

5 substituents R^b independently selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, Br, I, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, amino, C_{1-4} alkylamino, di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, C_{1-4} (halo)alkoxy, and $-C(O)N(R^c)_2$; R^{A1} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl, C_{1-8} haloalkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, phenyl and benzyl; R^{A2} is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-8} alkyl that is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from oxo ($=O$), fluoro, hydroxy, amino, C_{1-4} alkylamino and di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino; X^{RA} is selected from the group consisting of absent, $-C(=O)-$, and C_{1-4} alkylene; wherein any C_{1-4} alkylene, of X^{RA} is optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, and phenyl that is optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from, F, Cl, Br, I, $-NH_2$, $-OH$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} (halo)alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylamino and C_{1-4} dialkylamino; ring "A" is a 3-15 membered heterocyclyl;

Ring B is a 5, 6, or 7 membered carbocyclyl or a 5, 6, or 7 membered heterocyclyl, which 5, 6, or 7 membered carbocyclyl and 5, 6, or 7 membered heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with one or more groups independently selected from C_{1-4} alkyl, halo, and halo C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^{1b} is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^3 , R^4 , and R^5 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, Cl, Br, I, $-CN$, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, C_{1-8} haloalkyl and C_{1-8} alkoxy;

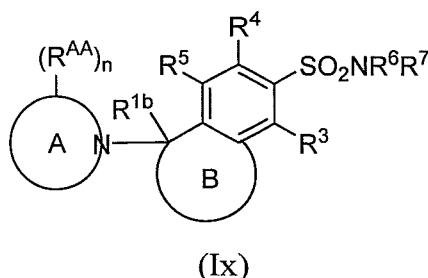
R^6 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, aryl, and aryl(C_{1-4} alkyl); and R^7 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-8} alkyl, 3-15 membered heterocyclyl, 5-12 membered heteroaryl, $-C(O)N(R^c)_2$ and $-C(=NCN)N(R^c)_2$; or R^6 and R^7 , together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form a 3-15 membered heterocyclyl or 5-12 membered heteroaryl; wherein any C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, 3-15 membered heterocyclyl, and 5-12 membered heteroaryl is optionally substituted with one or more groups R^d that are independently selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, Br, I, $-NH_2$, $-OH$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} (halo)alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylamino and C_{1-4} dialkylamino; each R^c is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, phenyl and benzyl; and n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.

In another aspect, the present invention refers to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the present invention, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

In yet another aspect, the present invention refers to a compound as described in the present invention or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of a disease or disorder selected from the group consisting of pain, depression, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, and psychiatric diseases, or a combination thereof.

WE CLAIM:

1. A compound of formula (Ix):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein,

each R^{AA} is independently selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, Br, I, -CN,

-C(=O)OR^{A1}, -SO₂R^{A1}, -OR^{A1}, -(X^{RA})-(3-15 membered carbocyclyl), -(X^{RA})-(6-12 membered

aryl), -(X^{RA})-(5-12 membered heteroaryl), and -R^{A2}, wherein said 3-15 membered carbocyclyl, 6-12 membered aryl, and 5-12 membered heteroaryl of R^{AA} is optionally substituted with from 1 to 5 substituents R^b independently selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, Br, I, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, amino, C₁₋₄ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, C₁₋₄(halo)alkoxy, and -C(O)N(R^c)₂; R^{A1} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₈ alkyl, C₂₋₈ alkenyl, C₁₋₈ haloalkyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, phenyl and benzyl; R^{A2} is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₈ alkyl that is

optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from oxo (=O), fluoro, hydroxy, amino, C₁₋₄ alkylamino and di(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino; X^{RA} is selected from the group consisting of absent, -C(=O)-, and C₁₋₄ alkylene; wherein any C₁₋₄ alkylene, of X^{RA} is optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, and phenyl that is optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from, F, Cl, Br, I, -NH₂, -OH, -CN, -NO₂, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄(halo)alkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkylamino and C₁₋₄ dialkylamino; ring "A" is a 3-15 membered heterocyclyl;

Ring B is a 5, 6, or 7 membered carbocyclyl or a 5, 6, or 7 membered heterocyclyl, which 5, 6, or 7 membered carbocyclyl and 5, 6, or 7 membered heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with one or more groups independently selected from C₁₋₄ alkyl, halo, and haloC₁₋₄ alkyl;

R^{1b} is H or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

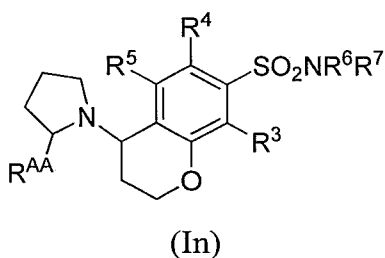
R^3 , R^4 , and R^5 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, Cl, Br, I, -CN, C₁₋₈ alkyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₈ haloalkyl and C₁₋₈ alkoxy;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁₋₈ alkyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, aryl, and aryl(C₁₋₄ alkyl);

and R^7 is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₈ alkyl, 3-15 membered heterocyclyl, 5-12

membered heteroaryl, -C(O)N(R^c)₂ and -C(=NCN)N(R^c)₂; or R^6 and R^7 , together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form a 3-15 membered heterocyclyl or 5-12 membered heteroaryl;

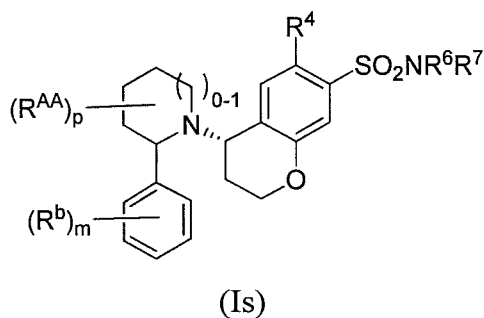
11. The compound of claim 1, which is a compound of formula In:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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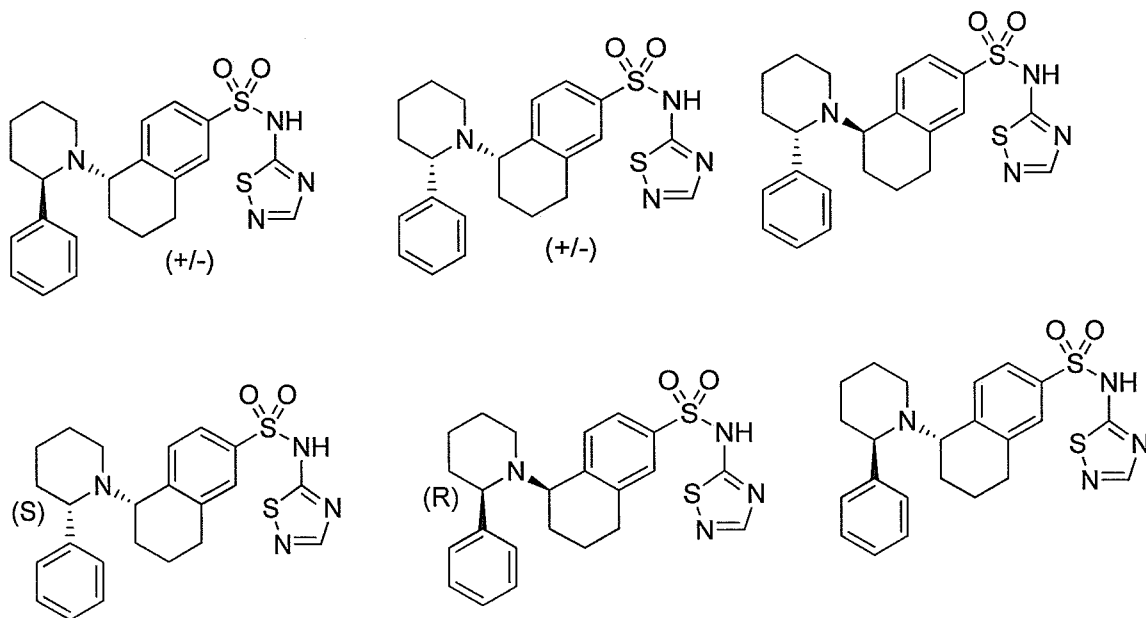
12. The compound of claim 1, which is a compound of formula Is:



wherein **m** is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5; and **p** is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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13. The compound of claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of:



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