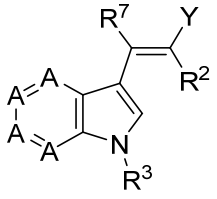
CLAIMS

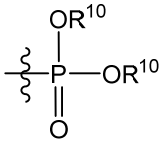
1. A compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



(I)

wherein:

each A is independently CH, CR^4, or N;

Y is carboxyl, ester, amide, or  ;

R^2 is CN or carboxyl;

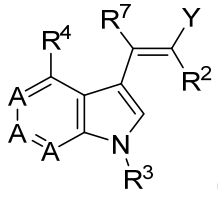
R^3 is aralkyl or aralkylacyl, and is optionally substituted by one or more R^5, each R^5 is independently selected from alkyl, alkoxy, and halo;

R^7 is hydrogen, alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxy, or acyloxy;

R^{10} is hydrogen or alkyl; wherein alkyl is as hereinbefore defined; and

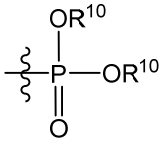
provided that at least one A is N.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is a compound of formula III or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



(III)

wherein,

Y is carboxyl, ester, amide, or  ;

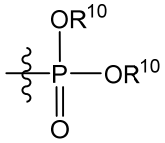
R^2 is CN or carboxyl;

R^3 is aralkyl or aralkylacyl, and is optionally substituted by one or more R^5, each R^5 is independently selected from alkyl, alkoxy, and halo;

each instance of R^4 is independently alkyl, carboxyl, halo, hydroxy, ester, or CN;

R^7 is hydrogen, alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxy, or acyloxy; and

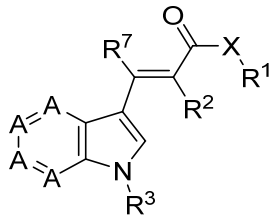
R^{10} is hydrogen or alkyl; wherein alkyl is as hereinbefore defined.

3. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein Y is .

4. The compound of claim 3, wherein R^{10} is H or ethyl.

5. The compound of any one of claims 1-4, wherein Y is ester or amide.

6. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is a compound of formula V or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



(V)

wherein:

each A is independently CH, CR^4, or N;

X is NR^6 or O;

R^1 is H or lower alkyl;

R^2 is CN or carboxyl;

R^3 is aralkyl, or aralkylacyl, substituted by one or more R^5;

R^6 is from H, alkyl, or cycloalkyl; and

R^7 is hydrogen, alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxy, or acyloxy; wherein alkyl is as hereinbefore defined.

7. The compound of claim 5 or 6, wherein X is NH.

8. The compound of claim 5 or 6, wherein X is O.

9. The compound of claim 6, wherein R^1 is H.

10. The compound of claim 6, wherein R^1 is C_1-C_6alkyl.

11. The compound of claim 6 or 7, wherein R^6 is hydrogen.

12. The compound of claim 6 or 7, wherein R^2 is CN.

13. The compound of claim 6 or 7, wherein R^2 is carboxyl.

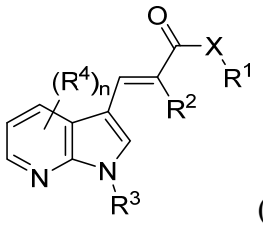
14. The compound of any one of claims 1-13, wherein R^3 is aralkylacyl (e.g., phenylacetyl).

15. The compound of any one of claims 1-13, wherein R^3 is benzyl.

16. The compound of claim 14 or 15, wherein R^3 is substituted by one or two R^5, and wherein each R^5 is independently selected from fluoroalkyl or fluoro.

17. The compound of claim 16, wherein R^3 is substituted by two R^5, and wherein each R^5 is trifluoromethyl.

18. The compound of any one of claims 1-17, wherein the compound is represented by formula Vb:



(Vb)

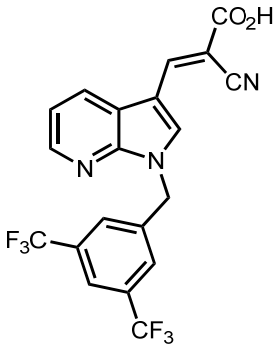
wherein n is 0-3.

19. The compound of claim 18, wherein n is 0 or 1.

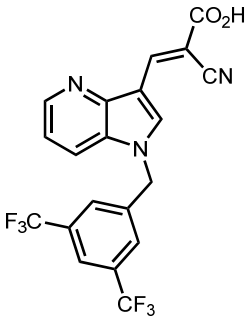
20. The compound of claim 18 or 19, wherein R^4 is halo or haloalkyl.

21. The compound of any one of the preceding claims, wherein R^7 is hydrogen, hydroxyl, halo (e.g., chloro), or acyloxy (e.g., acetyloxy).

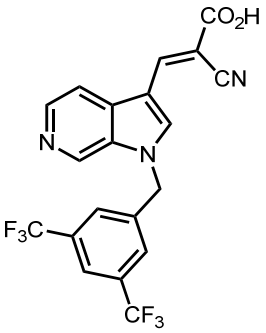
22. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:



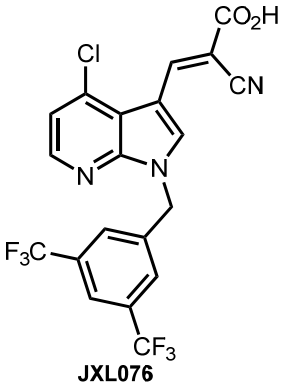
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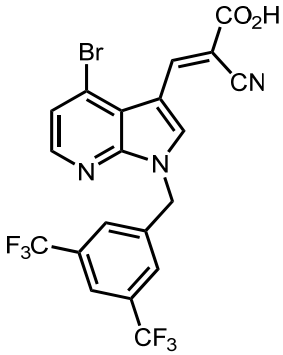
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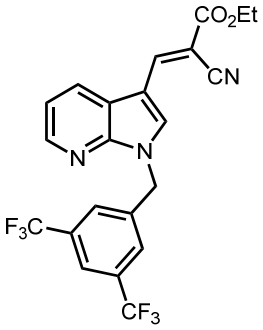
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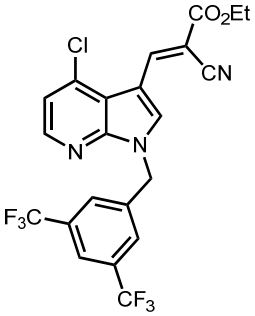
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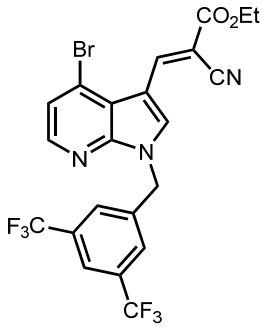
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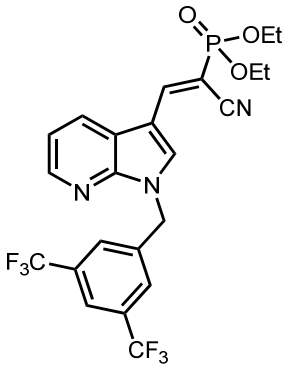
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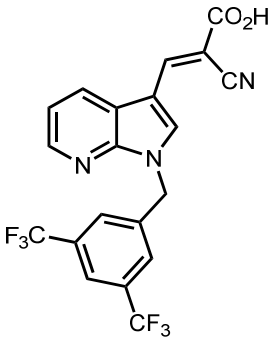
JXL087 ,



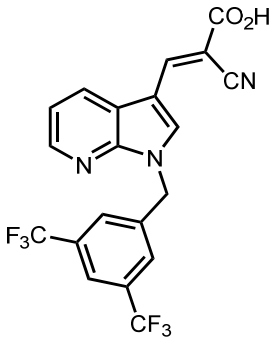
JXL088 and



JXL095 ; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 

JXL069 .

24. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is a salt of 

JXL069 .

25. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of any one of the preceding claims and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

26. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 25, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is formulated for topical administration.

27. A compound of any one of claims 1-24 for use as a medicament.

28. A compound of any one of claims 1-24 for use in promoting hair growth.

29. A compound of any one of claims 1-24 for use in treating a condition or disorder affecting hair growth.

30. The compound for use of claim 29, wherein the condition or disorder is baldness or alopecia.

31. Use of a compound of any one of claims 1-24 in the preparation of a medicament for treating a condition or disorder affecting hair growth.

32. The use of claim 31, wherein the condition or disorder is baldness or alopecia.