(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
9 April 2009 (09.04.2009)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2009/043890 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
C07D 271/06 (2006.01) *A61P 37/00* (2006.01)
A61K 31/4245 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2008/063185

(22) International Filing Date: 1 October 2008 (01.10.2008)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
07117925.3 4 October 2007 (04.10.2007) EP
60/998,136 9 October 2007 (09.10.2007) US

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **MERCK SERONO S.A.** [CH/CH]; Centre Industriel, CH-1267 Coinsins (CH).

(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **MONTAGNE, Cyril** [FR/FR]; 1, rue de Lyon, F-01630 Saint-Genis-Pouilly (FR). **QUATTROPANI, Anna** [CH/CH]; Route de Chêne 2, Geneva, 1207. **SAUER, Wolfgang** [DE/CH]; 71 chemin des Cornillons, CH-1292 Chambesy (CH). **BOMBRUN, Agnès** [FR/CH]; 71, chemin des Cornillons, CH-1292 Chambesy (CH).

(74) Agent: **MERCK SERONO S.A. - GENEVA**; Intellectual Property, 9, chemin des Mines, CH-1202 Geneva (CH).

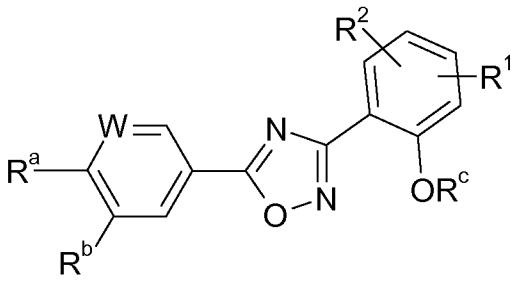
(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:
— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*
— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

Published:
— *with international search report*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(54) Title: OXADIAZOLE DIARYL COMPOUNDS



(I)

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to compounds of formula (I): wherein R^1, R^2, R^a, R^b, R^c and W, have the meanings given in claim 1. The compounds are useful e.g. in the treatment of autoimmune disorders, such as multiple sclerosis.

WO 2009/043890 A1