

Novel heterocyclic NF- κ B Inhibitors

Field of the invention

The present invention relates to compounds of the general formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) or a stereoisomer thereof or possible pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds, for use as a medicament. The compounds of the invention are exceptionally useful for the treatment of diseases associated with abnormal and hyperproliferation of cells in mammals, especially in humans. In particular, they are useful for the treatment of diseases characterized by a hyperproliferation of T-cells.

The present invention relates to compounds which are suitable for the therapy of diseases that can be treated by modulating cellular pathways in eukaryotes, e.g. cancer, immunological or inflammatory disorders, and viral infections, to further processes for the preparation of these compounds, and to their use.

T-cell homeostasis is critical for the maintenance of immune tolerance. Defects in T-cell homeostasis can lead to autoimmune pathology. Autoimmune diseases include a large spectrum of clinically distinct entities that share a common aetiology, a misguided, self-directed immune response.

This immune response can also be the consequence of an organ transplant.

Evidence suggests a prime role of T-cell reactivity in autoimmune diseases. Measuring proliferative responses in T-lymphocytes is a widely used assay to measure immune competence (Killestein, J. *et al. J. Neuroimmunol.* **133**,217-24, **2002**).

We used a nonradioactive technique for the measurement of in vitro T-cell proliferation (Messele, T. *et al. Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology* 687-692, **2000**).

Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were isolated from human blood obtained from volunteer donators. PBMCs were isolated by centrifugation in ACCUSPIN tubes using HISTOPAQUE.

PBMCs were stimulated with PHA and cell proliferation was measured with a Roche colorimetric BromUridin incorporation ELISA kit.

Regulation of the immune response is controlled by a variety of signalling pathways such as T-cell or TNF receptor signalling (Chen, G. *et al. Science* 296, 1634-1635, **2002**). To further characterize targets of compounds which we found active in the T-cell proliferation assay, we tested the compounds on their ability to inhibit the human proteasome.

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The major neutral proteolytic activity in the cytosol and nucleus is the proteasome, a 20S (700 kDa) particle with multiple peptidase activities. The continual turnover of cellular proteins by the ubiquitin-proteasome pathway is used by the immune system to screen for the presence of abnormal intracellular proteins (Dantuma, N.P. *et al. Nat. Biotechnol.* **2000**, 18(5), 538-43; Goldberg, AL. *et al. Nature* 357, 375, **1993**).

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The ubiquitin-proteasome pathway plays an essential role in the regulation of NF- κ B activity, being responsible for the degradation of the inhibitor I κ B- α . In order to be targeted for degradation by the proteasome, I κ B- α must first undergo selective phosphorylation at serine residues 32 and 36, followed by ubiquitinylation (Chen, Z.J. *et al. Cell* 84, 853-862, **1996**; Brown, K. *et al. Science* 267, 1485, **1995**):

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NF- κ B, a transcription factor, regulates the transcription of an important set of genes, involved in inflammatory responses (Baeuerle, P.A. *et al. Cell* 87, 1, 13-20, **1996**). Proteasome inhibitors block I κ B- α degradation and NF- κ B activation (Traeckner *et al. EMBO J.* 13, 5433, **1994**).

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Patents describing proteasome inhibitors have been described in reviews (Adams, J. *et al. Ann. Rev. Med. Chem.* 31, 279-288, **1996**) and in patents US 6117887, US 5834487, WO 00/004954, WO 00/04954, WO 00/170204, WO 00/33654, WO 00/64863, WO 00/114324, WO 99/15183, WO 99/37666.

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Here we describe novel chemical entities with proteasome inhibitory activity.

NF- κ B (Nuclear Factor- κ B) is an eucariotic transcription factor of the rel family, which is located in the cytoplasm in an inactive complex, as a homo- or heterodimer. Predominantly it exists as a heterodimer composed of p50 and p65 subunits, bound to inhibitory proteins of the I κ B family, usually I κ B- α (D. Thanos *et al., Cell* 80, 529, **1995**).

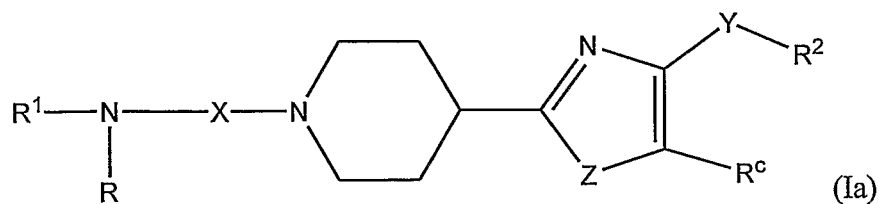
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NF- κ B is activated in response to different stimuli, among which inflammatory cytokines, UV radiation, phorbol esters, bacterial and viral infections. Stimulation triggers the release of NF- κ B from I κ B in consequence of the phosphorylation and the following degradation of the I κ B- α protein (P.A. Baeuerle *et al., Annu. Rev. Immunol.* 12, 141, **1995**) by the

proteasome. Once it is set free, NF- κ B translocates in the nucleus where it binds to the DNA at specific κ B-sites and induces the transcription of a variety of genes encoding proteins involved in controlling the immune and inflammatory responses, amongst others interleukins, TNF- α , the NO-synthase and the cyclooxygenase 2 (S. Grimm *et al.*, *J. Biochem.* 290, 297, **1993**). Accordingly, NF- κ B is considered an early mediator of the immune and inflammatory responses and it is involved in the control of cell proliferation and in the pathogenesis of various human diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis (H. Beker *et al.*, *Clin. Exp. Immunol.* 99, 325, **1995**), ischemia (A. Salminen *et al.*, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm.* 212, 939, **1995**), arteriosclerosis (A.S. Baldwin, *Annals Rev. Immunol.* 212, 649, **1996**), as well as in the pathogenesis of AIDS.

Inhibition of NF- κ B mediated gene transcription can be accomplished through inhibition of phosphorylation of the inhibitory protein I κ B, inhibition of I κ B degradation, inhibition of NF- κ B (p50/p65) nuclear translocation, the inhibition of NF- κ B-DNA binding or NF- κ B-mediated DNA transcription (J.C. Epinat *et al.*, *Oncogene* 18, 6896, **1999**).

The present invention relates to compounds of the general formula (Ia) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs or a stereoisomer thereof,



wherein

R is independently hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R¹ is independently alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

X is CO, CS or SO₂;

Y is CO, CS or SO₂;

Z is $\text{NR}^{2'}$, S, or O;

$\text{R}^{2'}$ is H, alkyl, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^7$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^e$, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

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R^e is independently H, OH, SH, NROR^1 , NH_2 , alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, CONR^dR^e , alkoxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

10 R^d is H, halogen, alkyl, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^7)\text{NR}^{7'}\text{R}^8$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{aryl}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{N}=\text{CR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{NR}^7\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^8$, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;

R^7 , $\text{R}^{7'}$ independently represent H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;

15 R^8 is H, NH_2 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;

R^e independently represents H, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{SH}$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^{4'}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{4'}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{4'}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{R}^{5'}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{-alkyl}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{4'}$, $\text{SO}_3\text{R}^{4'}$, $-\text{N}=\text{CR}^{4'}\text{R}^{5'}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{4''}$,
20 $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{-CO-haloalkyl}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{-SO}_2\text{-haloalkyl}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{-SO}_2\text{-alkyl}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{-CO-alkyl}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{heteroaryl}$, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, aryl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_p[\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_p]_q\text{OCH}_3$, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^{4''})\text{NR}^{4'}$, $-\text{benzimidazolyl}$, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^{4''})\text{NR}^{4'}\text{benzthiazolyl}$, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^{4''})\text{NR}^{4'}\text{benz-oxazolyl}$, or heteroaryl;

25 $\text{R}^{4'}$, $\text{R}^{4''}$, $\text{R}^{5'}$ independently represent H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^7)\text{NR}^{7'}\text{R}^8$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{aryl}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{N}=\text{CR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{NR}^7\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^8$, halogen, heteroaryl, or aryl

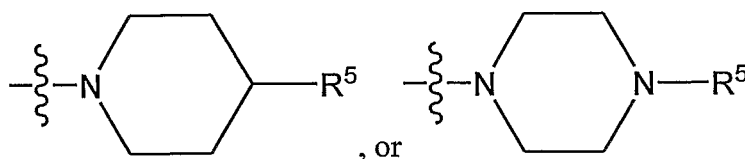
p is 1 to 6;

q is 1 to 6;

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R^2 is independently

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R^5 is independently H, COR^6 , CO_2R^6 , SOR^6 , SO_2R^6 , SO_3R^6 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, $-NH_2$, alkylamine, $-NR^7COR^6$, halogen, $-OH$, $-SH$, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

5 R^6 is independently H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, amino, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, aryl or heteroaryl;

an alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, preferably a linear or branched chain of one to five carbon atoms, a linear or branched C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl or a linear or branched C_2 - C_6 -alkynyl group, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R' ;

the C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl and C_2 - C_6 -alkynyl residue may be selected from the group comprising $-CH_3$, $-C_2H_5$, $-CH=CH_2$, $-C\equiv CH$, $-C_3H_7$, $-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH_2-CH=CH_2$, $-C(CH_3)=CH_2$, $-CH=CH-CH_3$, $-C\equiv C-CH_3$, $-CH_2-C\equiv CH$, $-C_4H_9$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH(CH_3)-C_2H_5$, $-C(CH_3)_3$, $-C_5H_{11}$, $-C_6H_{13}$, $-C(R')$, $-C_2(R')$, $-CH_2-C(R')$, $-C_3(R')$, $-C_2H_4-C(R')$, $-C_2H_4-CH=CH_2$, $-CH=CH-C_2H_5$, $-CH=C(CH_3)_2$, $-CH_2-CH=CH-CH_3$, $-CH=CH-CH=CH_2$, $-C_2H_4-C\equiv CH$, $-C\equiv C-C_2H_5$, $-CH_2-C\equiv C-CH_3$, $-C\equiv C-CH=CH_2$, $-CH=CH-C\equiv CH$, $-C\equiv C-C\equiv CH$, $-C_2H_4-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH(CH_3)-C_3H_7$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-C_2H_5$, $-CH(CH_3)-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-C(CH_3)_2-C_2H_5$, $-CH_2-C(CH_3)_3$, $-C_3H_6-CH=CH_2$, $-CH=CH-C_3H_7$, $-C_2H_4-CH=CH-CH_3$, $-CH_2-CH=CH-C_2H_5$, $-CH_2-CH=CH-CH=CH_2$, $-CH=CH-CH=CH-CH_3$, $-CH=CH-CH_2-CH=CH_2$, $-C(CH_3)=CH-CH=CH_2$, $-CH=C(CH_3)-CH=CH_2$, $-CH=CH-C(CH_3)=CH_2$, $-CH_2-CH=C(CH_3)_2$, $C(CH_3)=C(CH_3)_2$, $-C_3H_6-C\equiv CH$, $-C\equiv C-C_3H_7$, $-C_2H_4-C\equiv C-CH_3$, $-CH_2-C\equiv C-C_2H_5$, $-CH_2-C\equiv C-CH=CH_2$, $-CH_2-CH=CH-C\equiv CH$, $-CH_2-C\equiv C-C\equiv CH$, $-C\equiv C-CH=CH-CH_3$, $-CH=CH-C\equiv C-CH_3$, $-C\equiv C-C\equiv C-CH_3$, $-C\equiv C-CH_2-CH=CH_2$, $-CH=CH-CH_2-C\equiv CH$, $-C\equiv C-CH_2-C\equiv CH$, $-C(CH_3)=CH-CH=CH_2$, $-CH=C(CH_3)-CH=CH_2$, $-CH=CH-C(CH_3)=CH_2$, $-C(CH_3)=CH-C\equiv CH$, $-CH=C(CH_3)-C\equiv CH$, $-C\equiv C-C(CH_3)=CH_2$, $-C_3H_6-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-C_2H_4-CH(CH_3)-C_2H_5$, $-CH(CH_3)-C_4H_9$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-C_3H_7$, $-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH(CH_3)-CH(CH_3)-C_2H_5$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH_2-C(CH_3)_2-C_2H_5$, $-C(CH_3)_2-C_3H_7$, $-C(CH_3)_2-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-C_2H_4-C(CH_3)_3$, $-CH(CH_3)-C(CH_3)_3$, $-C_4H_8-CH=CH_2$, $-CH=CH-C_4H_9$, $-C_3H_6-CH=CH-CH_3$, $-CH_2-CH=CH-C_3H_7$, $-C_2H_4-CH=CH-C_2H_5$, $-CH_2-C(CH_3)=C(CH_3)_2$, $-C_2H_4-CH=C(CH_3)_2$, $-C_4H_8-C\equiv CH$, $-C\equiv C-C_4H_9$, $-C_3H_6-C\equiv C-CH_3$, $-CH_2-C\equiv C-C_3H_7$, $-C_2H_4-C\equiv C-C_2H_5$;

R' is independently H, -CO₂R'', -CONHR'', -CR''O, -SO₂NR'', -NR''-CO-haloalkyl, -NO₂, -NR''-SO₂-haloalkyl, -NR''-SO₂-alkyl, -SO₂-alkyl, -NR''-CO-alkyl, -CN, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

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R'' is independently H, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

a cycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing three to eight carbon atoms, preferably four to eight carbon atoms, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by a group E, E being O, S, SO, SO₂, N, or NR'', R'' being as defined above; the C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl residue may be selected from the group comprising -cyclo-C₃H₅, -cyclo-C₄H₇, -cyclo-C₅H₉, -cyclo-C₆H₁₁, -cyclo-C₇H₁₃, -cyclo-C₈H₁₅, morpholine-4-yl, piperazinyl, 1-alkylpiperazine-4-yl;

an alkoxy group denotes an O-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above; the alkoxy group is preferably a methoxy, ethoxy, isopropoxy, *t*-butoxy or pentoxy group;

an alkylthio group denotes an S-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an haloalkyl group denotes an alkyl group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above; the haloalkyl group is preferably a -C(R¹⁰)₃, -CR¹⁰(R^{10'})₂, -CR¹⁰(R^{10'})R^{10''}, -C₂(R¹⁰)₅, -CH₂-C(R¹⁰)₃, -CH₂-CR¹⁰(R^{10'})₂, -CH₂-CR¹⁰(R^{10'})R^{10''}, -C₃(R¹⁰)₇, or -C₂H₄-C(R¹⁰)₃, wherein R¹⁰, R^{10'}, R^{10''} represent F, Cl, Br or I, preferably F;

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a hydroxyalkyl group denotes an HO-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an haloalkyloxy group denotes an alkoxy group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above; the haloalkyloxy group is preferably a -OC(R¹⁰)₃, -OCR¹⁰(R^{10'})₂, -OCR¹⁰(R^{10'})R^{10''}, -OC₂(R¹⁰)₅, -OCH₂-C(R¹⁰)₃, -OCH₂-CR¹⁰(R^{10'})₂, -OCH₂-CR¹⁰(R^{10'})R^{10''}, -OC₃(R¹⁰)₇ or -OC₂H₄-C(R¹⁰)₃, wherein R¹⁰, R^{10'}, R^{10''} represent F, Cl, Br or I, preferably F;

a hydroxyalkylamino group denotes an (HO-alkyl)₂-N- group or HO-alkyl-NH- group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

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an alkylamino group denotes an HN-alkyl or N-dialkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

a halogen group is chlorine, bromine, fluorine or iodine;

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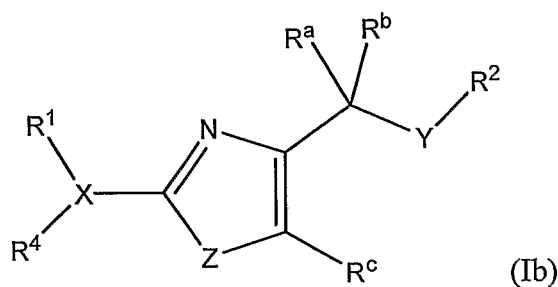
an aryl group denotes an aromatic group having five to fifteen carbon atoms, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R', where R' is as defined above; the aryl group is preferably a benzyl group, a phenyl group, -o-C₆H₄- R', -m-C₆H₄- R', -p-C₆H₄- R', 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 1-anthracenyl or 2-anthracenyl;

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a heteroaryl group denotes a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group which contains at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S. This heterocyclic group can be fused to another aromatic ring. For example, this group can be selected from a thiadiazole, thiazol-2-yl, thiazol-4-yl, thiazol-5-yl, isothiazol-3-yl, isothiazol-4-yl, isothiazol-5-yl, oxazol-2-yl, oxazol-4-yl, oxazol-5-yl, isooxazol-3-yl, isooxazol-4-yl, isooxazol-5-yl, benzooxazol-2-yl, benzooxazol-4-yl, benzooxazol-5-yl, benzoisooxazol-3-yl, benzoisooxazol-4-yl, benzoisooxazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl, 1,2,5-oxadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,5-oxadiazol-4-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl, isothiazol-3-yl, isothiazol-4-yl, isothiazol-5-yl, benzoisothiazol-3-yl, benzoisothiazol-4-yl, benzoisothiazol-5-yl, 1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl, 1-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazol-4-yl, 4-imidazolyl, benzoimidazol-4-yl, 1-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 2-furanyl, 3-furanyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 2-pyranyl, 3-pyranyl, 4-pyranyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 6-pyrimidinyl, 2,4-dimethoxy-6-pyrimidinyl, 3-pyridazinyl, 4-pyridazinyl, 2-pyrazinyl, 1-pyrazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 4-pyrazolyl, 1,2,3-triazol-4-yl, 1,2,3-triazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-5-yl, 1,3,5-triazol-6-yl, 2,4-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazol-6-yl, 1H-tetrazol-2-yl, 1H-tetrazol-3-yl, tetrazolyl, acridyl, furazane, indazolyl, phenazinyl, carbazolyl, phenoxazinyl, indolizine, 2-indolyl, 3-indolyl, 4-indolyl, 5-indolyl, 6-indolyl, 7-indolyl, 1-isoindolyl, 3-isoindolyl, 4-isoindolyl, 5-isoindolyl, 6-isoindolyl, 7-isoindolyl, 2-indolinyl, 3-indolinyl, 4-indolinyl, 5-indolinyl, 6-indolinyl, 7-indolinyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzofurazane, benzothiofurazane, benzotriazol-1-yl, benzotriazol-4-yl, benzotriazol-5-yl, benzotriazol-6-yl, benzotriazol-7-yl, benzotriazine, benzo[b]thiophenyl, benzimidazol-2-yl, 1H-benzimidazolyl, benzimidazol-4-yl, benzimidazol-5-yl, benzimidazol-6-yl, benzimidazol-7-yl, benzothiazolyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxazolinyl, cinnoline, quinolinyl, tetrahydroquinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, tetrahydro-isoquinolinyl, purine, phthalazine, pteridine, thiatetraazaindene, thiatriazaindene, isothiazolopyrazine, isothiazolopyrimidine, pyrazolotriazine, pyrazolopyrimidine, tetrahydrothieno[3,4-d]imidazol-2-one, pyrazolo[5,1-c][1,2,4]triazine, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-

dioxin-2-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-3-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-5-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-6-yl, 2,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-3-yl, 2,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-4-yl, imidazopyridazine, imidazopyrimidine, imidazopyridine, imidazolotriazine, triazolotriazine, triazolopyridine, triazolopyrazine, triazolopyrimidine, or 4-
 5 [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-3-yl, 1-furo[2,3-c]pyridin-4-yl, 1-furo[2,3-c]pyridin-5-yl, 1-furo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl, and triazolopyridazine group. This heterocyclic group can be substituted by one or more substituents R', wherein R' is as defined above.

The present invention relates to compounds of the general formula (Ib) or pharmaceutically
 10 acceptable salts thereof with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs or a stereoisomer thereof,



15 wherein

R¹ is -C(O)R⁷, -C(O)CHR⁷R⁸, -C(O)NR⁷R⁸, -C(O)OR⁷, -R⁷C(O)R⁸, or -C(S)R⁷;

R⁹ independently represents H, -CN, -OH, -SH, -CO₂R^{4'}, -C(O)R^{4'}, -SO₂NR^{4'},
 -NR^{4'}R^{5'}, -C(O)NR⁷R⁸, -SO₂-alkyl, -SO₂R^{4'}, SO₃R^{4'}, -N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}, -NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''},
 -NR^{4'}-CO-haloalkyl, -NO₂, -NR^{4'}-SO₂-haloalkyl, -NR^{4'}-SO₂-alkyl, -NR^{4'}-CO-alkyl,
 20 -NR^{4'}(CH₂)_pheteroaryl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, aryl
 hydroxyalkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, -O(CH₂)_p[O(CH₂)_p]_qOCH₃, -C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}-
 benzimidazolyl, -C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}benzthiazolyl, -C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}benzoxazolyl,
 -(CH₂)_pNR⁷COR⁸, or heteroaryl;

25 R⁴ is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino,
 heteroaryl, aryl,

or R¹ and R⁴ together with the X to which they are attached form a 3 to 8 membered
 saturated or at least partially unsaturated monocyclic or polycyclic ring system,

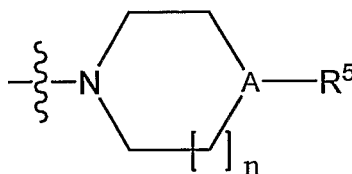
wherein at least one ring atom is a heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, and the ring optionally has one or more substituents R^9 ;

- X is N, or $CR^{2'}$;
- 5 Y is CO, CS or SO_2 ;
- Z is $NR^{2''}$, S, or O;
- $R^{2''}$ is H, alkyl, $-C(O)NR^7$, $-C(O)R^e$, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- 10 $R^{2'}$ is H, alkyl, $-C(O)NR^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- $R^{4'}$, $R^{4''}$, $R^{5'}$ independently represent H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, halogen, heteroaryl, or aryl
- 15 p is 1 to 6;
- q is 1 to 6;
- R^a is independently H, OH, SH, NH_2 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, alkoxy, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, aryl, or heteroaryl;
- 20 R^b is independently H, OH, SH, NH_2 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, alkoxy, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, aryl, or heteroaryl;
- R^c is independently H, OH, SH, $NR^{4'}OR^{5'}$, NH_2 , alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, $CONR^dR^e$, alkoxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;
- 25 R^d is H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;
- R^7 , $R^{7'}$ independently represent H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;
- 30 R^8 is H, NH_2 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;

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R^e independently represents H, -CN, -OH, -SH, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-C(O)NR^{7'}R^{8'}$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heteroaryl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxy-alkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzoxazolyl, aryl or heteroaryl;

R^2 is independently



A is N, O, or $CR^{2'}$;

R^5 is independently H, $SOR^{7'}$, $SO_2R^{7'}$, $SO_3R^{7'}$, $-C(O)R^{7'}$, $-C(O)CHR^{7'}R^{8'}$, $-C(O)NR^{7'}R^{8'}$, $-C(O)OR^{7'}$, $-R^{7'}C(O)R^{8'}$, $-C(S)R^{7'}$, $-C(NR^{7'})NR^{7'}R^{8'}$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^{7'}R^{8'}$, $-C(O)NR^{7'}R^{8'}$, $-N=CR^{7'}R^{8'}$, $-NR^{7'}C(O)R^{7'}$, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, $-NH_2$, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

n is 0 to 2;

wherein

an alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, preferably a linear or branched chain of one to five carbon atoms, a linear or branched C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl or a linear or branched C_2 - C_6 -alkinyl group, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R' ;

the C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl and C_2 - C_6 -alkinyl residue may be selected from the group comprising $-CH_3$, $-C_2H_5$, $-CH=CH_2$, $-C\equiv CH$, $-C_3H_7$, $-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH_2-CH=CH_2$, $-C(CH_3)=CH_2$, $-CH=CH-CH_3$, $-C\equiv C-CH_3$, $-CH_2-C\equiv CH$, $-C_4H_9$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH(CH_3)-C_2H_5$, $-C(CH_3)_3$, $-C_5H_{11}$, $-C_6H_{13}$, $-C(R')_3$, $-C_2(R')_5$, $-CH_2-C(R')_3$, $-C_3(R')_7$, $-C_2H_4-C(R')_3$, $-C_2H_4-CH=CH_2$, $-CH=CH-C_2H_5$, $-CH=C(CH_3)_2$, $-CH_2-CH=CH-CH_3$, $-CH=CH-CH=CH_2$, $-C_2H_4-C\equiv CH$, $-C\equiv C-C_2H_5$, $-CH_2-C\equiv C-CH_3$, $-C\equiv C-CH=CH_2$, $-CH=CH-C\equiv CH$, $-C\equiv C-C\equiv CH$, $-C_2H_4-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH(CH_3)-C_3H_7$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-C_2H_5$, $-CH(CH_3)-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-C(CH_3)_2-C_2H_5$, $-CH_2-C(CH_3)_3$, $-C_3H_6-CH=CH_2$, $-CH=CH-C_3H_7$, $-C_2H_4-CH=CH-CH_3$, $-CH_2-CH=CH-C_2H_5$, $-CH_2-CH=CH-CH=CH_2$,

$-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)=\text{CH}-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$,
 $-\text{CH}=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$,
 $-\text{C}_3\text{H}_6-\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$, $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_4-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$,
 $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$,
5 $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$,
 $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)=\text{CH}-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)=\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$,
 $-\text{CH}=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{C}_3\text{H}_6-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_4-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$,
 $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{C}_4\text{H}_9$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$, $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$,
10 $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2-\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$, $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$,
 $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_4-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, $-\text{C}_4\text{H}_8-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{C}_4\text{H}_9$,
 $-\text{C}_3\text{H}_6-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$, $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_4-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$,
 $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_4-\text{CH}=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{C}_4\text{H}_8-\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{C}_4\text{H}_9$, $-\text{C}_3\text{H}_6-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$,
 $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$, $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_4-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$;

15 R' is independently H, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}''$, $-\text{CONHR}''$, $-\text{CR}''\text{O}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}''$, $-\text{NR}''-\text{CO}$ -haloalkyl, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{NR}''-\text{SO}_2$ -haloalkyl, $-\text{NR}''-\text{SO}_2$ -alkyl, $-\text{SO}_2$ -alkyl, $-\text{NR}''-\text{CO}$ -alkyl, $-\text{CN}$, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{SH}$, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

20 R'' is independently H, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

a cycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing three to eight carbon atoms, preferably four to eight carbon atoms, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by a group E, E being O, S, SO, SO_2 , N, or NR'' , R'' being as
25 defined above; the C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl residue may be selected from the group comprising $-\text{cyclo}-\text{C}_3\text{H}_5$, $-\text{cyclo}-\text{C}_4\text{H}_7$, $-\text{cyclo}-\text{C}_5\text{H}_9$, $-\text{cyclo}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_{11}$, $-\text{cyclo}-\text{C}_7\text{H}_{13}$, $-\text{cyclo}-\text{C}_8\text{H}_{15}$, morpholine-4-yl, piperazinyl, 1-alkylpiperazine-4-yl;

an alkoxy group denotes an O-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above; the
30 alkoxy group is preferably a methoxy, ethoxy, isopropoxy, *t*-butoxy or pentoxy group;

an alkylthio group denotes an S-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an haloalkyl group denotes an alkyl group which is substituted by one to five halogen
35 atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above; the haloalkyl group is preferably a $-\text{C}(\text{R}^{10})_3$, $-\text{CR}^{10}(\text{R}^{10'})_2$, $-\text{CR}^{10}(\text{R}^{10'})\text{R}^{10''}$, $-\text{C}_2(\text{R}^{10})_5$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}(\text{R}^{10})_3$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CR}^{10}(\text{R}^{10'})_2$, $-\text{CH}_2-$

$\text{CR}^{10}(\text{R}^{10'})\text{R}^{10''}$, $-\text{C}_3(\text{R}^{10})_7$, or $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_4-\text{C}(\text{R}^{10})_3$, wherein R^{10} , $\text{R}^{10'}$, $\text{R}^{10''}$ represent F, Cl, Br or I, preferably F;

a hydroxyalkyl group denotes an HO-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

5

an haloalkyloxy group denotes an alkoxy group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above; the haloalkyloxy group is preferably a $-\text{OC}(\text{R}^{10})_3$, $-\text{OCR}^{10}(\text{R}^{10'})_2$, $-\text{OCR}^{10}(\text{R}^{10'})\text{R}^{10''}$, $-\text{OC}_2(\text{R}^{10})_5$, $-\text{OCH}_2-\text{C}(\text{R}^{10})_3$, $-\text{OCH}_2-\text{CR}^{10}(\text{R}^{10'})_2$, $-\text{OCH}_2-\text{CR}^{10}(\text{R}^{10'})\text{R}^{10''}$, $-\text{OC}_3(\text{R}^{10})_7$ or $-\text{OC}_2\text{H}_4-\text{C}(\text{R}^{10})_3$, wherein R^{10} , $\text{R}^{10'}$, $\text{R}^{10''}$ represent F, Cl, Br or I, preferably F;

10

a hydroxyalkylamino group denotes an $(\text{HO-alkyl})_2\text{-N-}$ group or HO-alkyl-NH- group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

15

an alkylamino group denotes an HN-alkyl or N-dialkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

a halogen group is chlorine, bromine, fluorine or iodine;

20

an aryl group denotes an aromatic group having five to fifteen carbon atoms, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R' , where R' is as defined above; the aryl group is preferably a benzyl group, a phenyl group, $-\text{o}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{R}'$, $-\text{m}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{R}'$, $-\text{p}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{R}'$, 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 1-anthracenyl or 2-anthracenyl;

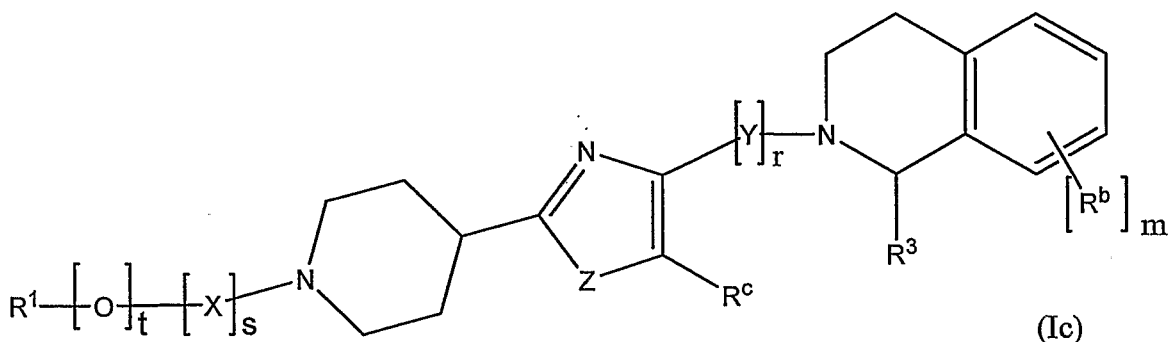
25

a heteroaryl group denotes a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group which contains at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S. This heterocyclic group can be fused to another aromatic ring. For example, this group can be selected from a thiadiazole, thiazol-2-yl, thiazol-4-yl, thiazol-5-yl, isothiazol-3-yl, isothiazol-4-yl, isothiazol-5-yl, oxazol-2-yl, oxazol-4-yl, oxazol-5-yl, isooxazol-3-yl, isooxazol-4-yl, isooxazol-5-yl, benzooxazol-2-yl, benzooxazol-4-yl, benzooxazol-5-yl, benzoisooxazol-3-yl, benzoisooxazol-4-yl, benzoisooxazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl, 1,2,5-oxadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,5-oxadiazol-4-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl, isothiazol-3-yl, isothiazol-4-yl, isothiazol-5-yl, benzoisothiazol-3-yl, benzoisothiazol-4-yl, benzoisothiazol-5-yl, 1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl, 1-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazol-4-yl, 4-imidazolyl, benzoimidazol-4-yl, 1-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 2-furanyl, 3-furanyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 2-pyranyl, 3-pyranyl, 4-pyranyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 6-pyrimidinyl, 2,4-dimethoxy-6-

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pyrimidinyl, 3-pyridazinyl, 4-pyridazinyl, 2-pyrazinyl, 1-pyrazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 4-pyrazolyl, 1,2,3-triazol-4-yl, 1,2,3-triazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-5-yl, 1,3,5-triazol-6-yl, 2,4-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazol-6-yl, 1*H*-tetrazol-2-yl, 1*H*-tetrazol-3-yl, tetrazolyl, acridyl, furazane, indazolyl, phenazinyl, carbazolyl, phenoxazinyl, indolizine, 2-indolyl, 3-indolyl, 4-indolyl, 5-indolyl, 6-indolyl, 7-indolyl, 1-isoindolyl, 3-isoindolyl, 4-isoindolyl, 5-isoindolyl, 6-isoindolyl, 7-isoindolyl, 2-indolinyl, 3-indolinyl, 4-indolinyl, 5-indolinyl, 6-indolinyl, 7-indolinyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzofurazane, benzothiofurazane, benzotriazol-1-yl, benzotriazol-4-yl, benzotriazol-5-yl, benzotriazol-6-yl, benzotriazol-7-yl, benzotriazine, benzo[b]thiophenyl, benzimidazol-2-yl, 1*H*-benzimidazolyl, benzimidazol-4-yl, benzimidazol-5-yl, benzimidazol-6-yl, benzimidazol-7-yl, benzothiazolyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxazolinyl, cinnoline, quinoliny, tetrahydroquinoliny, isoquinoliny, tetrahydroisoquinoliny, purine, phthalazine, pteridine, thiatetraazaindene, thiatriazaindene, isothiazolopyrazine, isothiazolopyrimidine, pyrazolotriazine, pyrazolopyrimidine, tetrahydrothieno[3,4-*d*]imidazol-2-one, pyrazolo[5,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazine, imidazopyridazine, imidazopyrimidine, imidazopyridine, imidazolotriazine, triazolotriazine, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-2-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-3-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-5-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-6-yl, 2,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-3-yl, 2,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-4-yl, triazolopyridine, triazolopyrazine, triazolopyrimidine, 4-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-*a*]pyridin-3-yl, 1-furo[2,3-*c*]pyridin-4-yl, 1-furo[2,3-*c*]pyridin-5-yl, 1-furo[2,3-*c*]pyridin-3-yl, and triazolopyridazine group. This heterocyclic group can be substituted by one or more substituents R', wherein R' is as defined above.

The present invention relates to compounds of the general formula (Ic) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs or a stereoisomer thereof,



wherein

R^1 independently represents H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

X is CO, CS or SO₂;

5 Y is CO, CS or SO₂;

Z is NR^{2''}, S, or O;

$R^{2''}$ is H, alkyl, -C(O)NR⁷, -C(O)R^e, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

10

$R^{4'}$, $R^{4''}$, $R^{5'}$ independently represent H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, -C(NR⁷)NR^{7'}R⁸, -(CH₂)_paryl, -(CH₂)_pNR⁷R⁸, -C(O)NR⁷R⁸, -N=CR⁷R⁸, -NR⁷C(O)R⁸, halogen, heteroaryl, or aryl

p is 1 to 6;

15 q is 1 to 6;

m is 0 to 4;

r is 0, or 1;

t is 0, or 1;

s is 0, or 1;

20

R^b is independently H, OH, SH, NR^{4'}OR^{5'}, NH₂, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, CONR^dR^e, alkoxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R^c is independently H, OH, SH, NR^{4'}OR^{5'}, NH₂, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, CONR^dR^e, alkoxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

25 R^d is H, halogen, alkyl, -C(NR⁷)NR^{7'}R⁸, -(CH₂)_paryl, -(CH₂)_pNR⁷R⁸, -C(O)NR⁷R⁸, -N=CR⁷R⁸, -NR⁷C(O)R⁸, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;

30 R^7 , $R^{7'}$ independently represent H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;

R^8 is H, NH₂, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;

- R^e independently represents H, -CN, -OH, -SH, -CO₂R^{4'}, -C(O)R^{4'}, -SO₂NR^{4'}, -NR^{4'}R^{5'}, -C(O)NR⁷R⁸, -SO₂-alkyl, -SO₂R^{4'}, SO₃R^{4'}, -N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}, -NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}, -NR^{4'}-CO-haloalkyl, -NO₂, -NR^{4'}-SO₂-haloalkyl, -NR^{4'}-SO₂-alkyl, -NR^{4'}-CO-alkyl, -NR^{4'}(CH₂)_pheteroaryl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxyalkyl-amino, alkoxy, alkylthio, -O(CH₂)_p[O(CH₂)_p]_qOCH₃, -C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}benzimidazolyl, -C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}benzthiazolyl, -C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}benz-oxazolyl, aryl or heteroaryl;
- R^3 is independently H, OH, SH, NR^{4'}OR^{5'}, NH₂, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, halogen, CONR^{4'}R^e, alkoxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

an alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, preferably a linear or branched chain of one to five carbon atoms, a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkenyl or a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkinyl group, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R['];

the C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl and C₂-C₆-alkinyl residue may be selected from the group comprising -CH₃, -C₂H₅, -CH=CH₂, -C≡CH, -C₃H₇, -CH(CH₃)₂, -CH₂-CH=CH₂, -C(CH₃)=CH₂, -CH=CH-CH₃, -C≡C-CH₃, -CH₂-C≡CH, -C₄H₉, -CH₂-CH(CH₃)₂, -CH(CH₃)-C₂H₅, -C(CH₃)₃, -C₅H₁₁, -C₆H₁₃, -C(R['])₃, -C₂(R['])₅, -CH₂-C(R['])₃, -C₃(R['])₇, -C₂H₄-C(R['])₃, -C₂H₄-CH=CH₂, -CH=CH-C₂H₅, -CH=C(CH₃)₂, -CH₂-CH=CH-CH₃, -CH=CH-CH=CH₂, -C₂H₄-C≡CH, -C≡C-C₂H₅, -CH₂-C≡C-CH₃, -C≡C-CH=CH₂, -CH=CH-C≡CH, -C≡C-C≡CH, -C₂H₄-CH(CH₃)₂, -CH(CH₃)-C₃H₇, -CH₂-CH(CH₃)-C₂H₅, -CH(CH₃)-CH(CH₃)₂, -C(CH₃)₂-C₂H₅, -CH₂-C(CH₃)₃, -C₃H₆-CH=CH₂, -CH=CH-C₃H₇, -C₂H₄-CH=CH-CH₃, -CH₂-CH=CH-C₂H₅, -CH₂-CH=CH-CH=CH₂, -CH=CH-CH=CH-CH₃, -CH=CH-CH₂-CH=CH₂, -C(CH₃)=CH-CH=CH₂, -CH=C(CH₃)-CH=CH₂, -CH=CH-C(CH₃)=CH₂, -CH₂-CH=C(CH₃)₂, C(CH₃)=C(CH₃)₂, -C₃H₆-C≡CH, -C≡C-C₃H₇, -C₂H₄-C≡C-CH₃, -CH₂-C≡C-C₂H₅, -CH₂-C≡C-CH=CH₂, -CH₂-CH=CH-C≡CH, -CH₂-C≡C-C≡CH, -C≡C-CH=CH-CH₃, -CH=CH-C≡C-CH₃, -C≡C-C≡C-CH₃, -C≡C-CH₂-CH=CH₂, -CH=CH-CH₂-C≡CH, -C≡C-CH₂-C≡CH, -C(CH₃)=CH-CH=CH₂, -CH=C(CH₃)-CH=CH₂, -CH=CH-C(CH₃)=CH₂, -C(CH₃)=CH-C≡CH, -CH=C(CH₃)-C≡CH, -C≡C-C(CH₃)=CH₂, -C₃H₆-CH(CH₃)₂, -C₂H₄-CH(CH₃)-C₂H₅, -CH(CH₃)-C₄H₉, -CH₂-CH(CH₃)-C₃H₇, -CH(CH₃)-CH₂-CH(CH₃)₂, -CH(CH₃)-CH(CH₃)-C₂H₅, -CH₂-CH(CH₃)-CH(CH₃)₂, -CH₂-C(CH₃)₂-C₂H₅, -C(CH₃)₂-C₃H₇, -C(CH₃)₂-CH(CH₃)₂, -C₂H₄-C(CH₃)₃, -CH(CH₃)-C(CH₃)₃, -C₄H₈-CH=CH₂, -CH=CH-

C_4H_9 , $-C_3H_6-CH=CH-CH_3$, $-CH_2-CH=CH-C_3H_7$, $-C_2H_4-CH=CH-C_2H_5$, $-CH_2-C(CH_3)=C(CH_3)_2$, $-C_2H_4-CH=C(CH_3)_2$, $-C_4H_8-C\equiv CH$, $-C\equiv C-C_4H_9$, $-C_3H_6-C\equiv C-CH_3$, $-CH_2-C\equiv C-C_3H_7$, $-C_2H_4-C\equiv C-C_2H_5$;

- 5 R' is independently H, $-CO_2R''$, $-CONHR''$, $-CR''O$, $-SO_2NR''$, $-NR''-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR''-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR''-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR''-CO$ -alkyl, $-CN$, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, $-OH$, $-SH$, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;
- 10 R'' is independently H, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

a cycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing three to eight carbon atoms, preferably four to eight carbon atoms, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by a group E, E being O, S, SO, SO_2 , N, or NR'' , R'' being as defined above; the C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl residue may be selected from the group comprising

15 $-cyclo-C_3H_5$, $-cyclo-C_4H_7$, $-cyclo-C_5H_9$, $-cyclo-C_6H_{11}$, $-cyclo-C_7H_{13}$, $-cyclo-C_8H_{15}$, morpholine-4-yl, piperazinyl, 1-alkylpiperazine-4-yl;

an alkoxy group denotes an O-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above; the

20 alkoxy group is preferably a methoxy, ethoxy, isopropoxy, *t*-butoxy or pentoxy group;

an alkylthio group denotes an S-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an haloalkyl group denotes an alkyl group which is substituted by one to five halogen

25 atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above; the haloalkyl group is preferably a $-C(R^{10})_3$, $-CR^{10}(R^{10'})_2$, $-CR^{10}(R^{10'})R^{10''}$, $-C_2(R^{10})_5$, $-CH_2-C(R^{10})_3$, $-CH_2-CR^{10}(R^{10'})_2$, $-CH_2-CR^{10}(R^{10'})R^{10''}$, $-C_3(R^{10})_7$, or $-C_2H_4-C(R^{10})_3$, wherein R^{10} , $R^{10'}$, $R^{10''}$ represent F, Cl, Br or I, preferably F;

30 a hydroxyalkyl group denotes an HO-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an haloalkyloxy group denotes an alkoxy group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above; the haloalkyloxy group is preferably a

35 $-OC(R^{10})_3$, $-OCR^{10}(R^{10'})_2$, $-OCR^{10}(R^{10'})R^{10''}$, $-OC_2(R^{10})_5$, $-OCH_2-C(R^{10})_3$, $-OCH_2-CR^{10}(R^{10'})_2$, $-OCH_2-CR^{10}(R^{10'})R^{10''}$, $-OC_3(R^{10})_7$ or $-OC_2H_4-C(R^{10})_3$, wherein R^{10} , $R^{10'}$, $R^{10''}$ represent F, Cl, Br or I, preferably F;

a hydroxyalkylamino group denotes an (HO-alkyl)₂-N- group or HO-alkyl-NH- group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an alkylamino group denotes an HN-alkyl or N-dialkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

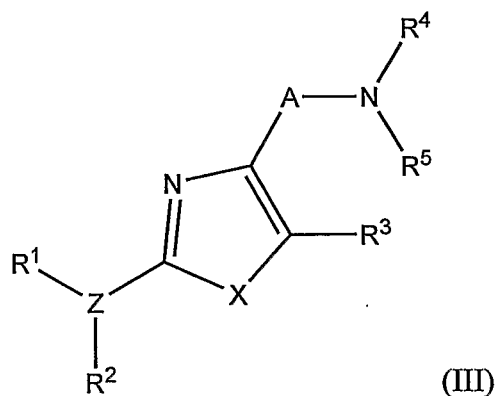
a halogen group is chlorine, bromine, fluorine or iodine;

an aryl group denotes an aromatic group having five to fifteen carbon atoms, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R', where R' is as defined above; the aryl group is preferably a benzyl group, a phenyl group, -o-C₆H₄- R', -m-C₆H₄- R', -p-C₆H₄- R', 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 1-anthracenyl or 2-anthracenyl;

a heteroaryl group denotes a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group which contains at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S. This heterocyclic group can be fused to another aromatic ring. For example, this group can be selected from a thiadiazole, thiazol-2-yl, thiazol-4-yl, thiazol-5-yl, isothiazol-3-yl, isothiazol-4-yl, isothiazol-5-yl, oxazol-2-yl, oxazol-4-yl, oxazol-5-yl, isooxazol-3-yl, isooxazol-4-yl, isooxazol-5-yl, benzoioxazol-2-yl, benzoioxazol-4-yl, benzoioxazol-5-yl, benzoisooxazol-3-yl, benzoisooxazol-4-yl, benzoisooxazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl, 1,2,5-oxadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,5-oxadiazol-4-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl, isothiazol-3-yl, isothiazol-4-yl, isothiazol-5-yl, benzoisothiazol-3-yl, benzoisothiazol-4-yl, benzoisothiazol-5-yl, 1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl, 1-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazol-4-yl, 4-imidazolyl, benzoimidazol-4-yl, 1-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 2-furanyl, 3-furanyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 2-pyranyl, 3-pyranyl, 4-pyranyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 6-pyrimidinyl, 2,4-dimethoxy-6-pyrimidinyl, 3-pyridazinyl, 4-pyridazinyl, 2-pyrazinyl, 1-pyrazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 4-pyrazolyl, 1,2,3-triazol-4-yl, 1,2,3-triazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-5-yl, 1,3,5-triazol-6-yl, 2,4-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazol-6-yl, 1H-tetrazol-2-yl, 1H-tetrazol-3-yl, tetrazolyl, acridyl, furazane, indazolyl, phenazinyl, carbazolyl, phenoxazinyl, indolizine, 2-indolyl, 3-indolyl, 4-indolyl, 5-indolyl, 6-indolyl, 7-indolyl, 1-isindolyl, 3-isindolyl, 4-isindolyl, 5-isindolyl, 6-isindolyl, 7-isindolyl, 2-indolinyl, 3-indolinyl, 4-indolinyl, 5-indolinyl, 6-indolinyl, 7-indolinyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzofurazane, benzothiofurazane, benzotriazol-1-yl, benzotriazol-4-yl, benzotriazol-5-yl, benzotriazol-6-yl, benzotriazol-7-yl, benzotriazine, benzo[b]thiophenyl, benzimidazol-2-yl, 1H-benzimidazolyl, benzimidazol-4-yl, benzimidazol-5-yl, benzimidazol-6-yl, benzimidazol-7-yl, benzothiazolyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxazolinyl, cinnoline, quinolinyl, tetrahydroquinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, tetrahydro-

thieno[3,4-d]imidazol-2-one, pyrazolo[5,1-c][1,2,4]triazine, tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, purine, phthalazine, pteridine, thiatetraazaindene, thiatriazaindene, isothiazolopyrazine, isothiazolopyrimidine, pyrazolotriazine, pyrazolopyrimidine, imidazopyridazine, imidazopyrimidine, imidazopyridine, imidazolotriazine, triazolotriazine, triazolopyridine, triazolopyrazine, triazolopyrimidine, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-2-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-3-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-5-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-6-yl, 2,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-3-yl, 2,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-4-yl, 4-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-3-yl, 1-furo[2,3-c]pyridin-4-yl, 1-furo[2,3-c]pyridin-5-yl, 1-furo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl, and triazolopyridazine group. This heterocyclic group can be substituted by one or more substituents R', wherein R' is as defined above.

The present invention also relates to compounds of the general formula (III) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs or a stereoisomer thereof,



wherein

R¹ is -C(O)R^{7a}, -C(O)CHR⁷R⁸, -C(O)NR⁷R⁸, -C(O)OR⁷, -R⁷C(O)R⁸, or -C(S)R^{7b};

R² is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl,

or R¹ and R² together with the N-atom or the C-atom to which they are attached form a 3 to 8 membered saturated or at least partially unsaturated monocyclic or polycyclic ring system, wherein at least one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring is a heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, and the ring can be substituted by one or more R⁹;

R^{4a} is H, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, -C(NR⁷)NR⁷R⁸, -(CH₂)_paryl, -(CH₂)_pNR⁷R⁸, -C(O)NR⁷R⁸, -N=CR⁷R⁸, -NR⁷C(O)R⁸, halogen, heteroaryl, or aryl;

- R^3 is H, $-C(O)NR^aR^b$, halogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, OH, SH, $NR^{4'}OR^{5'}$, NH_2 , hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or haloalkyloxy;
- 5 R^4 is H, OH, SH, NH_2 , alkoxy, haloalkyloxy, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- 10 R^5 is halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- R^a is H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- 15 R^b independently represents H, $-CN$, $-OH$, $-SH$, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heteroaryl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzoxazolyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy-
- 20 cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl;
- $R^{4'}$, $R^{4''}$, $R^{5'}$ independently are H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, haloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- R^7 , $R^{7'}$, R^8 independently are H, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, arylamino heteroaryl, or aryl;
- 25 R^{7a} is cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- R^{7b} is H, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- 30 A is CO or SO_2 ;
- X is $NR^{2'}$, O, or S;
- Z is N or $CR^{2'}$;

$R^{2'}$ is H, alkyl, $-C(O)NR^{7'}$, $-C(O)R^{b'}$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

p is 1 to 6;

q is 1 to 6;

5

R^9 independently represents H, $-CN$, $-OH$, $-SH$, alkoxy, alkylthio, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4a'}$, $-C(O)NR^{7'}R^{8'}$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heteroaryl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, halogen, haloalkyl, alkylamino, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzoxazolyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, haloalkyloxy, heterocycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^{7'}COR^{8'}$, aryl, or heteroaryl;

10

15 wherein

an C_1 - C_6 -alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, preferably a linear or branched chain of one to five carbon atoms, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R' ;

20 an C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl, preferably a linear or branched chain of two to six carbon atoms, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R' ;

an alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, preferably a linear or branched chain of one to six carbon atoms, a linear or branched C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl or a linear or branched C_2 - C_6 -alkynyl group, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R' ;

25

R' is independently H, $-CO_2R''$, $-CONHR''$, $-CR''O$, $-SO_2NR''$, $-NR''-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR''-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR''-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR''-CO$ -alkyl, $-CN$, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, $-OH$, $-SH$, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

30

R'' is independently H, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

a cycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing three to eight carbon atoms, preferably four to eight carbon atoms, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by a group R' being as defined above; the C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl
 5 residue may be selected from the group comprising -cyclo-C₃H₅, -cyclo-C₄H₇, -cyclo-C₅H₉, -cyclo-C₆H₁₁, -cyclo-C₇H₁₃, -cyclo-C₈H₁₅;

a heterocycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing two to ten carbon atoms and at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, wherein one or more of the
 10 carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by R' being as defined above; preferred heterocycloalkyl groups are morpholine-4-yl, piperazinyl, 1-alkylpiperazine-4-yl, piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, azepane-1-yl;

an alkoxy group denotes an O-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above; the
 15 alkoxy group is preferably a methoxy, ethoxy, isopropoxy, *t*-butoxy or pentoxy group;

an alkylthio group denotes an S-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an haloalkyl group denotes an alkyl group which is substituted by one to five halogen
 20 atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above; the haloalkyl group is preferably a -C(R¹⁰)₃, -CR¹⁰(R^{10'})₂, -CR¹⁰(R^{10'})R^{10''}, -C₂(R¹⁰)₅, -CH₂C(R¹⁰)₃, -CH₂CR¹⁰(R^{10'})₂, -CH₂CR¹⁰(R^{10'})R^{10''}, -C₃(R¹⁰)₇, or -C₂H₄C(R¹⁰)₃, wherein R¹⁰, R^{10'}, R^{10''} represent F, Cl, Br or I, preferably F;

25 a hydroxyalkyl group denotes an HO-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an haloalkyloxy group denotes an alkoxy group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above; the haloalkyloxy group is preferably a
 30 -OC(R¹⁰)₃, -OCR¹⁰(R^{10'})₂, -OCR¹⁰(R^{10'})R^{10''}, -OC₂(R¹⁰)₅, -OCH₂C(R¹⁰)₃, -OCH₂CR¹⁰(R^{10'})₂, -OCH₂CR¹⁰(R^{10'})R^{10''}, -OC₃(R¹⁰)₇, or -OC₂H₄C(R¹⁰)₃, wherein R¹⁰, R^{10'}, R^{10''} represent F, Cl, Br or I, preferably F;

a hydroxyalkylamino group denotes an (HO-alkyl)₂-N- group or HO-alkyl-NH- group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an alkylamino group denotes an HN-alkyl or N-dialkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

a halogen group is fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine;

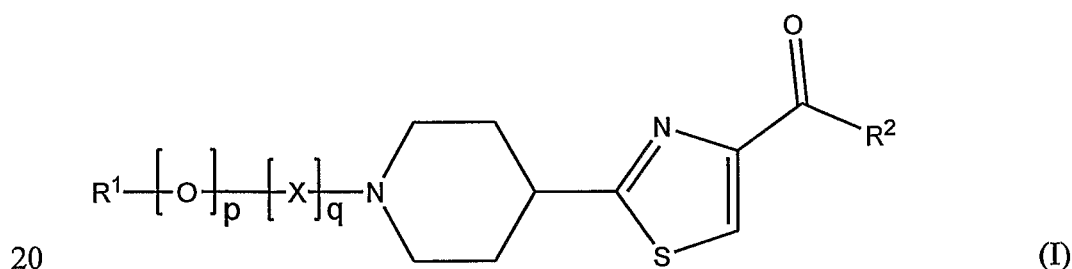
an aryl group denotes an aromatic group having five to fifteen carbon atoms, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R', where R' is as defined above; the aryl group is preferably a benzyl group, a phenyl group, -o-C₆H₄- R', -m-C₆H₄- R', -p-C₆H₄- R', 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 1-anthracenyl or 2-anthracenyl, R' being as defined above;

an arylamino group denotes an HN-aryl or N-diaryl group, the aryl group being as defined above;

a heteroaryl group denotes a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group which contains at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S. This heterocyclic group can be fused to another aromatic ring. For example, this group can be selected from a thiadiazole, thiazol-2-yl, thiazol-4-yl, thiazol-5-yl, isothiazol-3-yl, isothiazol-4-yl, isothiazol-5-yl, oxazol-2-yl, oxazol-4-yl, oxazol-5-yl, isooxazol-3-yl, isooxazol-4-yl, isooxazol-5-yl, benzooxazol-2-yl, benzooxazol-4-yl, benzooxazol-5-yl, benzoisooxazol-3-yl, benzoisooxazol-4-yl, benzoisooxazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl, 1,2,5-oxadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,5-oxadiazol-4-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl, isothiazol-3-yl, isothiazol-4-yl, isothiazol-5-yl, benzoisothiazol-3-yl, benzoisothiazol-4-yl, benzoisothiazol-5-yl, 1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl, 1-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazol-4-yl, 4-imidazolyl, benzoimidazol-4-yl, 1-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 2-furanyl, 3-furanyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 2-pyranyl, 3-pyranyl, 4-pyranyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 6-pyrimidinyl, 2,4-dimethoxy-6-pyrimidinyl, 3-pyridazinyl, 4-pyridazinyl, 2-pyrazinyl, 1-pyrazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 4-pyrazolyl, 1,2,3-triazol-4-yl, 1,2,3-triazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-5-yl, 1,3,5-triazol-6-yl, 2,4-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazol-6-yl, 1H-tetrazol-2-yl, 1H-tetrazol-3-yl, tetrazolyl, acridyl, furazane, indazolyl, phenazinyl, carbazolyl, phenoxazinyl, indolizine, 2-indolyl, 3-

indolyl, 4-indolyl, 5-indolyl, 6-indolyl, 7-indolyl, 1-isoindolyl, 3-isoindolyl, 4-isoindolyl, 5-isoindolyl, 6-isoindolyl, 7-isoindolyl, 2-indolyl, 3-indolyl, 4-indolyl, 5-indolyl, 6-indolyl, 7-indolyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzofurazane, benzothiofurazane, benzotriazol-1-yl, benzotriazol-4-yl, benzotriazol-5-yl, benzotriazol-6-yl, benzotriazol-7-yl, benzotriazine, 5 benzo[b]thiophenyl, benzimidazol-2-yl, 1H-benzimidazolyl, benzimidazol-4-yl, benzimidazol-5-yl, benzimidazol-6-yl, benzimidazol-7-yl, benzothiazolyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxazolinyl, cinnoline, quinolyl, tetrahydroquinolyl, isoquinolyl, tetrahydrothieno[3,4-d]imidazol-2-one, pyrazolo[5,1-c][1,2,4]triazine, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-2-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-3-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-5-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-6-yl, 2,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-3-yl, 2,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-4-yl, tetrahydroisoquinolyl, purine, phthalazine, pteridine, thiatetraazaindene, thiatriazaindene, isothiazolopyrazine, isothiazolopyrimidine, pyrazolotriazine, pyrazolopyrimidine, imidazopyridazine, imidazo-pyrimidine, imidazopyridine, imidazolotriazine, triazolotriazine, triazolopyridine, triazolopyrazine, triazolopyrimidine, 15 4-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-3-yl, 1-furo[2,3-c]pyridin-4-yl, 1-furo[2,3-c]pyridin-5-yl, 1-furo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl, and triazolopyridazine group. This heterocyclic group can be substituted by one or more substituents R', wherein R' is as defined above;

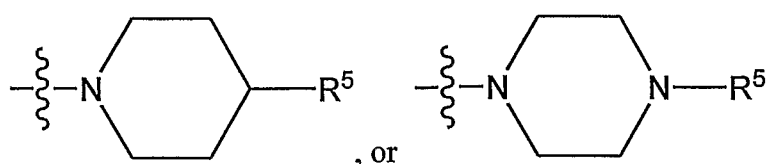
with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded:



wherein

R¹ independently represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl;

25 R² independently represents -NR³R⁴,



24

R^3 independently represents alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, alkylamine, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl,

R^4 independently represents alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, alkylamine, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

5 R^5 independently represents H, COR^6 , CO_2R^6 , SOR^6 , SO_2R^6 , SO_3R^6 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, $-NH_2$, alkylamine, $-NR^7COR^6$, halogen, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

R^6 independently represents H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, $-NH_2$, alkylamine, aryl or heteroaryl;

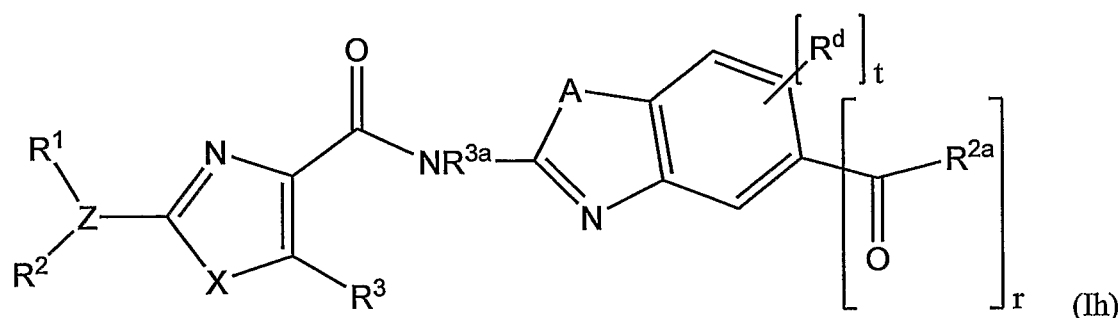
10 R^7 independently represents H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

p is 0, or 1;

q is 0, or 1;

X is CO or SO_2 .

15 The present invention, relates also to compounds of the general formula (Ih) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs or a stereoisomer thereof,



20

wherein

A is $NR^{2'}$, S or O;

t is 0 to 4;

r is 0, or 1;

25

R^{2a} is independently H, OH, SH, NH_2 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, alkoxy, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, aryl, or heteroaryl;

- R^{3a} is independently H, OH, SH, NH_2 , $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, alkoxy, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, aryl, or heteroaryl;
- R^d is H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;
- R^1 is $-C(O)R^{7a}$, $-C(O)CHR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-C(O)OR^7$, $-R^7C(O)R^8$, or $-C(S)R^{7b}$;
- R^2 is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl,
- or R^1 and R^2 together with the N-atom or the C-atom to which they are attached form a 3 to 8 membered saturated or at least partially unsaturated monocyclic or polycyclic ring system, wherein at least one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring is a heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, and the ring can be substituted by one or more R^9 ;
- R^{4a} is H, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, halogen, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- R^3 is H, $-C(O)NR^aR^b$, halogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, OH, SH, $NR^{4'}OR^{5'}$, NH_2 , hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or haloalkyloxy;
- R^a is H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- R^b independently represents H, $-CN$, $-OH$, $-SH$, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heteroaryl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzoxazolyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy-cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl;

$R^{4'}$, $R^{4''}$, $R^{5'}$ independently are H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, haloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

R^7 , $R^{7'}$, R^8 independently are H, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl,

5 hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, arylamino heteroaryl, or aryl;

R^{7a} is cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

R^{7b} is H, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

10 X is $NR^{2'}$, O, or S;

Z is N or $CR^{2'}$;

$R^{2'}$ is H, alkyl, $-C(O)NR^7$, $-C(O)R^b$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

p is 1 to 6;

15 q is 1 to 6;

R^9 independently represents H, -CN, -OH, -SH, alkoxy, alkylthio, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4a}$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heteroaryl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, halogen, haloalkyl, alkylamino, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzoxazolyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, haloalkyloxy, heterocycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7COR^8$, aryl, or heteroaryl;

25

wherein

an C_1 - C_6 -alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, preferably a linear or branched chain of one to five carbon atoms, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R^1 ;

30

an C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl, preferably a linear or branched chain of two to six carbon atoms, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R^1 ;

an alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, preferably a linear or branched chain of one to six carbon atoms, a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkenyl or a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkynyl group, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R['];

R['] is independently H, -CO₂R^{''}, -CONHR^{''}, -CR^{''}O, -SO₂NR^{''}, -NR^{''}-CO-haloalkyl, -NO₂, -NR^{''}-SO₂-haloalkyl, -NR^{''}-SO₂-alkyl, -SO₂-alkyl, -NR^{''}-CO-alkyl, -CN, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R^{''} is independently H, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

a cycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing three to eight carbon atoms, preferably four to eight carbon atoms, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by a group R['] being as defined above; the C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl residue may be selected from the group comprising -cyclo-C₃H₅, -cyclo-C₄H₇, -cyclo-C₅H₉, -cyclo-C₆H₁₁, -cyclo-C₇H₁₃, -cyclo-C₈H₁₅;

a heterocycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing two to ten carbon atoms and at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by R['] being as defined above; preferred heterocycloalkyl groups are morpholine-4-yl, piperazinyl, 1-alkylpiperazine-4-yl, piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, azepane-1-yl;

an alkoxy group denotes an O-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above; the alkoxy group is preferably a methoxy, ethoxy, isopropoxy, *t*-butoxy or pentoxy group;

an alkylthio group denotes an S-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an haloalkyl group denotes an alkyl group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above; the haloalkyl group is preferably a -C(R¹⁰)₃, -CR¹⁰(R^{10'})₂, -CR¹⁰(R^{10'})R^{10''}, -C₂(R¹⁰)₅, -CH₂C(R¹⁰)₃, -CH₂CR¹⁰(R^{10'})₂,

$-\text{CH}_2\text{CR}^{10}(\text{R}^{10'})\text{R}^{10''}$, $-\text{C}_3(\text{R}^{10})_7$, or $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{C}(\text{R}^{10})_3$, wherein R^{10} , $\text{R}^{10'}$, $\text{R}^{10''}$ represent F, Cl, Br or I, preferably F;

a hydroxyalkyl group denotes an HO-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

5

an haloalkyloxy group denotes an alkoxy group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above; the haloalkyloxy group is preferably a $-\text{OC}(\text{R}^{10})_3$, $-\text{OCR}^{10}(\text{R}^{10'})_2$, $-\text{OCR}^{10}(\text{R}^{10'})\text{R}^{10''}$, $-\text{OC}_2(\text{R}^{10})_5$, $-\text{OCH}_2\text{C}(\text{R}^{10})_3$, $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CR}^{10}(\text{R}^{10'})_2$, $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CR}^{10}(\text{R}^{10'})\text{R}^{10''}$, $-\text{OC}_3(\text{R}^{10})_7$, or $-\text{OC}_2\text{H}_4\text{C}(\text{R}^{10})_3$, wherein R^{10} , $\text{R}^{10'}$, $\text{R}^{10''}$ represent F, Cl, Br or I, preferably F;

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a hydroxyalkylamino group denotes an $(\text{HO-alkyl})_2\text{-N-}$ group or HO-alkyl-NH- group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

15 an alkylamino group denotes an HN-alkyl or N-dialkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

a halogen group is fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine;

20 an aryl group denotes an aromatic group having five to fifteen carbon atoms, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R' , where R' is as defined above; the aryl group is preferably a benzyl group, a phenyl group, $-\text{o-C}_6\text{H}_4-$ R' , $-\text{m-C}_6\text{H}_4-$ R' , $-\text{p-C}_6\text{H}_4-$ R' , 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 1-anthracenyl or 2-anthracenyl, R' being as defined above;

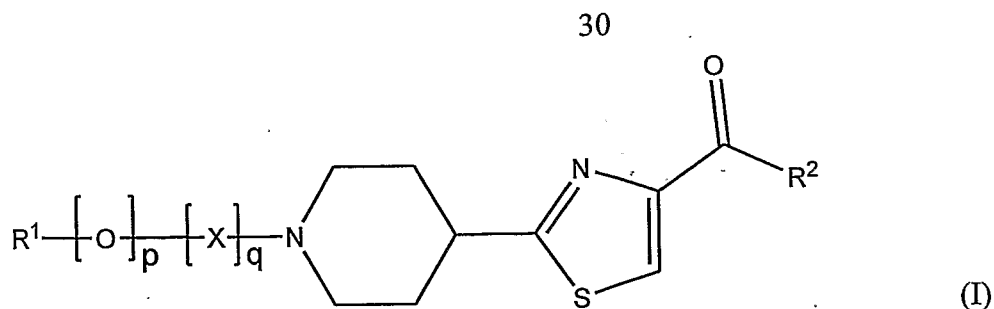
25 an arylamino group denotes an HN-aryl or N-diaryl group, the aryl group being as defined above;

a heteroaryl group denotes a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group which contains at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S. This heterocyclic group can be fused to another aromatic ring. For example, this group can be selected from a thiadiazole, thiazol-2-yl, thiazol-4-yl, thiazol-5-yl, isothiazol-3-yl, isothiazol-4-yl, isothiazol-5-yl, oxazol-2-yl, oxazol-4-yl, oxazol-5-yl, isooxazol-3-yl, isooxazol-4-yl, isooxazol-5-yl, benzooxazol-2-yl, benzooxazol-4-yl, benzooxazol-5-yl, benzoisooxazol-3-yl, benzoisooxazol-4-yl,

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benzoisooxazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl, 1,2,5-oxadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,5-oxadiazol-4-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl, isothiazol-3-yl, isothiazol-4-yl, isothiazol-5-yl, benzoisothiazol-3-yl, benzoisothiazol-4-yl, benzoisothiazol-5-yl, 1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl, 1-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazol-4-yl, 4-imidazolyl, benzoimidazol-4-yl, 1-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 2-furanyl, 3-furanyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 2-pyranyl, 3-pyranyl, 4-pyranyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 6-pyrimidinyl, 2,4-dimethoxy-6-pyrimidinyl, 3-pyridazinyl, 4-pyridazinyl, 2-pyrazinyl, 1-pyrazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 4-pyrazolyl, 1,2,3-triazol-4-yl, 1,2,3-triazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-5-yl, 1,3,5-triazol-6-yl, 2,4-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazol-6-yl, 1*H*-tetrazol-2-yl, 1*H*-tetrazol-3-yl, tetrazolyl, acridyl, furazane, indazolyl, phenazinyl, carbazolyl, phenoxazinyl, indolizine, 2-indolyl, 3-indolyl, 4-indolyl, 5-indolyl, 6-indolyl, 7-indolyl, 1-isoindolyl, 3-isoindolyl, 4-isoindolyl, 5-isoindolyl, 6-isoindolyl, 7-isoindolyl, 2-indoliny, 3-indoliny, 4-indoliny, 5-indoliny, 6-indoliny, 7-indoliny, benzo[b]furanyl, benzofurazane, benzothiofurazane, benzotriazol-1-yl, benzotriazol-4-yl, benzotriazol-5-yl, benzotriazol-6-yl, benzotriazol-7-yl, benzotriazine, benzo[b]thiophenyl, benzimidazol-2-yl, 1*H*-benzimidazolyl, benzimidazol-4-yl, benzimidazol-5-yl, benzimidazol-6-yl, benzimidazol-7-yl, benzothiazolyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxazolinyl, cinnoline, quinoliny, tetrahydroquinoliny, isoquinoliny, tetrahydrothieno[3,4-*d*]imidazol-2-one, pyrazolo[5,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazine, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-2-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-3-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-5-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-6-yl, 2,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-3-yl, 2,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-4-yl, tetrahydroisoquinoliny, purine, phthalazine, pteridine, thiatetraazaindene, thiatriazaindene, isothiazolopyrazine, isothiazolopyrimidine, pyrazolotriazine, pyrazolopyrimidine, imidazopyridazine, imidazo-pyrimidine, imidazopyridine, imidazolotriazine, triazolotriazine, triazolopyridine, triazolopyrazine, triazolopyrimidine, 4-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-*a*]pyridin-3-yl, 1-furo[2,3-*c*]pyridin-4-yl, 1-furo[2,3-*c*]pyridin-5-yl, 1-furo[2,3-*c*]pyridin-3-yl, and triazolopyridazine group. This heterocyclic group can be substituted by one or more substituents R', wherein R' is as defined above;

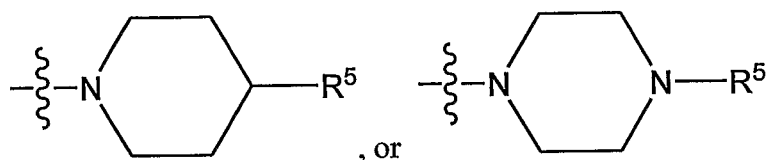
with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded:



wherein

R^1 independently represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl;

R^2 independently represents $-NR^3R^4$,



R^3 independently represents alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, alkylamine, $-OH$, $-SH$, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl,

R^4 independently represents alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, alkylamine, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

R^5 independently represents H , COR^6 , CO_2R^6 , SOR^6 , SO_2R^6 , SO_3R^6 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, $-NH_2$, alkylamine, $-NR^7COR^6$, halogen, $-OH$, $-SH$, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

R^6 independently represents H , alkyl, cycloalkyl, $-NH_2$, alkylamine, aryl or heteroaryl;

R^7 independently represents H , alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, $-OH$, $-SH$, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

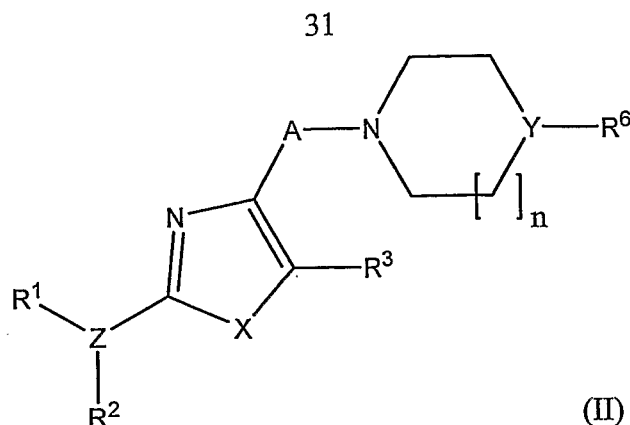
p is 0, or 1;

q is 0, or 1;

X is CO or SO_2 .

The present invention relates also to compounds of the general formula (II) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically

acceptable prodrugs, or a stereoisomer thereof,



wherein

R^1 is $-C(O)R^7$, $-C(O)CHR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-C(O)OR^7$, $-R^7C(O)R^8$, $-C(S)R^7$;

R^2 is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, heteroaryl,

or R^1 and R^2 together with the N-atom or the C-atom to which they are attached form a 3 to 8 membered saturated or at least partially unsaturated monocyclic or polycyclic ring system, wherein at least one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring is a heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, and the ring can be substituted by one or more R^9 ;

R^3 is H, $-C(O)NR^aR^b$, halogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, OH, SH, $NR^{4'}OR^{5'}$, NH_2 , hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or haloalkyloxy;

R^a is H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^7R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

R^b independently represents H, $-CN$, $-OH$, $-SH$, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heterocycle, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzoxazolyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, aryl, heterocycloalkyl, or heteroaryl;

R^6 is halogen, $-C(O)R^7$, $-C(O)CHR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-C(O)OR^7$, $-R^7C(O)R^8$, $-C(S)R^7$, $-C(NR^7)NR^7R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, -

$\text{NR}^7\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{7'}$, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

R^7 , $\text{R}^{7'}$, R^8 independently are H, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, $-\text{NHaryl}$, heteroaryl, or aryl;

5 A is CO or SO_2 ;

X is $\text{NR}^{2'}$, O, or S;

Y is N, $\text{CR}^{2'}$ or if Y is O then R^6 is absent;

Z is N or $\text{CR}^{2'}$; if Z is CH then X is O or $\text{NR}^{2'}$

$\text{R}^{2'}$ is H, alkyl, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^2$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^b$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl,

10 hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

n is 0 to 2;

p is 1 to 6;

q is 1 to 6;

15 R^9 independently represents H, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{SH}$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^{4'}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{4a}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{4'}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{R}^{5'}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{-alkyl}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{4'}$, $\text{SO}_3\text{R}^{4'}$, $-\text{N}=\text{CR}^{4'}\text{R}^{5'}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{4''}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{-CO-haloalkyl}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{-SO}_2\text{-haloalkyl}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{-SO}_2\text{-alkyl}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{-CO-alkyl}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{heteroaryl}$, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, hydroxyalkylamino, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, aryl, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_p[\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_p]_q\text{OCH}_3$, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^{4''})\text{NR}^{4'}\text{benzimidazolyl}$, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^{4''})\text{NR}^{4'}\text{benzthiazolyl}$, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^{4''})\text{NR}^{4'}\text{benzoxazolyl}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^7\text{COR}^8$, or heteroaryl;

$\text{R}^{4'}$, $\text{R}^{4''}$, $\text{R}^{5'}$ independently are H, halogen, alkyl, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^7)\text{NR}^{7'}\text{R}^8$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{aryl}$,

$-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{N}=\text{CR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{NR}^7\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^8$, cycloalkyl,

25 heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

R^{4a} is H, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{-alkenyl}$, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^7)\text{NR}^{7'}\text{R}^8$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{aryl}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{N}=\text{CR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{NR}^7\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^8$, halogen, heteroaryl, or aryl

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wherein

an C₁-C₆-alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, preferably a linear or branched chain of one to five carbon atoms, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R['];

- 5 an C₂-C₆-alkenyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkenyl, preferably a linear or branched chain of two to six carbon atoms, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R['];

- 10 an alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, preferably a linear or branched chain of one to six carbon atoms, a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkenyl or a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkynyl group, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R['];

- 15 R['] is independently H, -CO₂R^{''}, -CONHR^{''}, -CR^{''}O, -SO₂NR^{''}, -NR^{''}-CO-haloalkyl, -NO₂, -NR^{''}-SO₂-haloalkyl, -NR^{''}-SO₂-alkyl, -SO₂-alkyl, -NR^{''}-CO-alkyl, -CN, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R^{''} is independently H, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

- 20 a heterocycle denotes a heterocycloalkyl group or a heteroaryl group;

- a cycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing three to eight carbon atoms, preferably four to eight carbon atoms, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by a group R['] being as defined above; the C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl residue may be selected from the group comprising -cyclo-C₃H₅, -cyclo-C₄H₇, -cyclo-C₅H₉, -cyclo-C₆H₁₁, -cyclo-C₇H₁₃, -cyclo-C₈H₁₅;

- 30 a heterocycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing two to ten carbon atoms and at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by R['] being as defined above; preferred heterocycloalkyl groups are morpholine-4-yl, piperazinyl, 1-alkylpiperazine-4-yl, piperidiny, pyrrolidinyl, azocane-1-yl;

an alkoxy group denotes an O-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above; the alkoxy group is preferably a methoxy, ethoxy, isopropoxy, *t*-butoxy or pentoxy group;

an alkylthio group denotes an S-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

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an haloalkyl group denotes an alkyl group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above; the haloalkyl group is preferably a $-C(R^{10})_3$, $-CR^{10}(R^{10'})_2$, $-CR^{10}(R^{10'})R^{10''}$, $-C_2(R^{10})_5$, $-CH_2C(R^{10})_3$, $-CH_2CR^{10}(R^{10'})_2$, $-CH_2CR^{10}(R^{10'})R^{10''}$, $-C_3(R^{10})_7$, or $-C_2H_4C(R^{10})_3$, wherein R^{10} , $R^{10'}$, $R^{10''}$ represent F, Cl, Br or I, preferably F;

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a hydroxyalkyl group denotes an HO-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an haloalkyloxy group denotes an alkoxy group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above; the haloalkyloxy group is preferably a $-OC(R^{10})_3$, $-OCR^{10}(R^{10'})_2$, $-OCR^{10}(R^{10'})R^{10''}$, $-OC_2(R^{10})_5$, $-OCH_2C(R^{10})_3$, $-OCH_2CR^{10}(R^{10'})_2$, $-OCH_2CR^{10}(R^{10'})R^{10''}$, $-OC_3(R^{10})_7$, or $-OC_2H_4C(R^{10})_3$, wherein R^{10} , $R^{10'}$, $R^{10''}$ represent F, Cl, Br or I, preferably F;

15

a hydroxyalkylamino group denotes an $(HO-alkyl)_2-N-$ group or HO-alkyl-NH- group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

20

an alkylamino group denotes an HN-alkyl or N-dialkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

25

a halogen group is fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine;

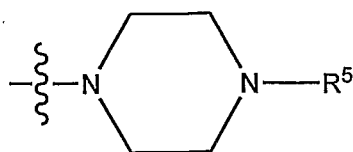
an aryl group denotes an aromatic group having five to fifteen carbon atoms, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R' , where R' is as defined above; the aryl group is preferably a benzyl group, a phenyl group, $-o-C_6H_4-$ R' , $-m-C_6H_4-$ R' , $-p-C_6H_4-$ R' , 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 1-anthracenyl or 2-anthracenyl, R' being as defined above;

30

a heteroaryl group denotes a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group which contains at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S. This heterocyclic group can be fused to another aromatic ring. For example, this group can be selected from a thiadiazole, thiazol-2-yl, thiazol-4-yl, thiazol-5-yl, isothiazol-3-yl, isothiazol-4-yl, isothiazol-5-yl, oxazol-2-yl, oxazol-4-yl, oxazol-5-yl, isooxazol-3-yl, isooxazol-4-yl, isooxazol-5-yl, benzoioxazol-2-yl, benzoioxazol-4-yl, benzoioxazol-5-yl, benzoisooxazol-3-yl, benzoisooxazol-4-yl, benzoisooxazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl, 1,2,5-oxadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,5-oxadiazol-4-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl, isothiazol-3-yl, isothiazol-4-yl, isothiazol-5-yl, benzoisothiazol-3-yl, benzoisothiazol-4-yl, benzoisothiazol-5-yl, 1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl, 1-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazol-4-yl, 4-imidazolyl, benzoimidazol-4-yl, 1-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 2-furanyl, 3-furanyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 2-pyranyl, 3-pyranyl, 4-pyranyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 6-pyrimidinyl, 2,4-dimethoxy-6-pyrimidinyl, 3-pyridazinyl, 4-pyridazinyl, 2-pyrazinyl, 1-pyrazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 4-pyrazolyl, 1,2,3-triazol-4-yl, 1,2,3-triazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-5-yl, 1,3,5-triazol-6-yl, 2,4-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazol-6-yl, 1*H*-tetrazol-2-yl, 1*H*-tetrazol-3-yl, tetrazolyl, acridyl, furazane, indazolyl, phenazinyl, carbazolyl, phenoxazinyl, indolizine, 2-indolyl, 3-indolyl, 4-indolyl, 5-indolyl, 6-indolyl, 7-indolyl, 1-isoindolyl, 3-isoindolyl, 4-isoindolyl, 5-isoindolyl, 6-isoindolyl, 7-isoindolyl, 2-indoliny, 3-indoliny, 4-indoliny, 5-indoliny, 6-indoliny, 7-indoliny, benzo[b]furanyl, benzofurazane, benzothiofurazane, benzotriazol-1-yl, benzotriazol-4-yl, benzotriazol-5-yl, benzotriazol-6-yl, benzotriazol-7-yl, benzotriazine, benzo[b]thiophenyl, benzimidazol-2-yl, 1*H*-benzimidazolyl, benzimidazol-4-yl, benzimidazol-5-yl, benzimidazol-6-yl, benzimidazol-7-yl, benzothiazolyl, quinazoliny, quinoxazoliny, cinnoline, quinoliny, tetrahydroquinoliny, isoquinoliny, tetrahydrothieno[3,4-*d*]imidazol-2-one, pyrazolo[5,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazine, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-2-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-3-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-5-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-6-yl, 2,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-3-yl, 2,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-4-yl, tetrahydroisoquinoliny, purine, phthalazine, pteridine, thiatetraazaindene, thiatriazaindene, isothiazolopyrazine, isothiazolopyrimidine, pyrazolotriazine, pyrazolopyrimidine, imidazopyridazine, imidazopyrimidine, imidazopyridine, imidazolotriazine, triazolotriazine, triazolopyridine, triazolopyrazine, triazolopyrimidine, 4-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-*a*]pyridin-3-yl, 1-furo[2,3-*c*]pyridin-4-yl, 1-furo[2,3-*c*]pyridin-5-yl, 1-

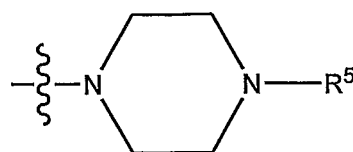
furo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl, and triazolopyridazine group. This heterocyclic group can be substituted by one or more substituents R', wherein R' is as defined above.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (Ia), Z is S, Y is CO, X is CO, R is H, R^c is H, and R¹ is aryl, benzyl, or heteroaryl, R² is



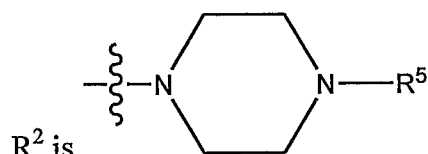
, and R⁵ is optionally substituted aryl, benzyl or heteroaryl.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (Ia), Z is O, Y is CO, X is CO, R is H, R^c is H, and R¹ is aryl, benzyl, or heteroaryl, R² is



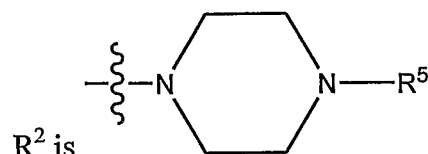
, and R⁵ is optionally substituted aryl, benzyl or heteroaryl.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (Ib), Z is S, Y is CO, X forms a piperidine ring together with R¹ and R⁴, R^a and R^b is H, R^c is H or methyl,



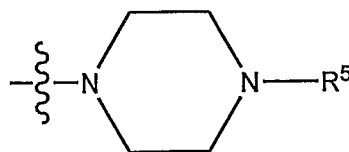
R² is , and R⁵ is optionally substituted aryl, benzyl or heteroaryl.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (Ib), Z is O, Y is CO, X forms a piperidine ring together with R¹ and R⁴, R^a and R^b is H, R^c is H or methyl,



R² is , and R⁵ is optionally substituted aryl, benzyl or heteroaryl.

In another preferred embodiment, in the compounds of formula (Ic), r is 1, Y is CO, Z is O, t is 0, s is 1, X is CO, R^c is H, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, alkylamino, morpholino, N-

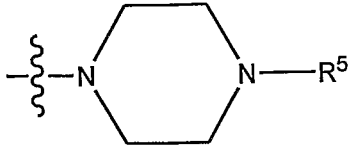


methylpiperazine, CF₃, or OCF₃, R² is substituted aryl, benzyl or heteroaryl.

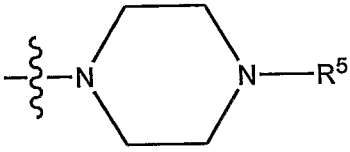
In another preferred embodiment, in the compounds of formula (Ic), r is 1, Y is CO, Z is S,

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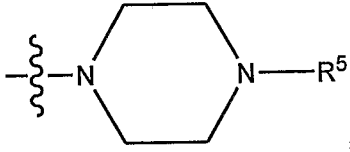
t is 0, s is 0, R^c is H, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, alkylamino, morpholino, N-methylpiperazine,

CF₃, or OCF, R² is , and R⁵ is optionally substituted aryl, benzyl or heteroaryl.

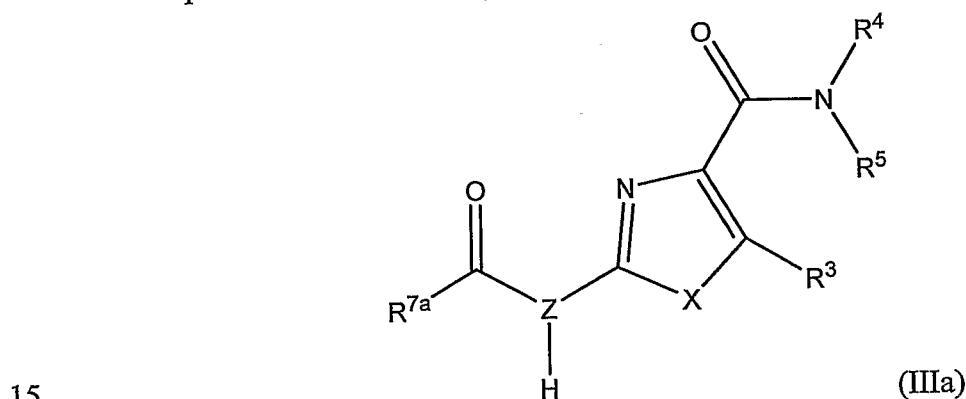
In another preferred embodiment, in the compounds of formula (Ic), r is 1, Y is CO, Z is S,
5 t is 0, s is 1, X is CO, R^c is H, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, alkylamino, morpholino, N-

methylpiperazine, CF₃, or OCF, R² is , and R⁵ is optionally substituted aryl, benzyl or heteroaryl.

In another preferred embodiment, in the compounds of formula (Ic), r is 1, Y is CO, Z is O,
t is 0, s is 0, R^c is H, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, alkylamino, morpholino, N-methylpiperazine,

10 CF₃, or OCF, R² is , and R⁵ is optionally substituted aryl, benzyl or heteroaryl.

A preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (III),
are compounds of the formula (IIIa),



wherein

R³ is H, methyl, methoxy, CF₃, or OCF₃;

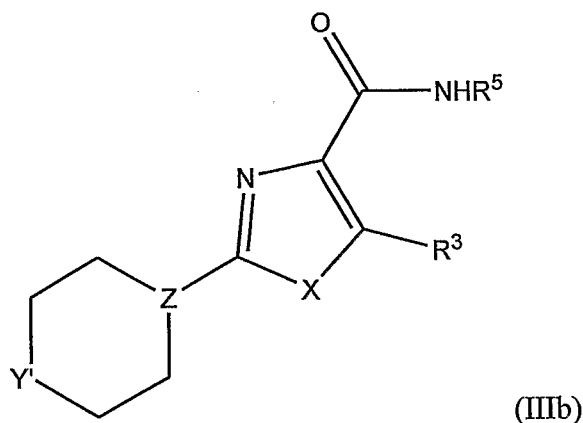
R⁴, R⁵, R^{7a} are defined as above; X is NR^{2'}, O or S; and Z is as defined as above.

20 Another preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (III),

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are compounds of the formula (IIIa), with $R^{7a} = -NH\text{-aryl}$.

Another preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (III),
are compounds of the formula (IIIb),



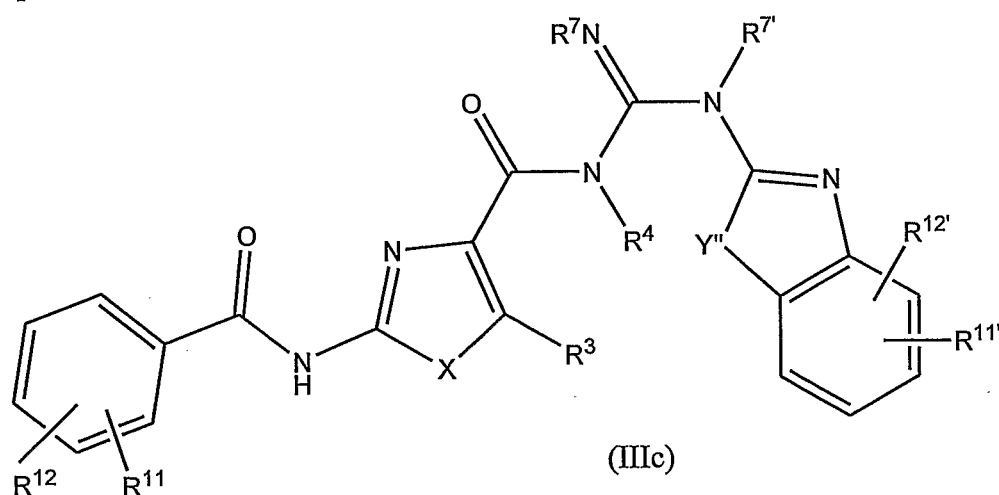
wherein

R^3 is H, methyl, methoxy, CF_3 , or OCF_3 ; R^5 is defined as above; X is $NR^{2'}$, O or S;

if Z is N then X is $NR^{2'}$, O or S, or if Z is $CR^{2'}$, X is O;

Y' is O or $NR^{2'}$, $R^{2'}$ is as defined above;

Another preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (III),
are compounds of the formula (IIIc),



wherein

- 15 R^{11} , R^{12} independently represent H, -CN, -OH, -SH, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-SO_2\text{-alkyl}$, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}\text{-CO-haloalkyl}$, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}\text{-SO}_2\text{-haloalkyl}$, $-NR^{4'}\text{-SO}_2\text{-alkyl}$, $-NR^{4'}\text{-CO-alkyl}$, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p\text{heteroaryl}$, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$, -

$C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzoxazolyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, arylalkyl or a heterocycle; and $R^{4'}$, $R^{4''}$, $R^{5'}$ are defined as above;

R^3 is H, methyl, methoxy, CF_3 , or OCF_3 ; X is $NR^{2'}$, O or S, R^4 is defined as above,

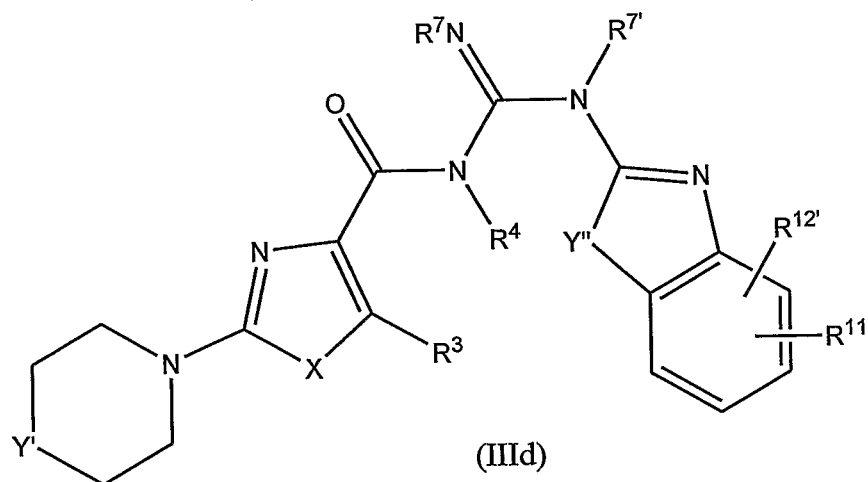
5 R^7 and $R^{7'}$ are defined as above,

$R^{11'}$, $R^{12'}$ independently represents H, -CN, -OH, -SH, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heteroaryl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$,

10 $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzoxazolyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl-amino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, arylalkyl or a heterocycle; and $R^{4'}$, $R^{4''}$, $R^{5'}$ are defined as above;

A more preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (III),

15 are compounds of the formula (IIIId),



wherein

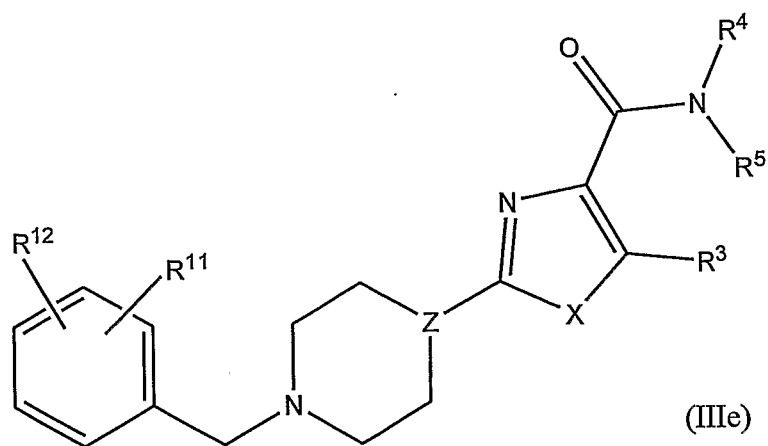
R^3 is H, methyl, methoxy, CF_3 , or OCF_3 ; X is $NR^{2'}$, O or S, R^4 is defined as above,

R^7 and $R^{7'}$ are defined as above, Y'' and $R^{11'}$, $R^{12'}$ are defined as above under formula

20 (IIIc), Y' is O or $NR^{2'}$ and $R^{2'}$ is as defined above.

Another more preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (III), are compounds of the formula (IIIe),

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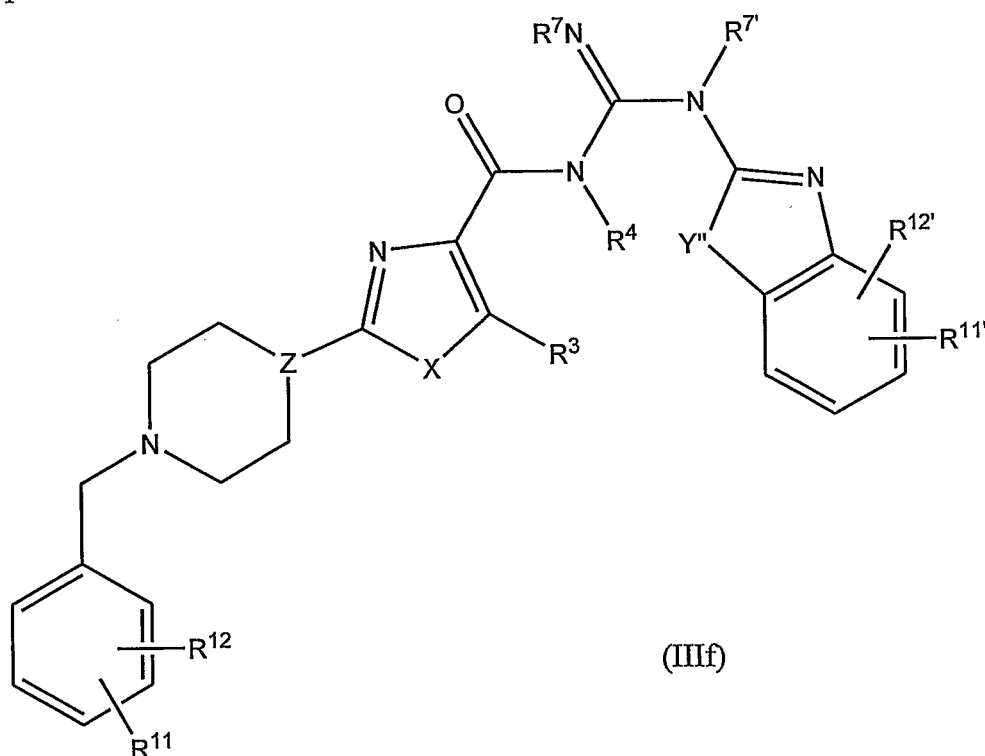
wherein

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are defined as above, X is O or S,

R^{11} and R^{12} are defined as above under formula (IIIc), and

5 if Z is N, X is $NR^{2'}$, O or S, if Z is CH, X is O.

Another more preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (III),
are compounds of the formula (IIIf),



10 wherein

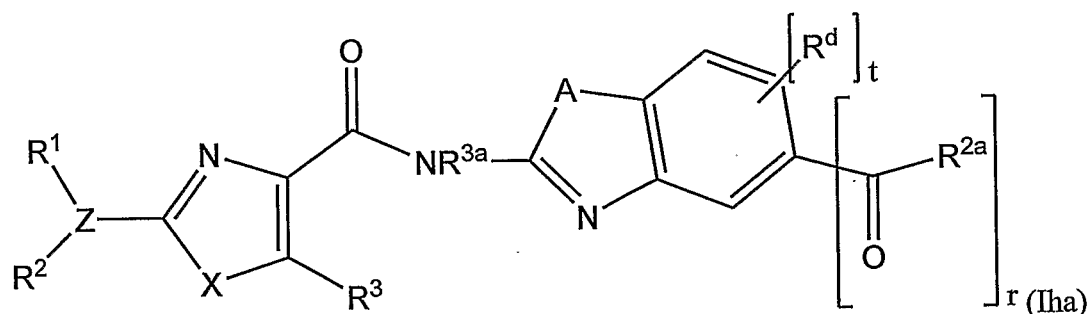
Z is N or CH, and R^3 is H, methyl, methoxy, CF_3 , or OCF_3 ; X is $NR^{2'}$, O or S,

R^4 is defined as above, R^7 and $R^{7'}$ are defined as above, $R^{2'}$ is as defined above;

Y'' and R^{11} , $R^{11'}$, R^{12} , $R^{12'}$ are defined as above under formula (IIIc).

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A preferred embodiment of the invention, are compounds of the formula (Iha),



wherein

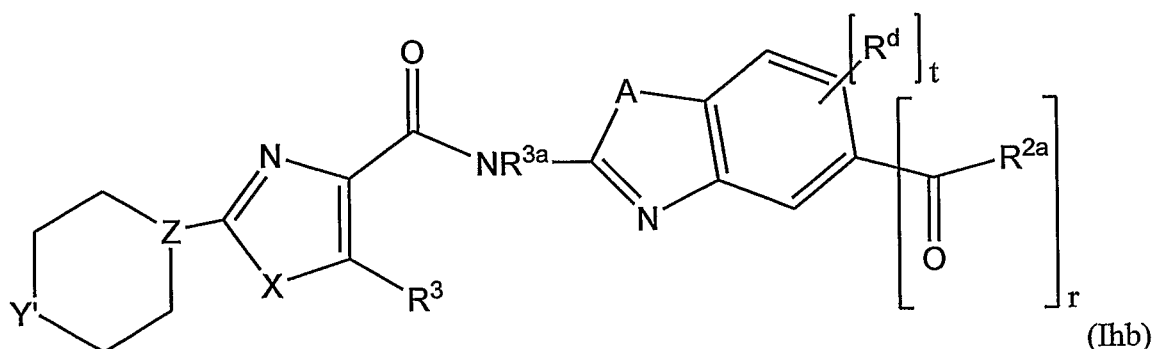
R^1 is COR^{7a} ; R^2 and R^{3a} are H; A is NH; R^7 is as defined above; Z is N;

- 5 X is $\text{NR}^{2'}$, O or S; R^3 is H, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, amine, alkylamine, morpholino, N-methylpiperazine, CF_3 , or OCF_3 ; t is 0; r is 1; and R^{2a} is optionally substituted aryl, benzyl or heteroaryl.

Another preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (Ih),

- 10 are compounds of the formula (Iha), with R^{7a} is optionally substituted aryl, benzyl or heteroaryl.

Another preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (Ih),
are compounds of the formula (Ihb),



wherein

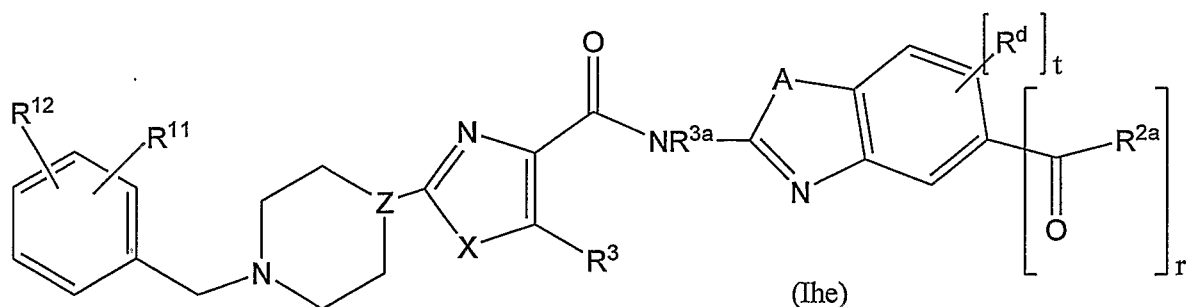
R^{3a} is H; A is NH; X is $\text{NR}^{2'}$, O or S; Y' is O or $\text{NR}^{2'}$;

- $R^{2'}$ is as defined above; R^3 is H, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, amine, alkylamine, morpholino, N-methylpiperazine, CF_3 , or OCF_3 ; t is 0; r is 1; and R^{2a} is optionally substituted aryl,
20 benzyl or heteroaryl.

Another more preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (Ih),

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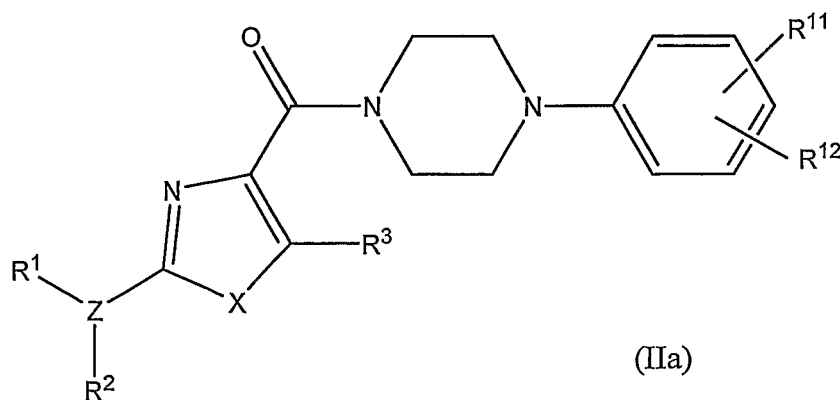
are compounds of the formula (Ihe),



wherein

- 5 R^{3a} is H; A is NH; X is $NR^{2'}$, O or S;
 R^{11} and R^{12} independently represent H, -CN, -OH, -SH, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heteroaryl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$, -
 10 $C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzoxazolyl hydroxyalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, arylalkyl or a heterocycle; and $R^{4'}$, $R^{4''}$, $R^{5'}$ are defined as above;
 $R^{2'}$ is as defined above; R^3 is H, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, amine, alkylamine, morpholino, N-methylpiperazine, CF_3 , or OCF_3 ; t is 0; r is 1; and R^{2a} is optionally substituted aryl,
 15 benzyl or heteroaryl.

A preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (II),
 are compounds of the formula (IIa),



20 wherein

R^1 and R^2 are defined as above, Z is defined as above; X is O or S;

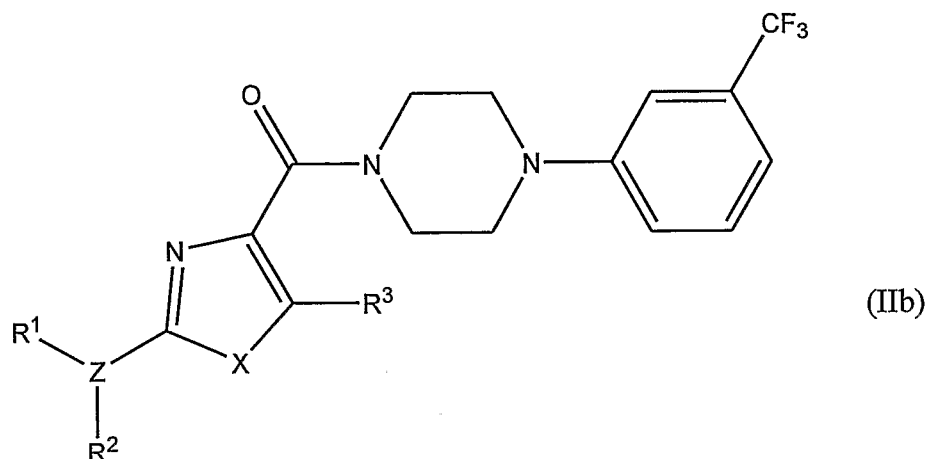
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R^3 is H, methyl, methoxy, CF_3 , or OCF_3 ;

R^{11} and R^{12} are defined as above under formula (IIIc).

A more preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (II),

5 are compounds of the formula (IIb),



wherein

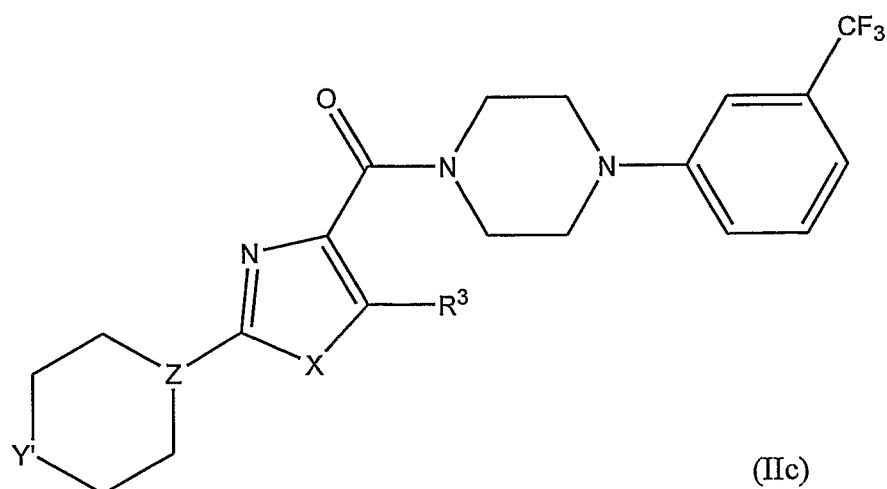
R^1 and R^2 are defined as above, Z is defined as above; X is O or S,

R^3 is H, methyl, methoxy, CF_3 , or OCF_3 .

10

Another more preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (II),

are compounds of the formula (IIc),

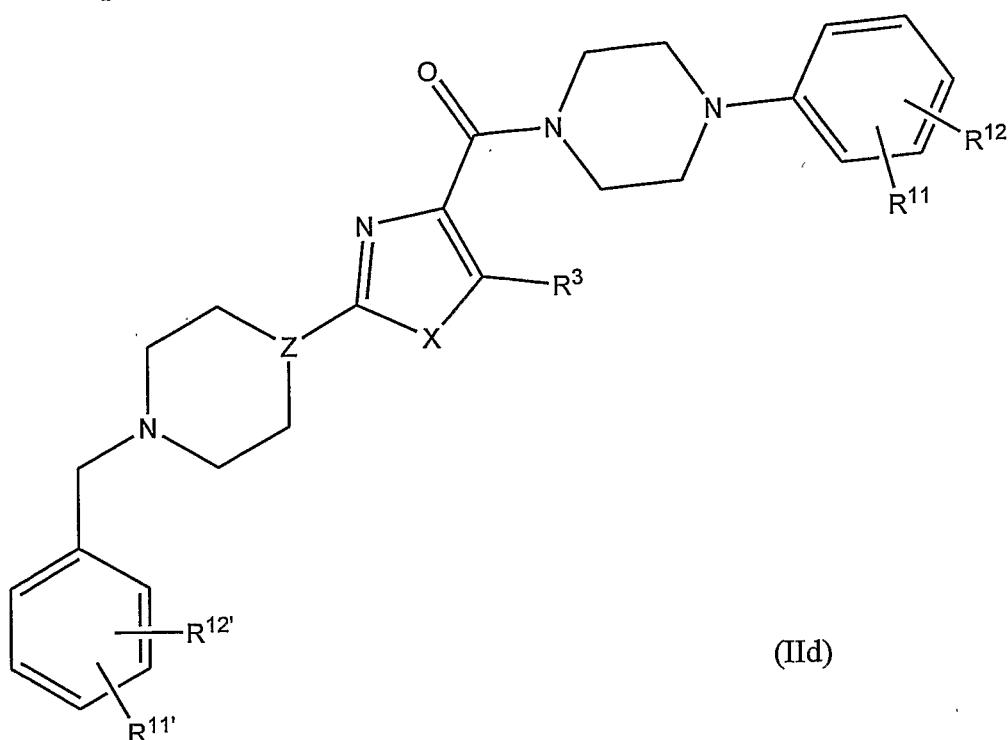


wherein

15 X is O or S; R^3 is H, methyl, methoxy, CF_3 , or OCF_3 ; Y' is $NR^{2'}$.

Another more preferred embodiment of the invention, in the compounds of formula (II),

are compounds of the formula (IIId),



wherein

Z is defined as above; R^3 is H, methyl, methoxy, CF_3 , or OCF_3 ;

5 R^{11} , $R^{11'}$ and R^{12} , $R^{12'}$ are defined as above.

In addition, the present invention provides methods for preparing the compounds of the invention such as compounds of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III).

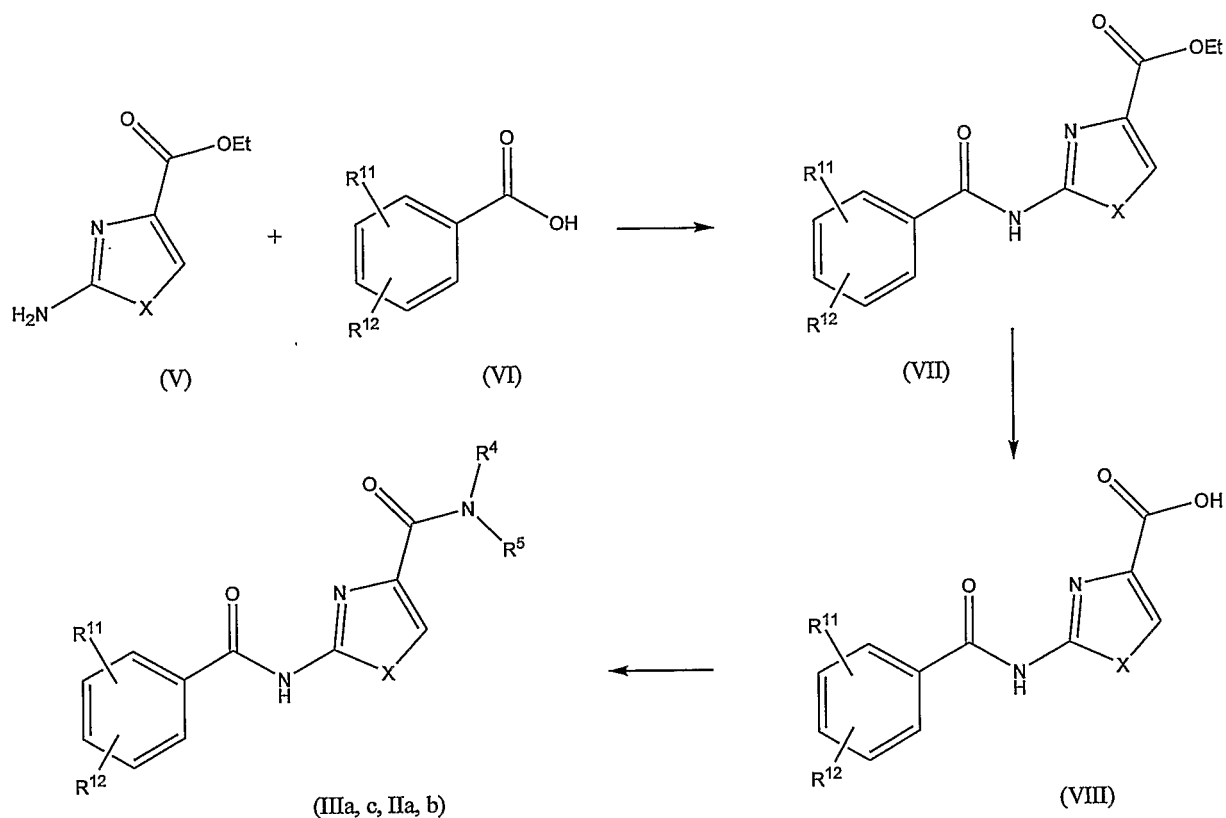
10 The compounds of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) may be obtained *via* various methods.

Piperidin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carboxamide can be prepared by various methods described in the literature. One such example is the oxidation of the appropriate 2,5-dihydrothiazoles as described in *Houben-Weyl*, **2002**, 730. The dihydrothiazoles can also synthesised by
 15 methods described in the same reference or described in You, S., Razavi, H., Kelly, J.W. *Angew. Chem.* **2003**, 115, 87 or Katritzky, AR., Cai, C., Suzuki, K., Singh, SK. *J. Org. Chem.* **2004**, 69, 811-814 and references in both papers. Alternative methods were described by Yasuchika, S. et. al. *Heterocycles*, Vol. 57, No. 5, **2002**.

The compounds of formula (II), (Ic), and (III) carrying a further substituent on the heterocycle can be obtained *via* various methods described in *Organic Syntheses*, Coll. Vol.9, p.155; and Vol.74, p.229; *J. Org. Chem.*, **1975**, Vol.40, No.10, page 1521, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 96:19/September 18, 1974; *J. Org. Chem.*, **1990**, 55, 4484-4487; *Chemische Berichte* **1968**, 101 (1), 302-307; *Agricultural Chemistry and Biotechnology*, **2002**, 45 (1), page 37-42.

One possibility for the synthesis of substituted benzimidazole-substituent of formula (III) is described in *Synthesis*, **2006**, 4, 597-602.

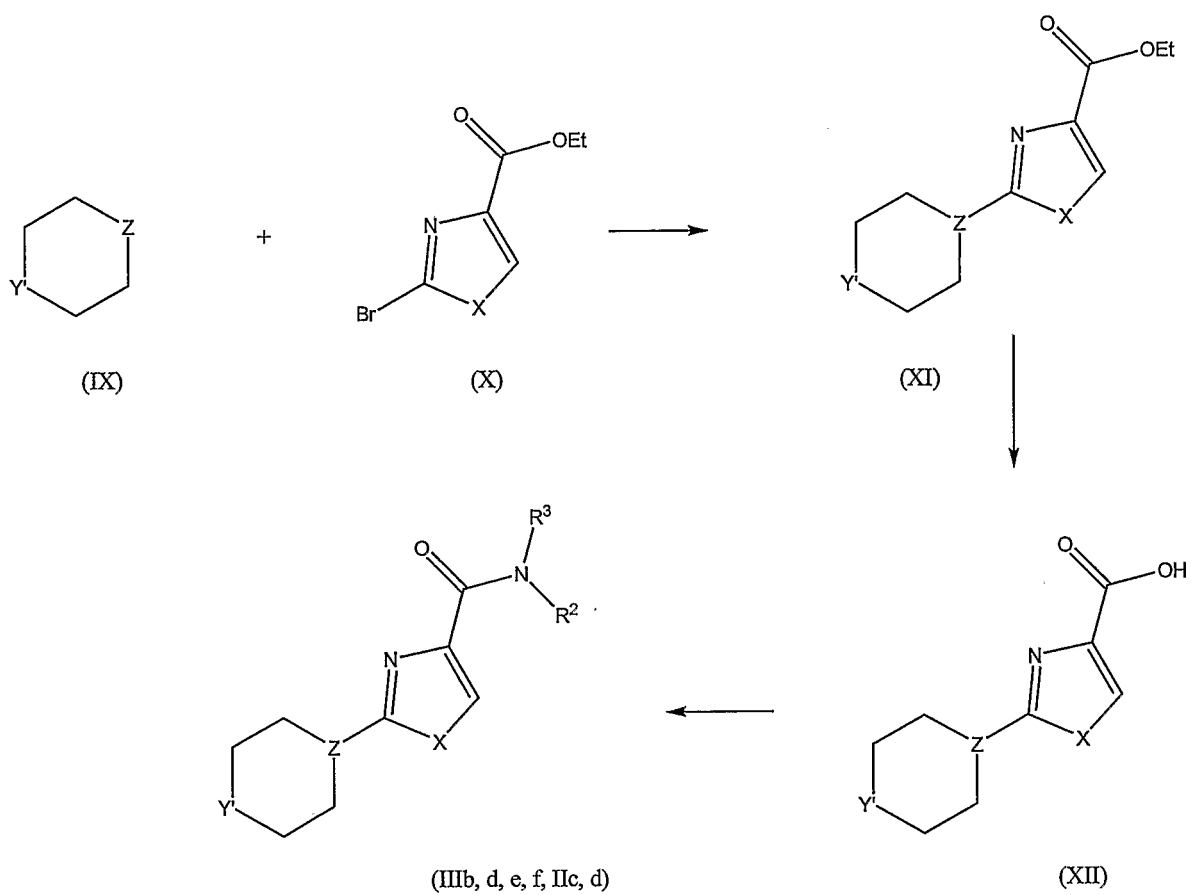
- 10 One possibility for the synthesis of compounds of formula (IIIa, c and IIa, b) (see scheme 1) comprises a step of reacting a compound of formula (V) with a compound of formula (VI) under classical amide coupling conditions, like e.g. HBTU, iPr_2NEt , DMF, 0°C to r.t. to obtain intermediate (VII). Another alternative for this step might be the reaction of (V) with the corresponding acid chloride of (VI) to yield (VII). In a second step, compound
- 15 (VII) is saponified with a 1 M NaOH solution, obtaining the expected acid (VIII) in almost quantitative yield. This step could be realized under acidic conditions as well. Finally, another amide coupling step (with primary or secondary amines), which works similarly to step 1 described above, completes the synthesis for compounds of type (IIIa, c and IIa, and b).



Scheme 1 Synthesis of derivatives of type (IIIa, c) and (IIa, b)

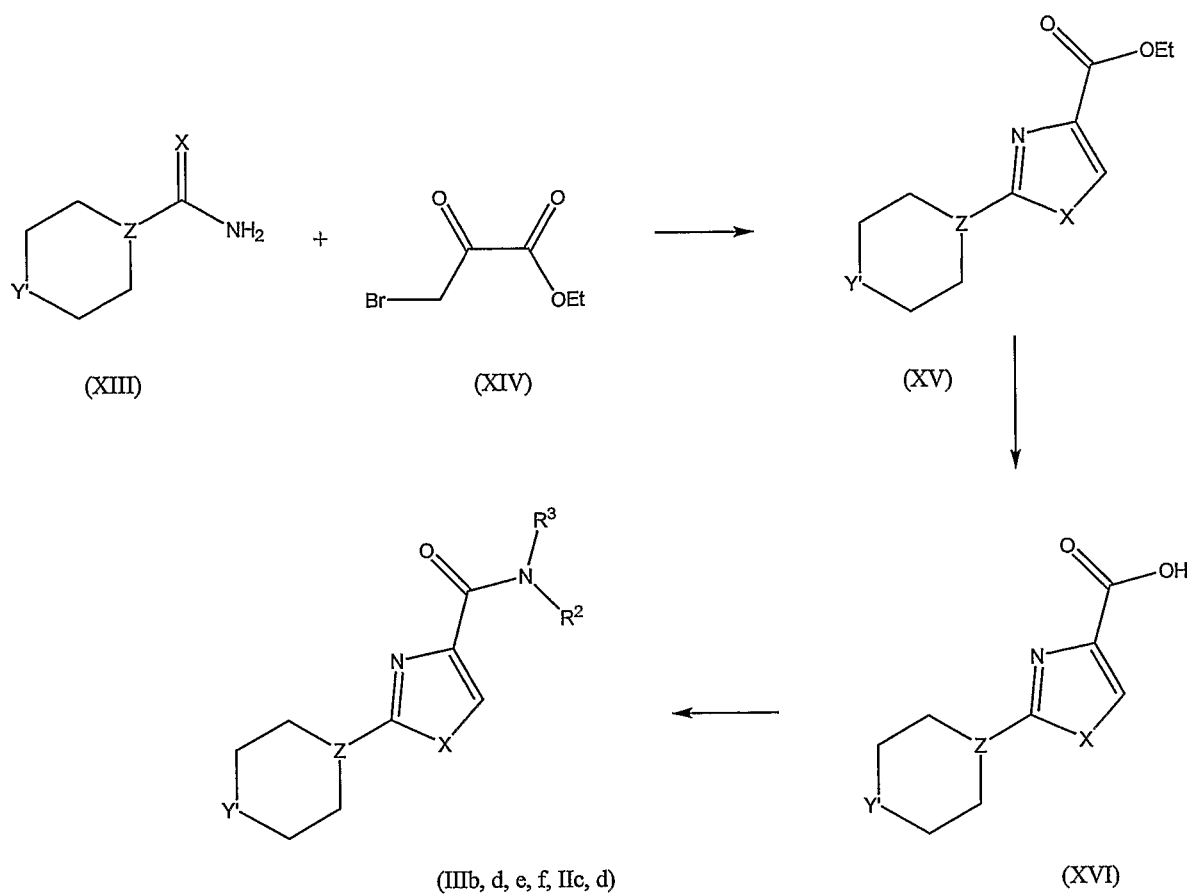
- 5 Compounds dealing with structure (IIIb, d, e, f) and (IIc, d) can be synthesized according to the procedure displayed in scheme 2. Herein, a heterocycle (IX) is reacted with a bromocompound (X), by means of a nucleophilic substitution reaction, to gain a bicyclic ester (XI), which is then saponified under standard and well-known conditions to acid (XII), completing the synthesis with another coupling step as described in scheme 1 above.

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Scheme 2 Synthesis of derivatives of type (IIIb, d, e, f) and (IIc, d), with Z = N

5 In case of Z = CH, structure (IIIb, d, e, f) and (IIc, d) type compounds can easily be synthesized following a protocol outlined in scheme 3, wherein a heterocycle (XIII) is converted to compound (XV) by a cyclocondensation step. After saponification, (XVI) is coupled with an amine to yield the desired product (IIIb, d, e, f) or (IIc, d).



Scheme 3 Synthesis of derivatives of type (IIIb, d, e, f) and (IIc, d), with Z = CH

For the compounds of the formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) above, the term
 5 "stereoisomer" means cis/trans or E/Z isomerism. More particularly, the possible double
 bond(s) present in the various substituent of the compounds of the present invention can be
 E or Z configuration. These pure or impure geometrical isomers, alone or as a mixture,
 form an integral part of the compounds of the formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III).

The term "stereoisomer" includes also all the isomeric forms, alone or as mixture, resulting
 10 from the presence of one or more axes and/ or centres of symmetry in the molecules, and
 resulting in the rotation of a beam of polarized light. More particularly, it includes
 enantiomers and diastereomers, in pure form or as a mixture.

The compounds of the formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) to be used according to the
 15 invention can form salts with inorganic or organic acids or bases. Examples of
 pharmaceutically acceptable salts comprise without limitation non-toxic inorganic or
 organic salts such as acetate derived from acetic acid, aconitate derived from aconitic acid,
 ascorbate derived from ascorbic acid, benzoate derived from benzoic acid, cinnamate

derived from cinnamic acid, citrate derived from citric acid, embonate derived from embonic acid, enantate derived from heptanoic acid, formiate derived from formic acid, fumarate derived from fumaric acid, glutamate derived from glutamic acid, glycolate derived from glycolic acid, chloride derived from hydrochloric acid, bromide derived from hydrobromic acid, lactate derived from lactic acid, maleate derived from maleic acid, malonate derived from malonic acid, mandelate derived from mandelic acid, methanesulfonate derived from methanesulfonic acid, naphthalene-2-sulfonate derived from naphthalene-2-sulfonic acid, nitrate derived from nitric acid, perchlorate derived from perchloric acid, phosphate derived from phosphoric acid, phthalate derived from phthalic acid, salicylate derived from salicylic acid, sorbate derived from sorbic acid, stearate derived from stearic acid, succinate derived from succinic acid, sulphate derived from sulphuric acid, tartrate derived from tartaric acid, toluene-p-sulfate derived from p-toluene-sulfonic acid and others. Such salts can be produced by methods known to someone of skill in the art and described in the prior art.

15

Other salts like oxalate derived from oxalic acid, which is not considered as pharmaceutically acceptable can be appropriate as intermediates for the production of compounds of the formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs, or a stereoisomer thereof.

20

The invention covers the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, as indicated above, but also salts allowing a suitable separation or crystallization of the compounds of the formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III), such as the salts obtained with chiral amines.

25 The compounds of the formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) above also comprise the prodrugs of these compounds.

The term "prodrug" as used herein refers to compounds which once administered to the patient are not pharmaceutically active themselves ('prodrugs') but which are chemically and/ or biologically transformed into their pharmaceutical active form (compounds of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III)) in vivo, i.e. in the subject to which the compound is administered.

30

The compounds according to the invention and medicaments prepared therewith are generally useful for the treatment of cell proliferation disorders, for the treatment or prophylaxis of immunological diseases and conditions (as for instance inflammatory diseases, neuroimmunological diseases, autoimmune diseases or other).

- 5 The compounds of the present invention are useful for the treatment of diseases which are caused by malignant cell proliferation, such as all forms of solid tumors, leukemias and lymphomas. Therefore the compounds according to the invention and medicaments prepared therewith are generally useful for regulating cell activation, cell proliferation, cell survival, cell differentiation, cell cycle, cell maturation and cell death or to induce systemic
- 10 changes in metabolism such as changes in sugar, lipid or protein metabolism. They can also be used to support cell generation poiesis, including blood cell growth and generation (prohematopoietic effect) after depletion or destruction of cells, as caused by, for example, toxic agents, radiation, immunotherapy, growth defects, malnutrition, malabsorption, immune dysregulation, anemia and the like or to provide a therapeutic control of tissue
- 15 generation and degradation, and therapeutic modification of cell and tissue maintenance and blood cell homeostasis.

These diseases and conditions include but are not limited to cancer as hematological (e.g. leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma) or solid tumors (for example breast, prostate, liver,

20 bladder, lung, esophageal, stomach, colorectal, genitourinary, gastrointestinal, skin, pancreatic, brain, uterine, colon, head and neck, cervical, and ovarian, melanoma, astrocytoma, small cell lung cancer, glioma, basal and squameous cell carcinoma, sarcomas as Kaposi's sarcoma and osteosarcoma) or for the treatment of diseases which are cured or relieved by the inhibition of one or several kinases and/or phosphatases.

25

"Treatment" according to the present invention is intended to mean complete or partial healing of a disease, or alleviation of a disease or stop of progression of a given disease.

Thus, in one embodiment, the invention relates to the use of the compounds of the formula

30 (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs, or a stereoisomer thereof if desired with appropriate adjuvants and additives for the production of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a disease characterized by hyperproliferation of keratinocytes and/or T cells, especially

inflammatory disorders and immune disorders, preferably selected from the group consisting of Addison's disease, alopecia areata, Ankylosing spondylitis, haemolytic anemia (anemia haemolytica), pernicious anemia (anemia perniciosa), aphthae, aphthous stomatitis, arthritis, arteriosclerotic disorders, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, aspermiogenese, asthma bronchiale, auto-immune asthma, auto-immune hemolysis, Bechet's disease, Boeck's disease, inflammatory bowel disease, Burkitt's lymphoma, Crohn's disease, chorioiditis, colitis ulcerosa, Coeliac disease, cryoglobulinemia, dermatitis herpetiformis, dermatomyositis, insulin-dependent type I diabetes, juvenile diabetes, idiopathic diabetes insipidus, insulin-dependent diabetes mellisis, autoimmune demyelinating diseases, Dupuytren's contracture, encephalomyelitis, encephalomyelitis allergica, endophthemia phacoanaphylactica, enteritis allergica, autoimmune enteropathy syndrome, erythema nodosum leprosum, idiopathic facial paralysis, chronic fatigue syndrome, febris rheumatica, glomerulo nephritis, Goodpasture's syndrome, Graves' disease, Harnman-Rich's disease, Hashimoto's disease, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, sudden hearing loss, sensoneural hearing loss, hepatitis chronica, Hodgkin's disease, haemoglobinuria paroxysmatica, hypogonadism, ileitis regionalis, iritis, leucopenia, leucemia, lupus erythematosus disseminatus, systemic lupus erythematosus, cutaneous lupus erythematosus, lymphogranuloma malignum, mononucleosis infectiosa, myasthenia gravis, traverse myelitis, primary idiopathic myxedema, nephrosis, ophthalmia symphatica, orchitis granulomatosa, pancreatitis, pemphigus, pemphigus vulgaris, polyarteritis nodosa, polyarthritis chronica primaria, polymyositis, polyradiculitis acuta, psoriasis, purpura, pyoderma gangrenosum, Quervain's thyreoiditis, Reiter's syndrome, sarcoidosis, ataxic sclerosis, progressive systemic sclerosis, scleritis, sclerodermia, multiple sclerosis, sclerosis disseminata, acquired spenic atrophy, infertility due to antispermatozoan antibodies, thrombocytopenia, idiopathic thrombocytopenia purpura, thymoma, acute anterior uveitis, vitiligo, AIDS, HIV, SCID and Epstein Barr virus associated diseases such as Sjorgren's syndrome, virus (AIDS or EBV) associated B cell lymphoma, parasitic diseases such as Leishmania, and immunesuppressed disease states such as viral infections following allograft transplantations, AIDS, cancer, chronic active hepatitis diabetes, toxic chock syndrome and food poisoning.

Furthermore, the invention relates to a method of treatment or prevention of diseases which comprises the administration of an effective amount of compounds of the (Ia), (Ib), (Ic),

(II), or (III) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs, or a stereoisomer thereof.

5 The invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III), in free form or in the form of pharmaceutically acceptable salts and pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier therefore.

10 In a preferred embodiment, the invention relates to the use of compounds of the formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs or a stereoisomer thereof if desired with appropriate adjuvants and additives for the production of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of skin diseases in which T cells play a role; especially preferably the skin diseases are selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, alopecia areata, alopecia totalis, 15 alopecia subtotalis, alopecia universalis, alopecia diffusa, lupus erythematoses of the skin, lichen planus, dermatomyositis of the skin, atopic eczema, morphea, scleroderma, psoriasis vulgaris, psoriasis capitis, psoriasis guttata, psoriasis inversa, alopecia areata ophiasis-type, androgenetic alopecia, allergic contact eczema, irritative contact eczema, contact eczema, pemphigus vulgaris, pemphigus foliaceus, pemphigus vegetans, scarring mucosal 20 pemphigoid, bullous pemphigoid, mucous pemphigoid, dermatitis, dermatitis herpetiformis duhring, urticaria, necrobiosis lipoidica, erythema nodosum, lichen vidal, prurigo simplex, prurigo nodularis, prurigo acuta, linear IgA dermatosis, polymorphic light dermatoses, erythema solaris, lichen sclerosus et atrophicus, exanthema of the skin, drug exanthema, purpura chronica progressiva, dihidrotic eczema, Eczema, fixed drug exanthema, 25 photoallergic skin reaction, lichen simplex eriorale, dermatitis and "Graft versus Host-Disease", acne, rosacea, scarring, keloids and vitiligo.

Moreover, the compounds of the present invention can be used for the treatment of diseases resulting from ischemia and/or reperfusion injury of organs and/or of parts of the 30 body selected from the group comprising heart, brain, peripheral limb, kidney, liver, spleen and lung, and/or wherein the endothelial dysfunction is associated with diseases selected from a group comprising infarctions such as myocardial infarction and critical limb ischemia, and/or wherein the endothelial dysfunction is associated with diseases selected

from the group comprising ischemic diseases such as peripheral arterial occlusive disease, e. g. critical leg ischemia, myocardial infarction and ischemic diseases of organs, e. g. of the kidney, spleen, brain and lung.

- 5 The compounds of this invention also can be applied for the prevention and the treatment of neurological diseases or disorders (diseases or disorders associated with the brain and nervous system), including but not limited to, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Creutzfeld-Jacob Disease, Lewy Body Dementia, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, stroke, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, Huntington's Disease, Down's Syndrome, 10 nerve deafness, and Meniere's disease.). Other neurological diseases and disorders will be apparent to those of skill in the art and are encompassed by the definition as used in this invention.

- The compounds of the present invention can further be used for diseases that are caused by 15 protozoal infestations in humans and animals. Such veterinary and human pathogenic protozoas are preferably intracellular active parasites of the phylum Apicomplexa or Sarcomastigophora, especially Trypanosoma, Plasmodia, Leishmania, Babesia and Theileria, Cryptosporidia, Sarcocystida, Amoebia, Coccidia and Trichomonadia. These active substances or corresponding drugs are especially suitable for the treatment of 20 Malaria tropica, caused by *Plasmodium falciparum*, Malaria tertiana, caused by *Plasmodium vivax* or *Plasmodium ovale* and for the treatment of Malaria quartana, caused by *Plasmodium malariae*. They are also suitable for the treatment of Toxoplasmosis, caused by *Toxoplasma gondii*, Coccidiosis, caused for instance by *Isospora belli*, intestinal Sarcosporidiosis, caused by *Sarcocystis suis hominis*, dysentery caused by *Entamoeba* 25 *histolytica*, Cryptosporidiosis, caused by *Cryptosporidium parvum*, Chagas' disease, caused by *Trypanosoma cruzi*, sleeping sickness, caused by *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense* or *gambiense*, the cutaneous and visceral as well as other forms of Leishmaniosis. They are also suitable for the treatment of animals infected by veterinary pathogenic protozoa, like *Theileria parva*, the pathogen causing bovine East coast fever, 30 *Trypanosoma congolense congolense* or *Trypanosoma vivax vivax*, *Trypanosoma brucei brucei*, pathogens causing Nagana cattle disease in Africa, *Trypanosoma brucei evansi* causing Surra, *Babesia bigemina*, the pathogen causing Texas fever in cattle and buffalos, *Babesia bovis*, the pathogen causing European bovine Babesiosis as well as Babesiosis in

dogs, cats and sheep, *Sarcocystis ovicanis* and *ovifelis* pathogens causing Sarcocystiosis in sheep, cattle and pigs, Cryptosporidia, pathogens causing Cryptosporidiosis in cattle and birds, Eimeria and Isospora species, pathogens causing Coccidiosis in rabbits, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and birds, especially in chickens and turkeys. The use of the compounds of the present invention is preferred in particular for the treatment of Coccidiosis or Malaria infections, or for the preparation of a drug or feed stuff for the treatment of these diseases. This treatment can be prophylactic or curative. In the treatment of malaria, the compounds of the present invention may be combined with other anti-malaria agents.

- 10 The compounds of the present invention can further be used for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of infectious diseases caused among others by bacteria and viruses, including opportunistic infections in a mammal, including a human. Said method comprises administering to the mammal an amount of at least one compound of the general formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) and/or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, effective to prevent and/or treat said infectious disease and/or opportunistic infection.

The infectious disease can be selected from the group comprising AIDS, Alveolar Hydatid Disease (AHD, Echinococcosis), Amebiasis (Entamoeba histolytica Infection), Angiostrongylus Infection, Anisakiasis, Anthrax, Babesiosis (Babesia Infection), Balantidium Infection (Balantidiasis), Baylisascaris Infection (Raccoon Roundworm), Bilharzia (Schistosomiasis), Blastocystis hominis Infection (Blastomycosis), Boreliosis, Botulism, Brainerd Diarrhea, Brucellosis, BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy), Candidiasis, Capillariasis (Capillaria Infection), CFS (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome), Chagas Disease (American Trypanosomiasis), Chickenpox (Varicella-Zoster virus), Chlamydia pneumoniae Infection, Cholera, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, CJD (Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease), Clonorchiasis (Clonorchis Infection), CLM (Cutaneous Larva Migrans, Hookworm Infection), Coccidioidomycosis, Conjunctivitis, Coxsackievirus A16 (Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease), Cryptococcosis, Cryptosporidium Infection (Cryptosporidiosis), Culex mosquito (Vector of West Nile Virus), Cutaneous Larva Migrans (CLM), Cyclosporiasis (Cyclospora Infection), Cysticercosis (Neurocysticercosis), Cytomegalovirus Infection (CMV), Dengue / Dengue Fever, Dipylidium Infection (Dog and Cat Flea Tapeworm), Ebola Virus Hemorrhagic Fever, Echinococcosis (Alveolar Hydatid Disease), Encephalitis, Entamoeba coli Infection, Entamoeba dispar Infection, Entamoeba hartmanni Infection, Entamoeba histolytica Infection (Amebiasis), Entamoeba polecki Infection, Enterobiasis (Pinworm Infection), Enterovirus Infection (Non-Polio),

Epstein-Barr Virus Infection, Escherichia coli Infection, Foodborne Infection, Foot and mouth Disease, Fungal Dermatitis, Gastroenteritis, Group A streptococcal Disease, Group B streptococcal Disease, diseases caused by staphylococcal infections (Staphylococcus aureus and other staphylococcus species), diseases caused by infections with pseudomonas aeruginosa and other pseudomonas species, Burkholderia cepacia infections, Hansen's Disease (Leprosy), Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, Head Lice Infestation (Pediculosis), Helicobacter pylori Infection, Hematologic Disease, Hendra Virus Infection, Hepatitis, Herpes Zoster (Shingles), HIV Infection, Human Ehrlichiosis, Human Parainfluenza Virus Infection, Influenza, Isosporiasis (Isospora Infection), Lassa Fever, Leishmaniasis, Kala-azar (Kala-azar, Leishmania Infection), Leprosy, Lice (Body lice, Head lice, Pubic lice), Lyme Disease, Marburg Hemorrhagic Fever, Measles, Meningitis, Mosquito-borne Diseases, Mycobacterium avium Complex (MAC) Infection, Naegleria Infection, Nosocomial Infections, Nonpathogenic Intestinal Amebae Infection, Onchocerciasis (River Blindness), Opisthorciasis (Opisthorcis Infection), Parvovirus Infection, Plague, PCP (Pneumocystis carinii Pneumonia), Polio, Q Fever, Rabies, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection, Rheumatic Fever, Rift Valley Fever, River Blindness (Onchocerciasis), Rotavirus Infection, Roundworms Infection, Salmonellosis, Salmonella Enteritidis, Scabies, Shigellosis, Shingles, Sleeping Sickness, Smallpox, Streptococcal Infection, Tapeworm Infection (Taenia Infection), Tetanus, Toxic Shock Syndrome, Tuberculosis, Ulcers (Peptic Ulcer Disease), Valley Fever, Vibrio parahaemolyticus Infection, Vibrio vulnificus Infection, Viral Hemorrhagic Fever, Warts, Waterborne infectious Diseases, West Nile Virus Infection (West Nile Encephalitis), Whooping Cough, Yellow Fever.

The compounds of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) and their pharmacologically acceptable salts can be administered to animals, preferably to mammals, and in particular to humans, dogs and chickens as therapeutics per se, as mixtures with one another or in the form of pharmaceutical preparations which allow enteral or parenteral use and which as active constituent contain an effective dose of at least one compound of the formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) or a salt thereof, in addition to customary pharmaceutically innocuous excipients and additives. The compounds of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) can also be administered in form of their salts, which are obtainable by reacting the respective compounds with physiologically acceptable acids and bases.

The production of medicaments containing the compounds of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) according to the invention and their application can be performed according to well-known pharmaceutical methods.

While the compounds of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) according to the invention for use in therapy may be administered in the form of the raw chemical compound, it is preferred to introduce the active ingredient, optionally in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt in a pharmaceutical composition together with one or more adjuvants, excipients, carriers, buffers, diluents, and/or other customary pharmaceutical auxiliaries. Such salts of the compounds may be anhydrous or solvated.

In a preferred embodiment, the invention provides medicaments comprising compounds of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) according to the invention, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs or a stereoisomer thereof, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers thereof, and, optionally, other therapeutic and/or prophylactic ingredients. The carrier(s) must be "acceptable" in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the formulation and not harmful to the recipient thereof.

A medicament of the invention may be those suitable for oral, rectal, bronchial, nasal, topical, buccal, sub-lingual, transdermal, vaginal or parenteral (including cutaneous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, intravenous, intraarterial, intracerebral, intraocular injection or infusion) administration, or those in a form suitable for administration by inhalation or insufflation, including powders and liquid aerosol administration, or by sustained release systems. Suitable examples of sustained release systems include semipermeable matrices of solid hydrophobic polymers containing the compound of the invention, which matrices may be in form of shaped articles, e.g. films or microcapsules.

The compounds according to the invention, together with a conventional adjuvant, carrier, or diluent, may thus be placed into the form of medicament and unit dosages thereof. Such forms include solids, and in particular tablets, filled capsules, powder and pellet forms, and liquids, in particular aqueous or non-aqueous solutions, suspensions, emulsions, elixirs, and capsules filled with the same, all for oral use, suppositories for rectal administration, and sterile injectable solutions for parenteral use. Such Medicament and unit dosage forms thereof may comprise conventional ingredients in conventional proportions, with or without additional active compounds or principles, and such unit dosage forms may

contain any suitable effective amount of the active ingredient commensurate with the intended daily dosage range to be employed.

5 The compound useable according to the invention can be administered in a wide variety of oral and parenteral dosage forms. It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that the following dosage forms may comprise, as the active component, either a compound of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) according to the invention or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

10 For preparing a medicament from a compounds of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) pharmaceutically acceptable carriers can be either solid or liquid. Solid form preparations include powders, tablets, pills, capsules, cachets, suppositories, and dispersible granules. A solid carrier can be one or more substances which may also act as diluents, flavouring agents, solubilizers, lubricants, suspending agents, binders, preservatives, tablet
15 disintegrating agents, or an encapsulating material.

In powders, the carrier is a finely divided solid which is in a mixture with the finely divided active component. In tablets, the active component is mixed with the carrier having the necessary binding capacity in suitable proportions and compacted in the shape and size
20 desired. Suitable carriers are magnesium carbonate, magnesium stearate, talc, sugar, lactose, pectin, dextrin, starch, gelatin, tragacanth, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, a low melting wax, cocoa butter, and the like. The term "preparation" is intended to include the formulation of the active compound with encapsulating material as carrier providing a capsule in which the active component, with
25 or without carriers, is surrounded by a carrier, which is thus in association with it. Similarly, cachets and lozenges are included. Tablets, powders, capsules, pills, cachets, and lozenges can be used as solid forms suitable for oral administration.

For preparing suppositories, a low melting wax, such as a mixture of fatty acid glyceride or
30 cocoa butter, is first melted and the active component is dispersed homogeneously therein, as by stirring. The molten homogeneous mixture is then poured into convenient sized moulds, allowed to cool, and thereby to solidify. Compositions suitable for vaginal administration may be presented as pessaries, tampons, creams, gels, pastes, foams or

sprays containing in addition to the active ingredient such carriers as are known in the art to be appropriate. Liquid preparations include solutions, suspensions, and emulsions, for example, water or water-propylene glycol solutions. For example, parenteral injection liquid preparations can be formulated as solutions in aqueous polyethylene glycol solution.

5

The compounds of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) according to the present invention may thus be formulated for parenteral administration (e.g. by injection, for example bolus injection or continuous infusion) and may be presented in unit dose form in ampoules, pre-filled syringes, small volume infusion or in multi-dose containers with an added preservative. The compositions may take such forms as suspensions, solutions, or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, and may contain formulation agents such as suspending, stabilising and/or dispersing agents. Alternatively, the active ingredient may be in powder form, obtained by aseptic isolation of sterile solid or by lyophilization from solution, for constitution with a suitable vehicle, e.g. sterile, pyrogen-free water, before use.

15

Aqueous solutions suitable for oral use can be prepared by dissolving the active component in water and adding suitable colorants, flavours, stabilising and thickening agents, as desired. Aqueous suspensions suitable for oral use can be made by dispersing the finely divided active component in water with viscous material, such as natural or synthetic gums, resins, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, or other well known suspending agents.

20

Also included are solid form preparations which are intended to be converted, shortly before use, to liquid form preparations for oral administration. Such liquid forms include solutions, suspensions, and emulsions. These preparations may contain, in addition to the active component, colorants, flavours, stabilisers, buffers, artificial and natural sweeteners, dispersants, thickeners, solubilizing agents, and the like.

25

In one embodiment of the present invention, the medicament is applied topically or systemically or via a combination of the two routes.

30

In an especially preferred embodiment of the present invention the medicament is applied topically. This reduces possible side effects and limits the necessary treatment to those areas affected.

- 5 Preferably the medicament is prepared in form of an ointment, a gel, a plaster, an emulsion, a lotion, a foam, a cream of a mixed phase or amphiphilic emulsion system (oil/water-water/oil mixed phase), a liposome, a transfersome, a paste or a powder.

10 Ointments and creams may, for example, be formulated with an aqueous or oily base with the addition of suitable thickening and/or gelling agents. Lotions may be formulated with an aqueous or oily base and will in general also contain one or more emulsifying agents, stabilising agents, dispersing agents, suspending agents, thickening agents, or colouring agents.

15 Compositions suitable for topical administration in the mouth include lozenges comprising the active agent in a flavoured base, usually sucrose and acacia or tragacanth; pastilles comprising the active ingredient in an inert base such as gelatin and glycerine or sucrose and acacia; and mouthwashes comprising the active ingredient in a suitable liquid carrier.

20 Solutions or suspensions are applied directly to the nasal cavity by conventional means, for example with a dropper, pipette or spray. The compositions may be provided in single or multi-dose form. In the latter case of a dropper or pipette, this may be achieved by the patient administering an appropriate, predetermined volume of the solution or suspension. In the case of a spray, this may be achieved for example by means of a metering atomising
25 spray pump.

Administration to the respiratory tract may also be achieved by means of an aerosol formulation in which the active ingredient is provided in a pressurised pack with a suitable propellant such as a chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) for example dichlorodifluoromethane, trichlorofluoromethane, or dichlorotetrafluoroethane, carbon dioxide, or other suitable gas.
30 The aerosol may conveniently also contain a surfactant such as lecithin. The dose of drug may be controlled by provision of a metered valve.

Alternatively the active ingredients may be provided in the form of a dry powder, for example a powder mix of the compound in a suitable powder base such as lactose, starch, starch derivatives such as hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose and polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP). Conveniently the powder carrier will form a gel in the nasal cavity. The powder composition may be presented in unit dose form for example in capsules or cartridges of, e.g., gelatin, or blister packs from which the powder may be administered by means of an inhaler.

In compositions intended for administration to the respiratory tract, including intranasal compositions, the compound will generally have a small particle size for example of the order of 5 microns or less. Such a particle size may be obtained by means known in the art, for example by micronization.

When desired, compositions adapted to give sustained release of the active ingredient may be employed.

The pharmaceutical preparations are preferably in unit dosage forms. In such form, the preparation is subdivided into unit doses containing appropriate quantities of the active component. The unit dosage form can be a packaged preparation, the package containing discrete quantities of preparation, such as packaged tablets, capsules, and powders in vials or ampoules. Also, the unit dosage form can be a capsule, tablet, cachet, or lozenge itself, or it can be the appropriate number of any of these in packaged form. Tablets or capsules for oral administration and liquids for intravenous administration and continuous infusion are preferred compositions.

Further details on techniques for formulation and administration may be found in the latest edition of Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences (Maack Publishing Co. Easton, Pa.).

Pharmaceutical compositions can also contain two or more compounds of the formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (II), or (III) or their pharmacologically acceptable salts and also other therapeutically active substances.

Thus, the compounds of the present invention can be used in the form of one compound alone or in combination with other active compounds – for example with medicaments already known for the treatment of the aforementioned diseases, whereby in the latter case a favorable additive, amplifying effect is noticed. Suitable amounts to be administered to humans may range from 5 to 500 mg.

To prepare the pharmaceutical preparations, pharmaceutically inert inorganic or organic excipients can be used. To prepare pills, tablets, coated tablets and hard gelatin capsules, for example, lactose, corn starch or derivatives thereof, talc, stearic acid or its salts, etc. can be used. Excipients for soft gelatin capsules and suppositories are, for example, fats, waxes, semi-solid and liquid polyols, natural or hardened oils etc. Suitable excipients for the production of solutions and syrups are, for example, water, sucrose, invert sugar, glucose, polyols etc. Suitable excipients for the production of injection solutions are, for example, water, alcohols, glycerol, polyols or vegetable oils.

The dose can vary within wide limits and is to be suited to the individual conditions in each individual case. For the above uses the appropriate dosage will vary depending on the mode of administration, the particular condition to be treated and the effect desired. In general, however, satisfactory results are achieved at dosage rates of about 1 to 100 mg/kg animal body weight preferably 1 to 50 mg/kg. In general, suitable dosage rates for larger mammals, for example humans, may be of the order of from about 10 mg to 3 g/day, conveniently administered once, in divided doses 2 to 4 times a day, or in sustained release form.

In general, a daily dose of approximately 10 mg to 5000 mg, preferably 50 to 500 mg, per human individual is appropriate in the case of the oral administration. In the case of other administration forms too, the daily dose is in similar ranges. For topical delivery, depending on the permeability of the skin, the type and the severity of the disease and dependent on the type of formulation and frequency of application, different concentrations of active compounds within the medicament can be sufficient to elicit a therapeutic effect by topical application. Preferably the concentration of an active compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or a physiologically functional derivative or a

stereoisomer thereof within a medicament according to the invention is in the range of between 1 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ and 100 mmol/l .

The following examples and figures are included to demonstrate preferred embodiments of the invention. It should be appreciated by those of skill in the art that the techniques disclosed in the examples that follow represent techniques discovered by the inventors to function well in the practice of the invention, and thus can be considered preferred modes for its practice. However, those of skill in the art should, in light of the present disclosure, appreciate that many changes can be made in the specific embodiments that are disclosed without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set out in the appended claims. All references cited are incorporated herein by reference.

Examples

Abbreviations: min, minute(s); h, hour(s); r.t., room temperature; t-, tert-.

NMR spectra: Bruker Avance 300 MHz. The spectra were recorded at 300 MHz (^1H -NMR), respectively, using the residual solvent peak as an internal standard ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$, $\delta_{\text{H}} = 2.49$; CD_3OD , $\delta_{\text{H}} = 3.31$; CDCl_3 , $\delta_{\text{H}} = 7.26$; CD_3CN , $\delta_{\text{H}} = 1.93$; $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$, $\delta_{\text{H}} = 2.05$).

Analytical LC/ESI-MS: 2 x Waters 600 Multisolvent Delivery System. 50 μl sample loop. Column, Chromolith Speed ROD RP18e (Merck, Darmstadt), 50 x 4.6 mm, with 2 μm prefilter (Merck). Eluent A, $\text{H}_2\text{O} + 0.1\% \text{HCO}_2\text{H}$; eluent B, MeCN. Gradient, 5 % B to 100 % B within 5 min; flow, 3 ml/min. Waters LCZ single quadrupol mass spectrometer with electrospray source. MS method, MS8minPM-80-800-20V; positive/negative ion mode scanning, m/z 80 - 800 in 1 s; capillary, 3.5 kV; cone voltage, 20 V; multiplier voltage, 400 V; probe and desolvation gas temperature, 120° C and 350° C, respectively. Waters 2487 Dual λ Absorbance Detector, set to 254 nm.

Preparative HPLC-MS: Waters 600 Multisolvent Delivery System with preparative pump heads. 2000 μl or 5000 μl sample loop. Column, Waters X-Terra RP18, 7 μm , 19 x 150 mm with X-Terra RP18 guard cartridge 7 μm , 19 x 10 mm; used at flow rate 20 ml/min or YMC ODS-A, 120 Å, 40 x 150 mm with X-Terra RP18 guard cartridge 7 μm , 19 x 10 mm; used at flow rate 50 ml/min. Make-up solvent: MeCN – H_2O – HCO_2H 80 : 20 : 0.05 (v:v:v). Eluent A, $\text{H}_2\text{O} + 0.1\% \text{HCO}_2\text{H}$; eluent B, MeCN. Different linear gradients from 5

– 100% eluent B, adapted to sample. Injection volume: 500 µl – 2000 µl depending on sample. Waters ZQ single quadrupole mass spectrometer with electrospray source. Positive or negative ion mode scanning m/z 80 - 800 in 1 s; capillary, 3.5 kV or 3.0 kV; cone voltage, 20 V; multiplier voltage, 400 V; probe and desolvation gas temperature, 120° C and 350° C, respectively. Waters Fraction Collector II with mass-triggered fraction collection. Waters 996 photo diode array detector.

Synthesis of 4-(Methoxy-methyl-carbamoyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid t-butyl ester

Piperidine-1,4-dicarboxylic acid mono-tert-butyl ester (1.0 eq, 21.8 mmol) was dissolved under inert conditions in 35 ml dry N, N- dimethylformamide. O,N-dimethylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (1.03 eq, 22.5 mmol), benzotriazol-1-ol monohydrate (1.03 eq, 22.5 mmol) and triethylamine (1.5 eq, 32.7 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0°C, N-(3-Dimethylaminopropyl)-N-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (1.0 eq, 21.8 mmol) was added over a period of 10 minutes and the mixture was stirred vigorously at 0°C for 1 h and at r.t. for 18 h.

The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was suspended in 400 ml ethylacetate. The organic layer was extracted 3 times with 100 ml of 1 M citric acid, aqueous sodium carbonate and twice with 100 ml brine, dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by distillation resulting in a yield of 80%.

Synthesis of 4-Formyl-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid t-butyl ester

4-(methoxy-methyl-carbamoyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (1.0 eq, 16.4 mmol) was dissolved in 100 ml dry tetrahydrofuran under inert atmosphere. This solution was added dropwise over a period of 1 h to a suspension of lithiumalanoate (3.0 eq, 49.6 mmol) in 70 ml dry tetrahydrofuran at –50°C. During the adding of the mixture, the temperature was held at –50°C and then allowed to warm to 0°C within 3 h.

The mixture was cooled to –78 °C and quenched carefully with 100 ml 1 M citric acid. The mixture was warmed up to r.t. and diluted with 400 ml ethylacetate. The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted 3 times with 70 ml ethylacetate. The combined organic layers were extracted 3 times with 100 ml 1 M citric acid, aqueous sodium carbonate and 2 times with 100 ml brine, dried over MgSO₄ and filtrated. The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by distillation resulting in a yield of 85%

Synthesis of 4-(4-Ethoxycarbonyl-4,5-dihydro-thiazol-2-yl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid t-butyl ester

4-formyl-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (1.0 eq, 13 mmol) was dissolved under inert conditions in 40 ml toluene. To this solution L-cystein ethylester hydrochloride (1.6 eq, 21 mmol) and triethylamine (1.6 eq, 21 mmol) were added. The mixture was refluxed for 14 h. The generated water was removed with a Dean & Stark trap.

The solvent was removed and the residue was dissolved in 100 ml ethylacetate. The organic layer was extracted 3 times with 50 ml 1 M citric acid, aqueous potassium hydrogen carbonate and 2 times with 50 ml brine, dried over MgSO_4 and filtrated. The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using a PE/EA 4:1 gradient. Yield: 75%

Synthesis of 4-(4-Ethoxycarbonyl-thiazol-2-yl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid t-butyl ester

4-(4-Ethoxycarbonyl-4,5-dihydro-thiazol-2-yl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (1.0 eq, 8.7 mmol) was solved in 160 ml toluene under inert conditions. To this solution MnO_2 (15.0 eq, 130 mmol) was added. The reaction was heated to 70 °C under stirring for 5 h. The mixture was filtered over celite and the filtration agent was washed 3 times with 30 ml toluene and ethylacetate. The combined organic layers were distilled in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using a DCM/MeOH 95:5 gradient. Yield: 30%

C-terminal functionalisation

4-(4-Ethoxycarbonyl-thiazol-2-yl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (1.0 eq, 2.9 mmol) was dissolved under inert gas in 40 ml dioxane. Under stirring 1.5 ml aqueous 2 N NaOH was added dropwise over a period of 10 min. Afterwards the mixture was stirred for 2 h at r.t.

The reaction was neutralized with 2 N HCl and the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in 50 ml ethylacetate. The organic layer was extracted 3 times with 10 ml of 1 M citric acid and water, dried over MgSO_4 and filtered. The solvent was removed and the residue was dried in vacuo. Yield 95%

4-(4-Carboxy-thiazol-2-yl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (1 eq) was dissolved under inert conditions in dry dimethylacetamide (0,03 mmol/ml). To this solution aryl- or alkylamine (1 eq), diisopropylethylamine (2 eq) and O-benzotriazol-1-yl-N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate (2 eq) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at r.t.

The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue was dissolved in ethylacetate. The organic layer was extracted 3 times with 1 M citric acid, aqueous potassium hydrogen carbonate and 2 times with brine, dried over MgSO_4 and filtered. The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using a DCM/MeOH 95:5 gradient. Yield: 40-80%

N-terminal functionalisation

The N-protected substrate was treated under inert condition with 4 M HCl/dioxane (conc. 0,03 mmol substrate in 1 mL HCl/dioxane) and was stirred for 2 h at r.t.

10 The solvent was removed in vacuo to yield the HCl salt of the free amine without further purification.

The free amino compound (1 eq) was dissolved under inert conditions in dry dimethylacetamide (0,03 mmol/mL). To this solution aryl- or alkylcarboxylic acid (1 eq),
15 diisopropylethylamine (2 eq) and O-benzotriazol-1-yl-N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate (2 eq) was added in this sequence and the reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at r.t.

The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue was dissolved in ethylacetate. The organic layer was extracted 3 times with 1 M citric acid, aqueous potassium hydrogen
20 carbonate and 2 times with brine, dried over MgSO_4 and filtered. The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using a DCM/MeOH 95:5 gradient. Yield: 40-80%

General synthesis for compounds of type (III) and (II)

25 *Procedure for the synthesis of compounds of type (IIIa), (IIIc), (IIa) and (IIb)*

$7,3 \times 10^{-4}$ mol of the benzoic acid derivative (VI) was dissolved in 5 mL DMF and 1 eq. of Hünig's base was added, stirring the reaction mixture for a few minutes, followed by the addition of 1 eq. of HBTU and further stirring at r.t. for 2 min. Afterwards 1 eq. 2-Amino-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester was added, stirring the mixture overnight at the same
30 temperature. Subsequently, the solvent was removed by filtration and the residue redissolved in 5 mL dioxane and treated with 0,5 mL of a 1M NaOH solution. After the reaction was complete, the pH was decreased to 1-2 with a 1M HCl solution and the precipitated product (VII) filtered and dried in vacuo. For the next step, intermediate (VII) was dissolved in 3 mL DMF and 1 eq. of Hünig's base was added, stirring the reaction
35 mixture for a few minutes, followed by the addition of 1 eq. of HBTU and further stirring at r.t. for 2 min. Afterwards 1 eq. the amino component was added, stirring the mixture

overnight at the same temperature. Subsequently, the solvent was removed by filtration and the crude product redissolved in 10 ml ethyl acetate, washed twice with 10 ml citric acid (1M solution), 10 ml sat. NaHCO₃ solution and 10 ml water. The organic phase was then evaporated and the residue dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed and final purification was realised by preparative HPLC as described above.

As a second variante for the first step, the corresponding acid chloride derivative of (VI) could be reacted with the 2-Amino-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (1:1) using 1,1 eq. of Hünig's base.

Procedure for the synthesis of compounds of type (IIIb, d, e, f) and (IIc, d)

6,3x10⁻⁴ mol of 2-Bromo-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (X) was dissolved in 10 ml THF together with 2,2 eq. of the respective piperazine (IX), allowing to reflux overnight. Afterwards the solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue purified by pTLC (PE/EE 2/1).

The second and the third step of the reaction were accomplished as described above under the procedure for the synthesis of compounds of type (IIIa) and (IIc).

For as synthesis-protocol of type (IIIb, d, e, f and IIc, d) compounds with Z = CH, see WO 2004/058750.

Exemplary compounds of formula (Ia) of the present invention include, but are not limited to, the followings:

Cp.	Name	Mass	LC/(+)-ESI-MS:	Biological activity ¹⁾
74	4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (7-fluoro-2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]dioxin-5-yl)-amide	619	620 [M+H] ⁺	++
75	4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]dioxin-6-yl)-amide	601	602 [M+H] ⁺	++
76	4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (5-methyl-2-	615	616 [M+H] ⁺	++

	trifluoromethyl-furan-3-yl)-amide			
77	4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (2-thiophen-2-yl-ethyl)-amide	577	578 [M+H] ⁺	+++
78	4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid isopropylamide	509	510 [M+H] ⁺	+
79	4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (2-trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-amide	627	628 [M+H] ⁺	+++
80	4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (3-methoxy-phenyl)-amide	573	574 [M+H] ⁺	+
81	4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (3,4,5-trimethoxy-phenyl)-amide	633	634 [M+H] ⁺	++
114	4-(4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidine-1-carbonyl)-benzonitrile	568	569 [M+H] ⁺	+
134	4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid phenylamide	543	544 [M+H] ⁺	+
142	4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (3-fluoro-phenyl)-amide	561	562 [M+H] ⁺	++
143	4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (4-fluoro-phenyl)-amide	561	562 [M+H] ⁺	+

1)

The biological data refer to results obtained from the NF-κB inflammation assay.

[“+” stands for 50-80% inhibition, “++” means 80-90% and “+++” stands for 90-100% inhibition]

Exemplary compounds of formula (Ib) of the present invention include, but are not limited to, the followings:

Cp.	Name	Mass	LC/(+)-ESI-MS:	Biological activity ¹⁾
103	2-{5-Methyl-2-[1-(2-trifluoromethoxy-benzoyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-1-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-ethanone	640	641 [M+H] ⁺	++
128	1-[4-(3-Chloro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-{5-methyl-2-[1-(2-trifluoromethoxy-benzoyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-ethanone	606	607 [M+H] ⁺	+++

¹⁾ The biological data refer to results obtained from the NF- κ B inflammation assay.

["+" stands for 50-80% inhibition, "++" means 80-90% and "+++" stands for 90-100% inhibition]

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Exemplary compounds of formula (Ic) of the present invention include, but are not limited to, the followings:

Cp.	Name	Mass	LC/(+)-ESI-MS:	Biological activity ¹⁾
150	[1-(5-Chloro-2-methylamino-phenyl)-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl]-{2-[1-(2-trifluoromethoxy-benzoyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-methanone	654	655 [M+H] ⁺	++
160	1-{4-[4-(6,7-Dihydroxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinoline-2-carbonyl)-thiazol-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethanone	495	496 [M+H] ⁺	+
161	1-{4-[4-(6,7-Dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinoline-2-carbonyl)-thiazol-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethanone	523	524 [M+H] ⁺	+
163	1-{4-[4-(3,4-Dihydro-1H-isoquinoline-2-carbonyl)-thiazol-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethanone	463	464 [M+H] ⁺	+
232	1-{4-[4-(6,7-Dimethoxy-3-methyl-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinoline-2-carbonyl)-	537	538 [M+H] ⁺	+

	thiazol-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethanone			
233	1-{4-[4-(6,7-Dihydroxy-1-methyl-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinoline-2-carbonyl)-thiazol-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethanone	509	510 [M+H] ⁺	+
234	1-{4-[4-(6,7-Dimethoxy-1-methyl-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinoline-2-carbonyl)-thiazol-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethanone	537	538 [M+H] ⁺	+
235	1-(4-{4-[1-(5-Chloro-2-methylamino-phenyl)-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinoline-2-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidin-1-yl)-2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethanone	602	603 [M+H] ⁺	+

1) The biological data refer to results obtained from the NF-κB inflammation assay.

["+" stands for 50-80% inhibition, "++" means 80-90% and "+++" stands for 90-100% inhibition]

Exemplary compounds of formula (II) of the present invention include, but are not limited to, the followings:

Cp.	Name	Mass	LC/(+)-ESI-MS:	Biological activity¹⁾
3	N-{4-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-2-trifluoromethoxy-benzamide	494	495 [M+H] ⁺	++
5	N-[5-(4-Pyrimidin-2-yl-piperazine-1-carbonyl)-thiazol-2-yl]-2-trifluoromethoxy-benzamide	478	479 [M+H] ⁺	+
15	2-Methoxy-N-{4-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-benzamide	490	491 [M+H] ⁺	+++
16	3-Fluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-N-(1-{4-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-benzamide	643	644 [M+H] ⁺	++
17	3-Cyclopentyl-N-(1-{4-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidin-	577	578 [M+H] ⁺	++

	4ylmethyl)-propionamide			
18	2-Trifluoromethoxy-N-(1-{4-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidin-4ylmethyl)-benzamide	641	642 [M+H] ⁺	++
19	4-Cyano-N-(1-{4-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-benzamide	582	583 [M+H] ⁺	++
20	[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-{2-[4-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-methanone	569	570 [M+H] ⁺	++
21	{2-[4-(4-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	585	586 [M+H] ⁺	+
22	{2-[4-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-benzyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	599	600 [M+H] ⁺	+++
23	{2-[4-(4-Bromo-benzyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	593	594 [M+H] ⁺	+++
24	{2-[4-(3-Trifluoromethoxy-benzyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	599	600 [M+H] ⁺	+++
32	2-Trifluoromethoxy-N-{4-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-benzamide	544	545 [M+H] ⁺	+++
33	3-Cyclopentyl-N-{4-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-propionamide	480	481 [M+H] ⁺	+++
34	3-Fluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-N-{4-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-benzamide	546	547 [M+H] ⁺	+++
37	3-Cyclopentyl-1-(4-{4-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-	549	550 [M+H] ⁺	+++

	carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-1-one			
38	{2-[4-(2-Methoxy-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	559	560 [M+H] ⁺	+++
39	{2-[4-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	613	614 [M+H] ⁺	+++
41	N-{4-[4-(3,4-Dichloro-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-2-trifluoromethoxy-benzamide	544	545 [M+H] ⁺	+++
44	N-{4-[4-(2-Methoxy-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-2-trifluoromethoxy-benzamide	506	507 [M+H] ⁺	++
55	1-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-3-{4-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-urea	559	560 [M+H] ⁺	+++
58	N-[4-(4-Benzhydryl-piperazine-1-carbonyl)-thiazol-2-yl]-2-trifluoromethoxy-benzamide	566	567 [M+H] ⁺	++
59	{2-[4-(3,5-Bis-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	665	666 [M+H] ⁺	+
60	{2-[4-(3-Fluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	615	616 [M+H] ⁺	+++
61	4-(4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperazine-1-carbonyl)-benzonitrile	554	555 [M+H] ⁺	+++
62	4-(4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperazine-1-ylmethyl)-benzonitrile	540	541 [M+H] ⁺	+++
63	4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-	525	526 [M+H] ⁺	++

	piperazine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester			
64	(2-Piperazin-1-yl-thiazol-4-yl)-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	425	426 [M+H] ⁺	+
65	{2-[4-(2-Methoxy-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	531	532 [M+H] ⁺	++
66	1-[4-(4-{4-[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-ethanone	543	544 [M+H] ⁺	++
67	[4-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-{2-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-methanone	569	570 [M+H] ⁺	+
68	[2-(4-Phenyl-piperazin-1-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	501	502 [M+H] ⁺	+
69	{2-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazol-4-yl}-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	519	520 [M+H] ⁺	++
71	(4-Benzhydryl-piperazin-1-yl)-[2-(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-methanone	537	538 [M+H] ⁺	+++
72	[2-(4-Benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	515	516 [M+H] ⁺	+++
99	3-Fluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-N-(1-{4-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-benzamide	642	643 [M+H] ⁺	+
100	3-Cyclopentyl-N-(1-{4-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-propionamide	576	577 [M+H] ⁺	+
101	2-Trifluoromethoxy-N-(1-{4-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-benzamide	640	641 [M+H] ⁺	+

102	4-Cyano-N-(1-{4-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-benzamide	581	582 [M+H] ⁺	+
241	{2-[1-(2,6-Dimethoxy-pyrimidin-4-yl)-piperidin-4-yl]-5-methoxy-oxazol-4-yl}-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	576	577 [M+H] ⁺	++
242	{2-[1-(4,6-Dimethoxy-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl)-piperidin-4-yl]-5-methoxy-oxazol-4-yl}-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	577	578 [M+H] ⁺	++
243	{2-[1-(2,6-Dimethoxy-pyrimidin-4-yl)-piperidin-4-yl]-5-methoxy-oxazol-4-yl}-[4-(5-trifluoromethyl-benzotriazol-1-yl)-piperidin-1-yl]-methanone	616	617 [M+H] ⁺	++
244	{2-[1-(4,6-Dimethoxy-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl)-piperidin-4-yl]-5-methoxy-oxazol-4-yl}-[4-(5-trifluoromethyl-benzotriazol-1-yl)-piperidin-1-yl]-methanone	617	618 [M+H] ⁺	++
245	4-(4-{4-[4-(5-Trifluoromethyl-benzotriazol-1-yl)-piperidine-1-carbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-piperazin-1-yl-methyl)-benzonitrile	580	581 [M+H] ⁺	++
246	(2-Morpholin-4-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone	410	411 [M+H] ⁺	+

- 1) The biological data refer to results obtained from the NF-κB inflammation assay.
 [“+” stands for 50-80% inhibition, “++” means 80-90% and “+++” stands for 90-100% inhibition]

Exemplary compounds of formula (III) of the present invention include, but are not limited to, the followings:

Cp.	Name	Mass	LC/(+)-ESI-MS:	Biological activity¹⁾
1	2-Morpholin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5,6-dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	357	358 [M+H] ⁺	+
2	2-[3-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-ureido]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (1H-	462	463 [M+H] ⁺	+

	benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide			
4	2-(2-Fluoro-benzoylamino)-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5,6-dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	409	410 [M+H] ⁺	+
6	N-{4-[N'-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-guanidinocarbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-3,4-difluoro-benzamide	441	442 [M+H] ⁺	++
7	N-{4-[N'-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-guanidinocarbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-4-fluoro-benzamide	423	424 [M+H] ⁺	++
8	N-{4-[N'-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-guanidinocarbonyl]-oxazol-2-yl}-2-trifluoromethoxy-benzamide	473	474 [M+H] ⁺	+++
9	2-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-benzoylamino)-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (4-dimethylamino-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl)-amide	453	454 [M+H] ⁺	+
10	N-{4-[N'-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-guanidinocarbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-4-bromo-benzamide	483	484 [M+H] ⁺	++
11	N-{4-[N'-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-guanidinocarbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-2-methoxy-benzamide	435	436 [M+H] ⁺	++
12	N-{4-[N'-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-guanidinocarbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-2-trifluoromethoxy-benzamide	489	490 [M+H] ⁺	+++
13	N-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-N'-{2-[4-(2-trifluoromethoxy-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazole-4-carbonyl}-guanidine	558	559 [M+H] ⁺	+
14	N-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-N'-[2-(2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]dioxin-2-yl)-thiazole-4-carbonyl]-guanidine	420	421 [M+H] ⁺	+
25	2-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-benzoylamino)-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5,6-dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	475	476 [M+H] ⁺	+++
26	2-(3-Fluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-benzoylamino)-oxazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester	536	537 [M+H] ⁺	+++

27	N-{4-[N'-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-guanidinocarbonyl]-oxazol-2-yl}-3-fluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-benzamide	475	476 [M+H] ⁺	+++
30	N-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-N'-[2-(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-thiazole-4-carbonyl]-guanidine	460	461 [M+H] ⁺	+++
31	2-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-benzoylamino)-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	447	448 [M+H] ⁺	+++
36	N-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-N'-{2-[1-(2-trifluoromethoxy-benzoyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carbonyl}-guanidine	557	558 [M+H] ⁺	+++
40	2-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-benzoylamino)-oxazole-4-carboxylic acid (5,6-dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	459	460 [M+H] ⁺	+++
42	2-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-benzoylamino)-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid [6-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-benzothiazol-2-yl]-amide	562	563 [M+H] ⁺	+++
43	2-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-benzoylamino)-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5-nitro-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	492	493 [M+H] ⁺	+++
45	N-{4-[N'-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-guanidinocarbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-2-cyclohexyl-benzamide	487	488 [M+H] ⁺	+++
46	2-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-benzoylamino)-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (1-methyl-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	461	462 [M+H] ⁺	+++
47	2-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-benzoylamino)-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid [5-(propane-1-sulfonyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl]-amide	553	554 [M+H] ⁺	+++
49	N-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-N'-(2-morpholin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carbonyl)-guanidine	371	372 [M+H] ⁺	+++
51	N-{4-[N'-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-guanidinocarbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-4-trifluoromethyl-benzamide	473	474 [M+H] ⁺	+++
52	2-[1-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-benzoyl)-	621	622	+++

	piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid [5-(propane-1-sulfonyl)-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl]-amide		$[M+H]^+$	
53	N-{4-[N'-(1H-Benzimidazol-2-yl)-guanidinocarbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-2-fluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-benzamide	491	492 $[M+H]^+$	+++
54	1-{4-[N'-(1H-Benzimidazol-2-yl)-guanidinocarbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-3-(2-trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-urea	504	505 $[M+H]^+$	+++
56	N-{4-[N'-(1H-Benzimidazol-2-yl)-guanidinocarbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-3-fluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-benzamide	491	492 $[M+H]^+$	+++
57	N-{4-[N'-(1H-Benzimidazol-2-yl)-guanidinocarbonyl]-thiazol-2-yl}-2,6-difluoro-benzamide	441	442 $[M+H]^+$	+++
91	N-(1H-Benzimidazol-2-yl)-N'-(2-morpholin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carbonyl)-guanidine	371	372 $[M+H]^+$	+
250	N-(1H-Benzimidazol-2-yl)-N'-{2-[1-(4-cyano-benzyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carbonyl}-guanidine	484	485 $[M+H]^+$	++
251	N-Benzothiazol-2-yl-N'-{2-[1-(4-cyano-benzyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carbonyl}-guanidine	501	502 $[M+H]^+$	++
252	N-(1H-Benzimidazol-2-yl)-N'-{2-[4-(4-cyano-benzyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazole-4-carbonyl}-guanidine	485	485 $[M+H]^+$	+++
253	N-{2-[4-(4-Cyano-benzyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-thiazole-4-carbonyl}-N'-(4-methyl-thiazol-2-yl)-guanidine	466	467 $[M+H]^+$	++
254	N-(4-Methyl-thiazol-2-yl)-N'-(2-morpholin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carbonyl)-guanidine	352	353 $[M+H]^+$	+
255	N-(1H-Benzimidazol-2-yl)-N'-(2-morpholin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carbonyl)-guanidine	371	372 $[M+H]^+$	+++
256	N-Benzothiazol-2-yl-N'-(2-morpholin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carbonyl)-guanidine	388	389 $[M+H]^+$	+++

257	N-(1H-Benzoimidazol-2-yl)-N'-(2-morpholin-4-yl-oxazole-4-carbonyl)-guanidine	355	356 [M+H] ⁺	++
258	N-Benzooxazol-2-yl-N'-(2-morpholin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carbonyl)-guanidine	372	373 [M+H] ⁺	++
259	N-(2-Morpholin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carbonyl)-N'-(5-nitro-benzooxazol-2-yl)-guanidine	417	418 [M+H] ⁺	++
260	N-(5-Methyl-benzooxazol-2-yl)-N'-(2-morpholin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carbonyl)-guanidine	386	387 [M+H] ⁺	+
261	N-(5-Chloro-benzooxazol-2-yl)-N'-(2-morpholin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carbonyl)-guanidine	406	407 [M+H] ⁺	++
262	N-{2-[1-(4-Cyano-benzyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carbonyl}-N'-(4-methyl-thiazol-2-yl)-guanidine	465	466 [M+H] ⁺	+
263	N-(6-Chloro-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-N'-{2-[1-(2-trifluoromethoxy-benzoyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carbonyl}-guanidine	591	592 [M+H] ⁺	+++
264	N-(5,6-Dichloro-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-N'-{2-[1-(2-trifluoromethoxy-benzoyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carbonyl}-guanidine	625	626 [M+H] ⁺	++
265	2-Morpholin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid [4-(5-trifluoromethyl-benzothiazol-2-yl)-phenyl]-amide	490	491 [M+H] ⁺	
266	2-Morpholin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5-benzothiazol-2-yl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide	423	424 [M+H] ⁺	
267	2-Morpholin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (4-benzothiazol-2-yl-2-fluoro-phenyl)-amide	440	441 [M+H] ⁺	
268	2-Morpholin-4-yl-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (4-benzothiazol-2-yl-2-trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-amide	506	507 [M+H] ⁺	
269	2-(1-Furo[2,3-c]pyridin-4-yl-piperidin-4-	548	549	

	yl)-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5-benzoyl-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide		[M+H] ⁺	
270	2-[1-(4,6-Dimethoxy-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5-benzoyl-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	570	571 [M+H] ⁺	
271	2-[1-(4,6-Dimethoxy-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5-fluoro-benzothiazol-2-yl)-amide	501	502 [M+H] ⁺	
272	2-[1-(4-Cyano-benzyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5-benzoyl-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	546	547 [M+H] ⁺	++
273	2-(1-Thieno[3,2-d]pyrimidin-4-yl)-piperidin-4-yl)-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5-benzoyl-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	565	566 [M+H] ⁺	++
274	2-[1-(4,6-Dimethoxy-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5-benzoyl-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	570	571 [M+H] ⁺	+++
275	2-[1-(6-Trifluoromethyl-pyrimidin-4-yl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5-benzoyl-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	577	578 [M+H] ⁺	++
276	2-[1-(4-Cyano-benzyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5-ethoxy-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	486	487 [M+H] ⁺	+
277	2-[1-(4-Cyano-benzyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5-chloro-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	476	477 [M+H] ⁺	++
278	2-[1-(4-Cyano-benzyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (5,6-dichloro-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-amide	510	511 [M+H] ⁺	++

1) The biological data refer to results obtained from the NF-κB inflammation assay.

["+" stands for 50-80% inhibition, "++" means 80-90% and "+++" stands for 90-100% inhibition]

Proteasome assay:

The chymotryptic activity of the 20S proteasome (Immatics, Tübingen) was determined using a Tecan Ultra plate reader and Suc-LLVT-AMC as substrate (Bachem). In the wells of a black 96 well polypropylene plate, 2 μ l of the respective inhibitor dissolved in DMSO were mixed with 50 μ l substrate solution (25 mM HEPES pH 7.5 at 20°C, 0.5 mM EDTA and Suc-LLVT-AMC (in the appropriate concentration) and the reaction was initiated by adding 150 μ l proteasome solution (1.3 μ g/ml 20S proteasome in 25 mM HEPES pH 7.5 at 20°C, 0.5 mM EDTA, 0.033% (w/v) SDS). Substrate hydrolysis was followed by fluorescence spectroscopy (excitation wavelength: 360 nm; emission wavelength: 465 nm) for 20 min at 30°C and initial velocities were calculated and expressed as change in relative fluorescence units (RFU) per second.

For the determination of the IC₅₀ values (concentration of inhibitor required for 50% inhibition) at least four different inhibitor concentrations were applied. Each data point was recorded in triplicates. Curves were fitted with the a suitable program.

The Compounds have average activities between 1 and 30 μ M

T-Lymphocyte Proliferation Assay:

Inhibition of stimulated peripheral blood monocytes (PBMC).

PBMCs were isolated from the blood of healthy volunteers with the help of ACCUSPIN™ System Histopaque®-1077 tubes, washed and resuspended with 10⁶ cells/ml in Dulbecco's modified eagles medium, containing 10 % fetal calf serum and 2 mM Glutamine.

The cells were stimulated with 2 μ g/ml phytohemagglutinin in the presence of test compound or blank vehicle for 72 h. 4 h prior to the end of the incubation period, 5-bromo-2'-desoxyuridine (BrdU) was added to label the proliferating cells. After the incubation, the cells were separated by centrifugation and the culture supernatant removed. Incorporated BrdU was quantified with the help of an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

For the determination of the IC₅₀ values (concentration of inhibitor required for 50% inhibition) at least four different inhibitor concentrations were applied. Each data point was recorded in triplicates. Curves were fitted with the a suitable program.

Influence of compounds according to the invention on proliferation of T-cells

Compounds according to Examples 1-24 resulted in an inhibition of more than 50% compared to control experiments.

The average EC₅₀ of the compounds were between 3 and 40 μ M.

Thus, the compounds of formula I are suitable for treating inflammatory diseases or diseases associated with Tcells.

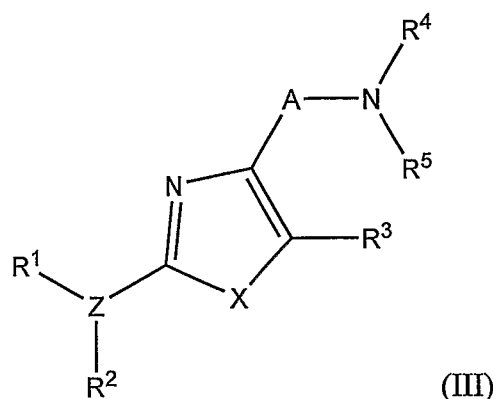
5 **Inhibition of NF- κ B-induced inflammation:**

For the determination of anti-inflammatory activity of the compounds the PRINCESS® NINA Instant Assay from Cell Culture Service GmbH was used. This assay is based on recombinant A549-NF- κ B-SEAP reporter cells preseeded in 96-well flat bottom plates. As the transfected reporter gene for SEAP (secreted embryonic alkaline phosphatase) is under
10 transcriptional control of a NF- κ B-responsive element, the expression of this reporter is activated upon stimulation with TNF- α . SEAP secretion into the culture supernatant can be detected by the chemiluminescent substrate CSPD®. Test compounds that inhibit the NF- κ B activation show reduced SEAP activity and reduced luminescent readout.

Following 18 h of reactivation at 37 °C, 5 % CO₂ and 90 % relative humidity, the cells
15 were incubated with 0.01 up to 100 μ M of test compound for 4.5 h before stimulation with 2ng/ml TNF- α . After stimulation with TNF- α for 22 h endogenous phosphatases were inactivated and CSPD® substrate was supplied for 40 min. SEAP activity then was quantified by measuring luminescence as relative light units (RLU) using a Tecan Ultra reader. Each data point was recorded in quadruplicates and EC50 values were calculated
20 via fitting function and the Microsoft Excel Solver.

CLAIMS

1. A compound of the general formula (III) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs or a stereoisomer thereof,



wherein

R^1 is $-C(O)R^{7a}$, $-C(O)CHR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-C(O)OR^7$, $-R^7C(O)R^8$, or $-C(S)R^{7b}$,

R^2 is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl,

or R^1 and R^2 together with the N-atom or the C-atom to which they are attached form a 3 to 8 membered saturated or at least partially unsaturated monocyclic or polycyclic ring system, wherein at least one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring is a heteroatom selected from O, N, and S and the ring can be substituted by one or more R^9 ;

R^3 is H, $-C(O)NR^aR^b$, halogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, OH, SH, NR^4OR^5 , NH_2 , hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or haloalkyloxy;

R^4 is H, OH, SH, NH_2 , alkoxy, haloalkoxy, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, halo-alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

R^5 is halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

- R^a is H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, aryl, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, or heteroaryl;
- R^b independently represents H, -CN, -OH, -SH, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heteroaryl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzoxazolyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl;
- $R^{4'}$, $R^{4''}$, $R^{5'}$ independently are H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, haloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- R^7 , $R^{7'}$, R^8 independently are H, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, arylamino heteroaryl, or aryl;
- R^{7a} is cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- R^{7b} is H, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- A is CO or SO_2 ;
- X is $NR^{2'}$, O, or S;
- Z is N or $CR^{2'}$;
- $R^{2'}$ is H, alkyl, $-C(O)NR^7$, $-C(O)R^b$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- p is 1 to 6;
- q is 1 to 6;
- R^9 independently represents H, -CN, -OH, -SH, alkoxy, alkylthio, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4a}$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$,

-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}, -NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}, -NR^{4'}-CO-haloalkyl, -NO₂, -NR^{4'}-SO₂-haloalkyl, -NR^{4'}-SO₂-alkyl, -NR^{4'}-CO-alkyl, -NR^{4'}(CH₂)_pheteroaryl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, halogen, haloalkyl, alkylamino, -O(CH₂)_p[O(CH₂)_p]_qOCH₃, -C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}benzimidazolyl, -C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}benzthiazolyl, -C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}benzoxazolyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, haloalkyloxy, heterocycloalkyl, -(CH₂)_pNR⁷COR⁸, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R^{4a} is H, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, -C(NR⁷)NR^{7'}R⁸, -(CH₂)_paryl, -(CH₂)_pNR⁷R⁸, -C(O)NR⁷R⁸, -N=CR⁷R⁸, -NR⁷C(O)R⁸, halogen, heteroaryl, or aryl;

wherein

an C₁-C₆-alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R['];

R['] is independently H, -CO₂R^{''}, -CONHR^{''}, -CR^{''}O, -SO₂NR^{''}, -NR^{''}-CO-haloalkyl, -NO₂, -NR^{''}-SO₂-haloalkyl, -NR^{''}-SO₂-alkyl, -SO₂-alkyl, -NR^{''}-CO-alkyl, -CN, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R^{''} is independently H, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

an C₂-C₆-alkenyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkenyl, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R['];

an alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkenyl or a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkynyl group, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R[']; R['] being defined as above.

a cycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing three to eight carbon atoms, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by one or more substituents R' ; R' being defined as above;

5 a heterocycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing two to ten carbon atoms and at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by R' being as defined above;

10 an alkoxy group denotes an O-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an alkylthio group denotes an S-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

15 an haloalkyl group denotes an alkyl group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above;

a hydroxyalkyl group denotes an HO-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

20 an haloalkyloxy group denotes an alkoxy group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above;

25 a hydroxyalkylamino group denotes an $(HO-alkyl)_2-N-$ group or HO-alkyl-NH-group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an alkylamino group denotes an HN-alkyl or N-dialkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

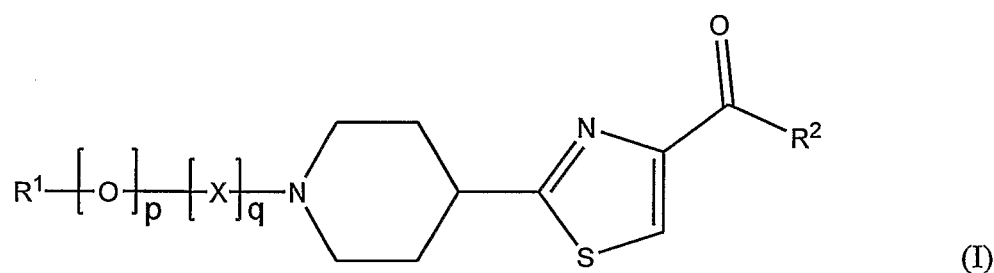
30 a halogen group is fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine;

an aryl group denotes an aromatic group having five to fifteen carbon atoms, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R' , where R' is as defined above;

an arylamino group denotes an HN-aryl or N-diaryl group, the aryl group being as defined above;

a heteroaryl group denotes a 5- to 10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group which contains at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, wherein the heterocyclic group may be fused to another ring and the heterocyclic group or the fused ring can both be substituted independently by one or more substituents R', wherein R' is as defined above;

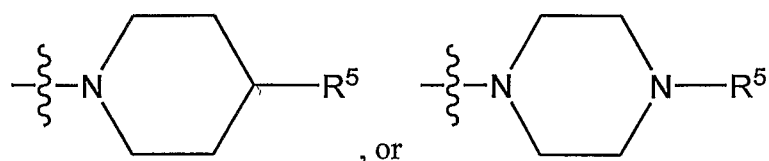
with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded



wherein

R¹ independently represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl;

R² independently represents -NR³R⁴,



R³ independently represents alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, alkylamine, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl,

R⁴ independently represents alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, alkylamine, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

R⁵ independently represents H, COR⁶, CO₂R⁶, SOR⁶, SO₂R⁶, SO₃R⁶, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, -NH₂, alkylamine, -NR⁷COR⁶, halogen, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

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R^6 independently represents H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, $-NH_2$, alkylamine, aryl or heteroaryl;

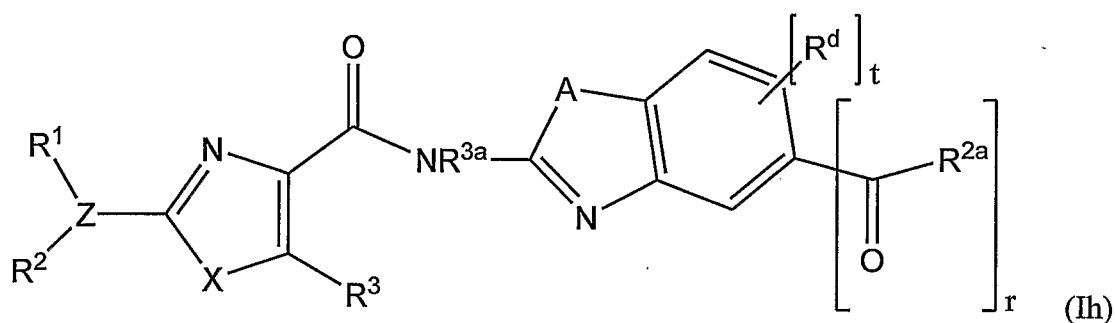
R^7 independently represents H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, $-OH$, $-SH$, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

5 p is 0, or 1;

q is 0, or 1;

X is CO or SO_2 .

2. A compound of the general formula (Ih) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs or a stereoisomer thereof,



wherein

15 A is $NR^{2'}$, S or O;

t is 0 to 4;

r is 0, or 1;

20 R^{2a} is independently H, OH, SH, NH_2 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, alkoxy, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R^{3a} is independently H, OH, SH, NH_2 , $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, alkoxy, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, aryl, or heteroaryl;

25 R^d is H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl.

- R^1 is $-C(O)R^{7a}$, $-C(O)CHR^{7R^8}$, $-C(O)NR^{7R^8}$, $-C(O)OR^7$, $-R^7C(O)R^8$, or $-C(S)R^{7b}$,
- R^2 is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl,
- 5 or R^1 and R^2 together with the N-atom or the C-atom to which they are attached form a 3 to 8 membered saturated or at least partially unsaturated monocyclic or polycyclic ring system, wherein at least one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring is a heteroatom selected from O, N, and S and the ring can be substituted by one or more R^9 ;
- 10 R^3 is H, $-C(O)NR^aR^b$, halogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, OH, SH, $NR^{4'}OR^{5'}$, NH_2 , hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or haloalkyloxy;
- R^a is H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^{7R^8}$, aryl, $-C(O)NR^{7R^8}$, $-N=CR^{7R^8}$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl,
- 15 haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, or heteroaryl;
- R^b independently represents H, $-CN$, $-OH$, $-SH$, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-C(O)NR^{7R^8}$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heteroaryl, alkyl, cycloalkyl,
- 20 alkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}benzimidazolyl$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}benzthiazolyl$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}benzoxazolyl$, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl;
- $R^{4'}$, $R^{4''}$, $R^{5'}$ independently are H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, haloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^{7R^8}$, $-C(O)NR^{7R^8}$, $-N=CR^{7R^8}$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl,
- 25 or aryl;
- R^7 , $R^{7'}$, R^8 independently are H, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, arylamino heteroaryl, or aryl;
- 30 R^{7a} is cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

R^{7b} is H, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

X is $NR^{2'}$, O, or S;

5 Z is N or $CR^{2'}$;

$R^{2'}$ is H, alkyl, $-C(O)NR^7$, $-C(O)R^b$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

p is 1 to 6;

q is 1 to 6;

10

R^9 independently represents H, -CN, -OH, -SH, alkoxy, alkylthio, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4a}$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heteroaryl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, halogen, haloalkyl, alkylamino, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_q]_qOCH_3$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzoxazolyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, haloalkyloxy, heterocycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7COR^8$, aryl, or heteroaryl;

15

20 R^{4a} is H, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, $-C(NR^7)NR^7R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, halogen, heteroaryl, or aryl;

25

wherein

an C_1 - C_6 -alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R' ;

30

R' is independently H, $-CO_2R''$, $-CONHR''$, $-CR''O$, $-SO_2NR''$, $-NR''-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR''-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR''-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR''-CO$ -alkyl, -CN, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R'' is independently H, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

5 an C₂-C₆-alkenyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkenyl, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R';

an alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkenyl or a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkynyl group, which
10 can be substituted by one or more substituents R'; R' being defined as above.

a cycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing three to eight carbon atoms, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by one or more substituents R'; R' being defined as above;

15 a heterocycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing two to ten carbon atoms and at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by R' being as defined above;

20 an alkoxy group denotes an O-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an alkylthio group denotes an S-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

25 an haloalkyl group denotes an alkyl group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above;

30 a hydroxyalkyl group denotes an HO-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an haloalkyloxy group denotes an alkoxy group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above;

a hydroxyalkylamino group denotes an (HO-alkyl)₂-N- group or HO-alkyl-NH-group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

5 an alkylamino group denotes an HN-alkyl or N-dialkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

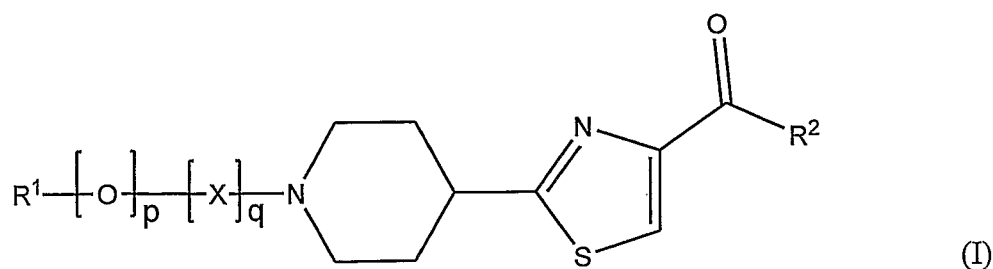
a halogen group is fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine;

10 an aryl group denotes an aromatic group having five to fifteen carbon atoms, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R', where R' is as defined above;

an arylamino group denotes an HN-aryl or N-diaryl group, the aryl group being as defined above;

15 a heteroaryl group denotes a 5- to 10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group which contains at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, wherein the heterocyclic group may be fused to another ring and the heterocyclic group or the fused ring can both be substituted independently by one or more substituents R',
20 wherein R' is as defined above;

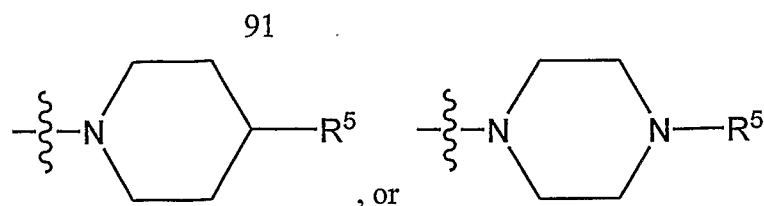
with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded



25 wherein

R¹ independently represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl;

R² independently represents -NR³R⁴,



R^3 independently represents alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, alkylamine, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl,

5 R^4 independently represents alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, alkylamine, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

R^5 independently represents H, COR^6 , CO_2R^6 , SOR^6 , SO_2R^6 , SO_3R^6 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, $-NH_2$, alkylamine, $-NR^7COR^6$, halogen, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

10 R^6 independently represents H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, $-NH_2$, alkylamine, aryl or heteroaryl;

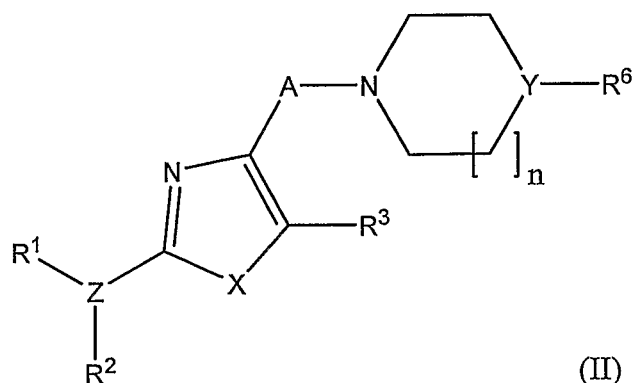
R^7 independently represents H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

p is 0, or 1;

15 q is 0, or 1;

X is CO or SO_2 .

3. A compound of the general formula (II) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs or a stereoisomer thereof,
- 20



wherein

R^1 is $-C(O)R^7$, $-C(O)CHR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-C(O)OR^7$, $-R^7C(O)R^8$, $-C(S)R^7$,

R^2 is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, heteroaryl,

or R^1 and R^2 together with the N-atom or the C-atom to which they are attached form a 3 to 8 membered saturated or at least partially unsaturated monocyclic or polycyclic ring system, wherein at least one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring is a heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, and the ring can be substituted by one or more R^9 ;

R^3 is H, $-C(O)NR^aR^b$, halogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, OH, SH, $NR^{4'}OR^{5'}$, NH_2 , hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or haloalkyloxy;

R^a is H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, aryl, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, or heteroaryl;

R^b independently represents H, $-CN$, $-OH$, $-SH$, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heterocycle, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ -benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzoxazolyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, aryl, heterocycloalkyl, or heteroaryl;

R^6 is halogen, $-C(O)R^7$, $-C(O)CHR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-C(O)OR^7$, $-R^7C(O)R^8$, $-C(S)R^7$, $-C(NR^7)NR^{7'}R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^{7'}$, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

R^7 , $R^{7'}$, R^8 independently are H, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, $-NH$ aryl, heteroaryl, or aryl;

A is CO or SO_2 ;

X is $NR^{2'}$, O, or S;

Y is N, $CR^{2'}$ or if Y is O then R^6 is absent;

Z is N or $CR^{2'}$; if Z is CH then X is O or $NR^{2'}$

$R^{2'}$ is H, alkyl, $-C(O)NR^{2'}$, $-C(O)R^b$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

n is 0 to 2;

p is 1 to 6;

5 q is 1 to 6;

R^9 independently represents H, -CN, -OH, -SH, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4a}$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heteroaryl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, hydroxyalkylamino, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, aryl, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzoxazolyl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7COR^8$, or heteroaryl;

10 $R^{4'}$, $R^{4''}$, $R^{5'}$ independently are H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^7R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

20 R^{4a} is H, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, aryl, alkylamino, $-C(NR^7)NR^7R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, halogen, or heteroaryl;

wherein

25 an C_1 - C_6 -alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R' ;

30 R' is independently H, $-CO_2R''$, $-CONHR''$, $-CR''O$, $-SO_2NR''$, $-NR''-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR''-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR''-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR''-CO$ -alkyl, -CN, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R'' is independently H, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

an C₂-C₆-alkenyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkenyl, which can optionally be substituted by one or more substituents R`;

5

an alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkenyl or a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkynyl group, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R`; R` being defined as above.

10

a cycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing three to eight carbon atoms, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by one or more substituents R`; R` being defined as above;

15

a heterocycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing two to ten carbon atoms and at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by R` being as defined above;

20

an alkoxy group denotes an O-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an alkylthio group denotes an S-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

25

an haloalkyl group denotes an alkyl group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above;

a hydroxyalkyl group denotes an HO-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

30

an haloalkyloxy group denotes an alkoxy group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above;

a hydroxyalkylamino group denotes an (HO-alkyl)₂-N- group or HO-alkyl-NH-group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

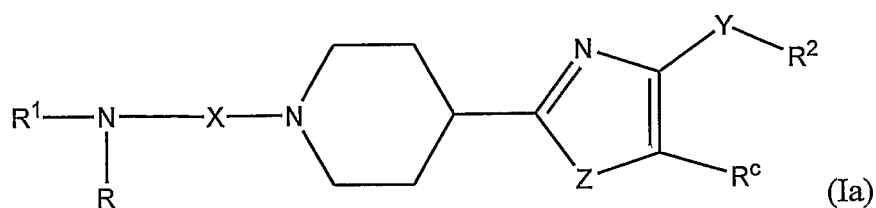
an alkylamino group denotes an HN-alkyl or N-dialkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

a halogen group is fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine;

an aryl group denotes an aromatic group having five to fifteen carbon atoms, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R', where R' is as defined above;

a heteroaryl group denotes a 5- to 10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group which contains at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, wherein the heterocyclic group may be fused to another ring and the heterocyclic group or the fused ring can both be substituted independently by one or more substituents R', wherein R' is as defined above;

4. A compound of the general formula (Ia) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs or a stereoisomer thereof,



R is independently hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R¹ is independently alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

X is CO, CS or SO₂;

Y is CO, CS or SO₂;

Z is $\text{NR}^{2'}$, S, or O;

$\text{R}^{2'}$ is H, alkyl, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^7$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^e$, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

5

R^e is independently H, OH, SH, NROR^1 , NH_2 , alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, CONR^dR^e , alkoxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

10

R^d is H, halogen, alkyl, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^7)\text{NR}^{7'}\text{R}^8$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{aryl}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{N}=\text{CR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{NR}^7\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^8$, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;

R^7 , $\text{R}^{7'}$ independently represent H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;

15

R^8 is H, NH_2 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;

R^e independently represents H, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{SH}$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^{4'}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{4'}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{4'}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{R}^{5'}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{-alkyl}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{4'}$, $\text{SO}_3\text{R}^{4'}$, $-\text{N}=\text{CR}^{4'}\text{R}^{5'}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{4''}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{-CO-haloalkyl}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{-SO}_2\text{-haloalkyl}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{-SO}_2\text{-alkyl}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}\text{-CO-alkyl}$, $-\text{NR}^{4'}(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{heteroaryl}$, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, aryl hydroxyalkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_p[\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_p]_q\text{OCH}_3$, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^{4''})\text{NR}^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^{4''})\text{NR}^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^{4''})\text{NR}^{4'}$ benz-oxazolyl, or heteroaryl;

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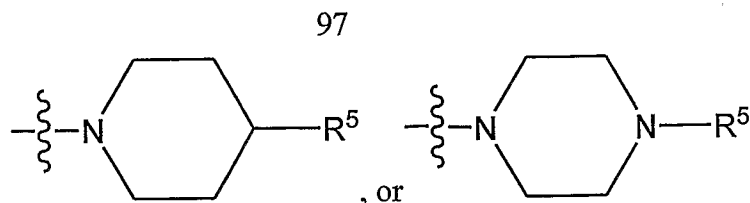
$\text{R}^{4'}$, $\text{R}^{4''}$, $\text{R}^{5'}$ independently represent H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, $-\text{C}(\text{NR}^7)\text{NR}^{7'}\text{R}^8$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{aryl}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{N}=\text{CR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{NR}^7\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^8$, halogen, heteroaryl, or aryl

p is 1 to 6;

30

q is 1 to 6;

R^2 is independently



R^5 is independently H, COR^6 , CO_2R^6 , SOR^6 , SO_2R^6 , SO_3R^6 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, $-NH_2$, alkylamine, $-NR^7COR^6$, halogen, $-OH$, $-SH$, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

R^6 is independently H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, amino, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, aryl or heteroaryl;

wherein

an alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, a linear or branched C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl or a linear or branched C_2 - C_6 -alkynyl group, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R' , R'' , being defined as above.

R' is independently H, $-CO_2R''$, $-CONHR''$, $-CR''O$, $-SO_2NR''$, $-NR''-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR''-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR''-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR''-CO$ -alkyl, $-CN$, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, $-OH$, $-SH$, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R'' is independently H, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

a cycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing three to eight carbon atoms, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by a group E, E being O, S, SO, SO_2 , N, or NR'' , R'' being as defined above;

an alkoxy group denotes an O-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an alkylthio group denotes an S-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an haloalkyl group denotes an alkyl group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above;

5

a hydroxyalkyl group denotes an HO-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an haloalkyloxy group denotes an alkoxy group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above;

10

a hydroxyalkylamino group denotes an (HO-alkyl)₂-N- group or HO-alkyl-NH-group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an alkylamino group denotes an HN-alkyl or N-dialkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

15

a halogen group is fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine;

an aryl group denotes an aromatic group having five to fifteen carbon atoms, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R', where R' is as defined above;

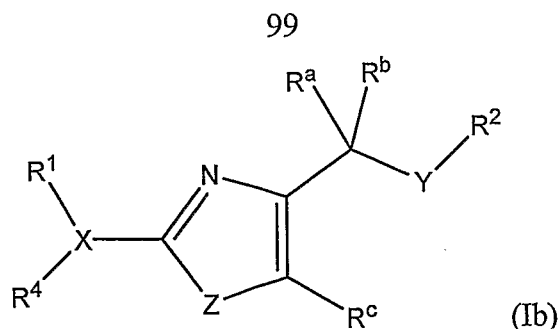
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a heteroaryl group denotes a 5- to 10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group which contains at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, wherein the heterocyclic group may be fused to another ring and the heterocyclic group or the fused ring can both be substituted independently by one or more substituents R', wherein R' is as defined above.

25

5. A compound of the general formula (Ib) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs or a stereoisomer thereof,

30



wherein

R^1 is $-C(O)R^7$, $-C(O)CHR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-C(O)OR^7$, $-R^7C(O)R^8$, or $-C(S)R^7$,

R^9 independently represents H, $-CN$, $-OH$, $-SH$, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heteroaryl, heteroaryl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, aryl hydroxyalkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzoxazolyl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7COR^8$, or alkyl

R^4 is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, aryl

or R^1 and R^4 together with the X to which they are attached form a 3 to 8 membered saturated or at least partially unsaturated monocyclic or polycyclic ring system, wherein at least one ring atom is a heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, and the ring optionally has one or more substituents R^9 ;

X is N, or $CR^{2'}$;

Y is CO, CS or SO_2 ;

Z is $NR^{2''}$, S, or O;

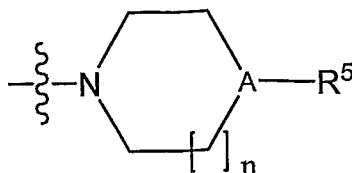
$R^{2''}$ is H, alkyl, $-C(O)NR^7$, $-C(O)R^e$, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

- $R^{2'}$ is H, alkyl, $-C(O)NR^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy-alkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;
- $R^{4'}$, $R^{4''}$, $R^{5'}$ independently represent H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, $-C(NR^7)NR^7R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, halogen, heteroaryl, or aryl
- 5 p is 1 to 6;
- q is 1 to 6;
- 10 R^a is independently H, OH, SH, NH_2 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, alkoxy, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, aryl, or heteroaryl;
- R^b is independently H, OH, SH, NH_2 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, alkoxy, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, aryl, or heteroaryl;
- 15 R^c is independently H, OH, SH, $NR^{4'}OR^{5'}$, NH_2 , alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, $CONR^dR^e$, alkoxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;
- 20 R^d is H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^7R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;
- R^7 , $R^{7'}$ independently represent H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;
- 25 R^8 is H, NH_2 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;
- R^e independently represents H, $-CN$, $-OH$, $-SH$, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heteroaryl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxy-alkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio,
- 30

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-O(CH₂)_p[O(CH₂)_p]_qOCH₃, -C(NR^{4'})NR^{4'}benz-imidazolyl, -C(NR^{4''})NR^{4''}-benzthiazolyl, -C(NR^{4'''})NR^{4'''}benzoxazolyl, aryl or heteroaryl;

R² is independently



A is N, O, or CR^{2'};

R⁵ is independently H, SO₂R⁷, SO₃R⁷, -C(O)R⁷, -C(O)CHR⁷R⁸, -C(O)NR⁷R⁸, -C(O)OR⁷, -R⁷C(O)R⁸, -C(S)R⁷, -C(NR⁷)NR⁷R⁸, -(CH₂)_paryl, -(CH₂)_pNR⁷R⁸, -C(O)NR⁷R⁸, -N=CR⁷R⁸, -NR⁷C(O)R⁷, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, -NH₂, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

n is 0 to 2;

wherein

an alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkenyl or a linear or branched C₂-C₆-alkynyl group, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R'; R' being defined as above.

R' is independently H, -CO₂R'', -CONHR'', -CR''O, -SO₂NR'', -NR''-CO-haloalkyl, -NO₂, -NR''-SO₂-haloalkyl, -NR''-SO₂-alkyl, -SO₂-alkyl, -NR''-CO-alkyl, -CN, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R'' is independently H, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

a cycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing three to eight carbon atoms, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by a group E, E being O, S, SO, SO₂, N, or NR'', R'' being as defined above;

an alkoxy group denotes an O-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an alkylthio group denotes an S-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

5

an haloalkyl group denotes an alkyl group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above;

10

a hydroxyalkyl group denotes an HO-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an haloalkyloxy group denotes an alkoxy group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above;

15

a hydroxyalkylamino group denotes an (HO-alkyl)₂-N- group or HO-alkyl-NH-group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an alkylamino group denotes an HN-alkyl or N-dialkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

20

a halogen group is fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine;

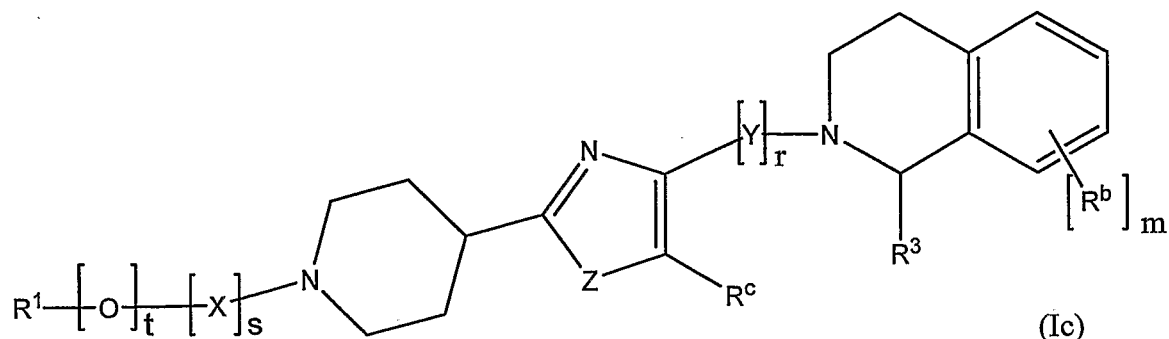
an aryl group denotes an aromatic group having five to fifteen carbon atoms, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R', where R' is as defined above;

25

a heteroaryl group denotes a 5- to 10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group which contains at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, wherein the heterocyclic group may be fused to another ring and the heterocyclic group or the fused ring can both be substituted independently by one or more substituents R', wherein R' is as defined above.

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6. A compound of the general formula (Ic) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs or a stereoisomer thereof,



5

wherein

R¹ independently represents H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

10 X is CO, CS or SO₂;

Y is CO, CS or SO₂;

Z is NR^{2''}, S, or O;

15 R^{2''} is H, alkyl, -C(O)NR⁷, -C(O)R^e, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl, or aryl;

20 R^{4'}, R^{4''}, R^{5'} independently represent H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, -C(NR⁷)NR^{7'}R⁸, -(CH₂)_paryl, -(CH₂)_pNR⁷R⁸, -C(O)NR⁷R⁸, -N=CR⁷R⁸, -NR⁷C(O)R⁸, halogen, heteroaryl, or aryl.

p is 1 to 6;

q is 1 to 6;

m is 0 to 4;

r is 0, or 1;

25 t is 0, or 1;

s is 0, or 1;

- R^b is independently H, OH, SH, $NR^{4'}OR^{5'}$, NH_2 , alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, $CONR^dR^e$, alkoxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;
- 5 R^c is independently H, OH, SH, $NR^{4'}OR^{5'}$, NH_2 , alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, $CONR^dR^e$, alkoxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;
- R^d is H, halogen, alkyl, $-C(NR^7)NR^7R^8$, $-(CH_2)_p$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_pNR^7R^8$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N=CR^7R^8$, $-NR^7C(O)R^8$, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;
- 10 R^7 , R^7 independently represent H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;
- R^8 is H, NH_2 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, heteroaryl or aryl;
- 15 R^e independently represents H, -CN, -OH, -SH, $-CO_2R^{4'}$, $-C(O)R^{4'}$, $-SO_2NR^{4'}$, $-NR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2R^{4'}$, $SO_3R^{4'}$, $-N=CR^{4'}R^{5'}$, $-NR^{4'}C(O)R^{4''}$, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR^{4'}-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}-CO$ -alkyl, $-NR^{4'}(CH_2)_p$ heteroaryl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxyalkyl-amino, alkoxy, alkylthio,
- 20 $-O(CH_2)_p[O(CH_2)_p]_qOCH_3$, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzimidazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benzthiazolyl, $-C(NR^{4''})NR^{4'}$ benz-oxazolyl, aryl or heteroaryl;
- R^3 is independently H, OH, SH, $NR^{4'}OR^{5'}$, NH_2 , hydroxyalkylamino, alkylamino, halogen, $CONR^dR^e$, alkoxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

25

wherein

an alkyl group, if not stated otherwise, denotes a linear or branched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, a linear or branched C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl or a linear or branched C_2 - C_6 -alkynyl group, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R' ; R' being defined as above.

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R' is independently H, $-CO_2R''$, $-CONHR''$, $-CR''O$, $-SO_2NR''$, $-NR''-CO$ -haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NR''-SO_2$ -haloalkyl, $-NR''-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-SO_2$ -alkyl, $-NR''-CO$ -alkyl, -CN, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio,

hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, or heteroaryl;

5 R'' is independently H, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

10 a cycloalkyl group denotes a non-aromatic ring system containing three to eight carbon atoms, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring can be substituted by a group E, E being O, S, SO, SO₂, N, or NR'', R'' being as defined above;

an alkoxy group denotes an O-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

15 an alkylthio group denotes an S-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

an haloalkyl group denotes an alkyl group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above;

20 a hydroxyalkyl group denotes an HO-alkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

25 an haloalkyloxy group denotes an alkoxy group which is substituted by one to five halogen atoms, the alkyl group being as defined above;

a hydroxyalkylamino group denotes an (HO-alkyl)₂-N- group or HO-alkyl-NH-group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

30 an alkylamino group denotes an HN-alkyl or N-dialkyl group, the alkyl group being as defined above;

a halogen group is fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine;

an aryl group denotes an aromatic group having five to fifteen carbon atoms, which can be substituted by one or more substituents R', where R' is as defined above;

a heteroaryl group denotes a 5- to 10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group which contains at least one heteroatom selected from O, N, and S, wherein the heterocyclic group may be fused to another ring and the heterocyclic group or the fused ring can both be substituted independently by one or more substituents R', wherein R' is as defined above.

- 10 7. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 for the use as a medicament.
8. A composition containing a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
- 15 9. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a composition of claim 8 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a disease characterized by hyperproliferation of cells.
- 20 10. The use of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 6 or a composition of claim 8 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a disease resulting from ischemia and/or reperfusion injury of organs and/or of parts of the body selected from the group comprising heart, brain, peripheral limb, kidney, liver, spleen and lung, and/or wherein the endothelial dysfunction is associated with diseases selected from a group comprising infarctions such as myocardial infarction and critical limb ischemia, and/or wherein the endothelial dysfunction is associated with diseases selected from the group comprising ischemic diseases, myocardial infarction and ischemic diseases of organs.
- 25 11. The use of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 6 or a composition of claim 8 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a neurological diseases or disorders selected from the group comprising Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Creutzfeld-Jacob Disease, Lewy Body Dementia, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, stroke, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia
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gravis, Huntington's Disease, Down's Syndrome, nerve deafness, and Meniere's disease.

12. The use according to claim 9, wherein the disease is selected from the group
5 consisting of psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, alopecia areata, alopecia totalis, alopecia
subtotalis, alopecia universalis, alopecia diffusa, lupus erythematoses of the skin,
lichen planus, dermatomyositis of the skin, atopic eczema, morphea, skleroderma,
psoriasis vulgaris, psoriasis capitis, psoriasis guttata, psoriasis inversa, alopecia
areata ophiasis-type, androgenetic alopecia, allergic contact eczema, irritative
10 contact eczema, contact eczema, pemphigus vulgaris, pemphigus foliaceus,
pemphigus vegetans, scarring mucosal pemphigoid, bullous pemphigoid, mucous
pemphigoid, dermatitis, dermatitis herpetiformis duhring, urticaria, necrobiosis
lipoidica, erythema nodosum, lichen vidal, prurigo simplex, prurigo nodularis,
15 prurigo acuta, linear IgA dermatosis, polymorphic light dermatoses, erythema
solaris, lichen sclerosus et atrophicus, exanthema of the skin, drug exanthema,
purpura chronica progressiva, dihidrotic ekzema, Ekzema, fixed drug exanthema,
photoallergic skin reaction, lichen simplex eriorale, dermatitis and "Graft versus
Host-Disease", acne, rosacea, scarring, keloids, vitiligo, actinic keratoses,
20 hyperkeratoses like epidermolytic hyperkeratosis, Hyperkeratosis Lenticularis
Perstans, Keratosis pilaris and Ichthyoses.
13. The use according to claim 9, wherein the disease is selected from the group
consisting of hematological or solid tumors.