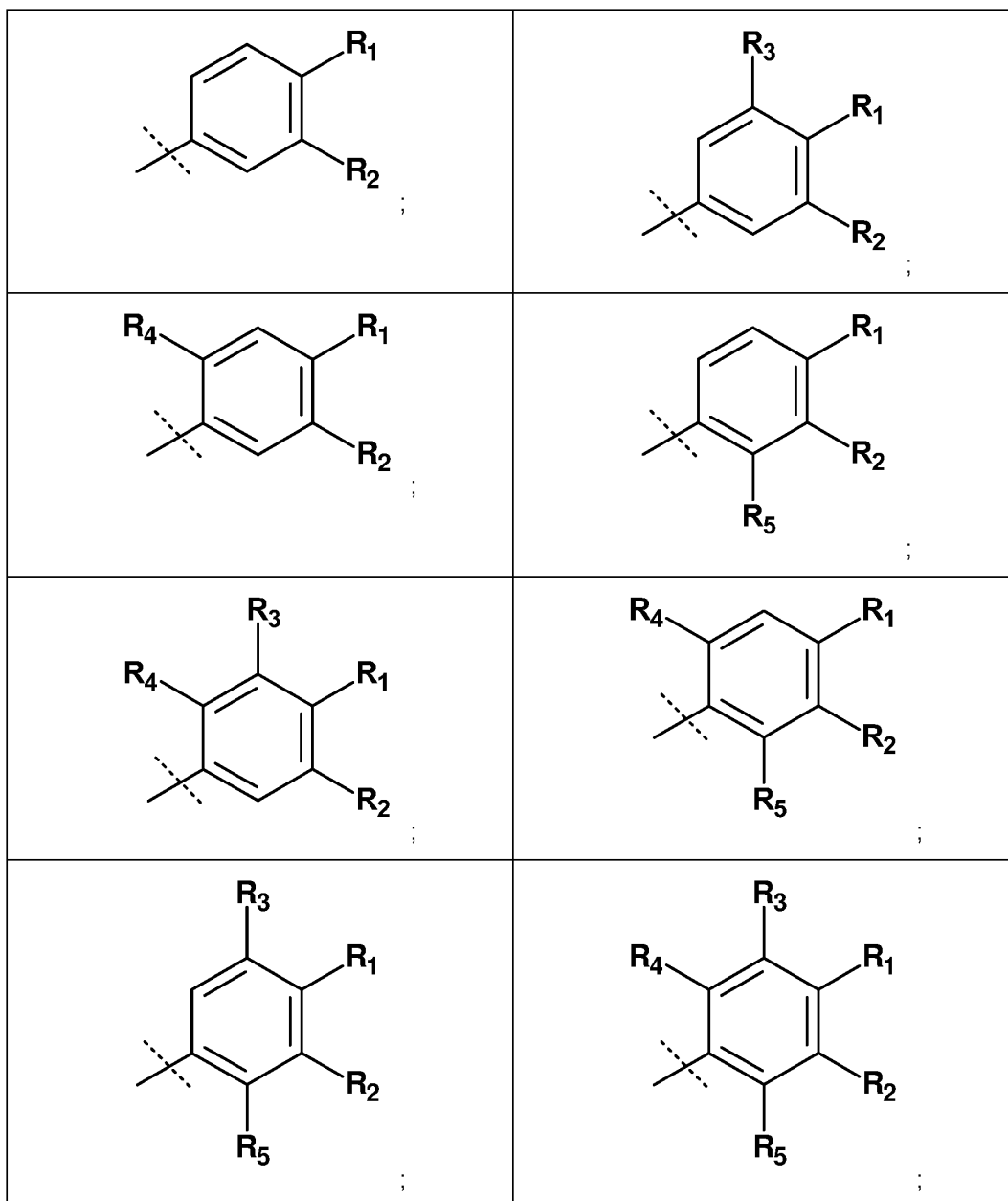
22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 18 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof.

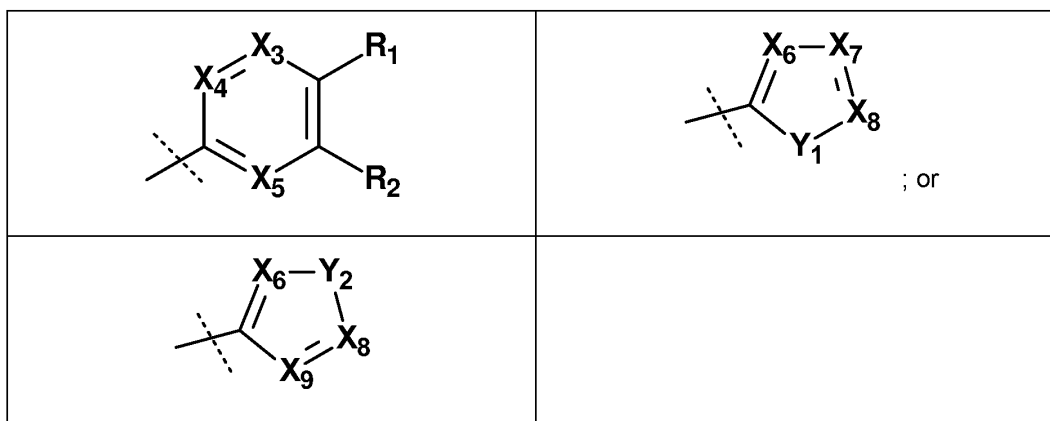
23. A compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, wherein:

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently represent N or  $CR_a$

R<sub>a</sub> independently represents H, NH<sub>2</sub>, halo, C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-5</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>2-5</sub> alkenyl and C<sub>2-5</sub> alkynyl (which latter four groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halo substituents);

A is selected from the group consisting of:





where:

the dotted line represents the point of attachment to the rest of the molecule;

each  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  is independently selected from halo,  $C_{1-5}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-5}$  alkoxy,  $C_{2-5}$  alkenyl,  $C_{2-5}$  alkynyl, which latter four groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halo substituents;

$X_3$  represents N, CH or  $CR_3$ , where  $R_3$  is as defined above,  $X_4$  represents N, CH or  $CR_4$ , where  $R_4$  is as defined above,  $X_5$  represents N, CH or  $CR_5$ , where  $R_5$  is as defined above, provided that only one or two of  $X_3$  to  $X_5$  is N;

each  $X_6$  to  $X_9$  independently represents N, CH or  $CR_6$ , where each  $R_6$  is independently selected from  $C_{1-5}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-5}$  alkoxy,  $C_{2-5}$  alkenyl,  $C_{2-5}$  alkynyl, which four groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halo substituents;

$Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  each independently represent  $NR_N$ , O or S;

$R_N$  represents H,  $C_{1-5}$  alkyl,  $C_{2-5}$  alkenyl,  $C_{2-5}$  alkynyl, which latter three groups are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halo substituents;

L is a linking group of the formula:

$-M-(CR_LR_M)_a-C(O)-NR_7-$ ; or

$-M-(CR_LR_M)_a-NR_7-C(O)-$ ;

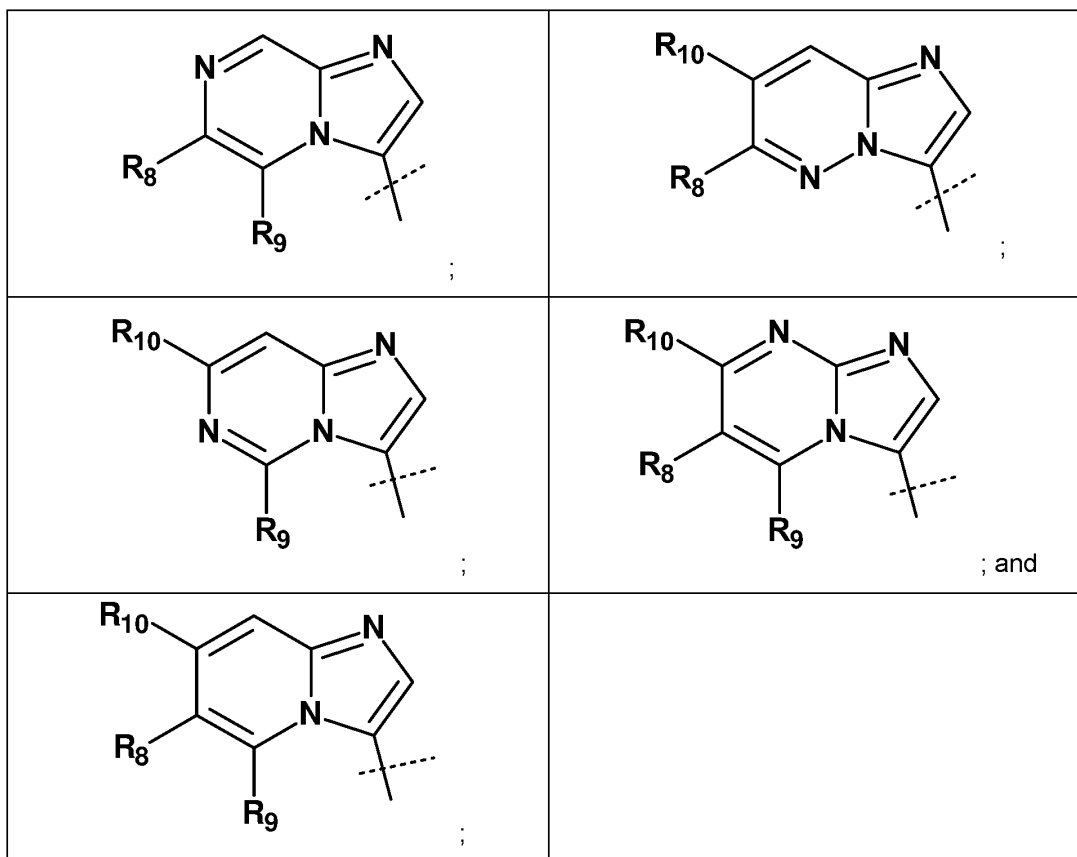
where M represents a covalent bond, O or NH;

$R_L$  and  $R_M$  each independently represent H, methyl, ethyl, fluoro or chloro, or  $R_L$  and  $R_M$  together form a  $C_3$  or  $C_4$  cycloalkyl ring, carbonyl or thiocarbonyl group;

a represents 0 or 1;

$R_7$  and  $R_7'$  represent H or an optionally substituted alkyl group;

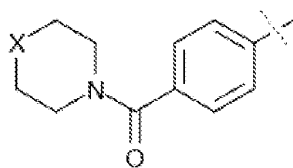
Z represents a heterocycle selected from the group consisting of:



where:

the dotted line represents the point of attachment to the rest of the molecule, and Z is attached to the rest of the molecule *via* a covalent bond, or *via* a -O- or -NH- group;

each of R<sub>8</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> are independently selected from H, Me, C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>5</sub> alkoxy which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halo groups, OC(O)R<sub>11</sub>, C(O)OR<sub>12</sub>, C<sub>2</sub> to C<sub>5</sub> alkynyl substituted by one or more halo groups or NR<sub>13</sub>R<sub>14</sub>, and one of R<sub>8</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> may be a

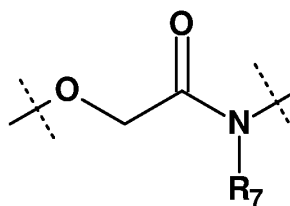


group of the formula

where X represents O or NH

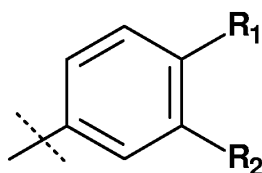
R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> each independently represent, at each occurrence, optionally substituted alkyl;

R<sub>13</sub> and R<sub>14</sub> each independently represent, at each occurrence, H or optionally substituted alkyl; ,



provided that when  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are both CH, L is

, and A is



, then Z is not an optionally substituted heteroaryl selected from optionally substituted tetrazolyl or optionally substituted imidazopyridinyl.