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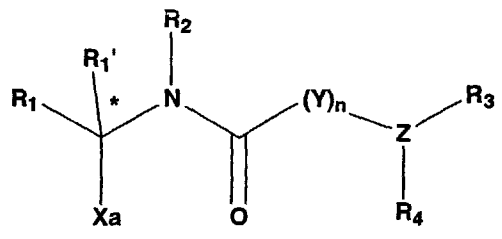
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(54) Title: HETEROCYCLIC AROMATIC COMPOUNDS USEFUL AS GROWTH HORMONE SECRETAGOGUES



(I)

(57) Abstract: Novel heterocyclic aromatic compounds are provided that are useful in stimulating endogenous production or release of growth hormone, said compounds having the general structure of formula (I) wherein R_1, R_1', R_2, R_3, R_4, Xa, Y, Z, and n are as described herein. The compounds provided herein are useful in treating obesity, osteoporosis (improving bone density) and in improving muscle mass and muscle strength.

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