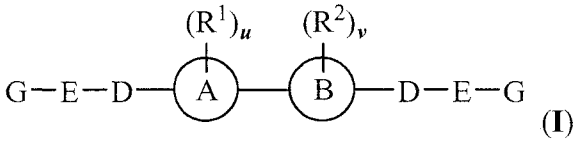
SUMMARY

The present disclosure relates to novel compounds of formula (**I**) and/or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, solvates, prodrugs or isomers thereof. These compounds are useful, either as compounds or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts (when appropriate), in the inhibition of HCV (hepatitis C virus) NS5A (non-structural 5A) protein, the prevention or treatment of one or more of the symptoms of HCV infection, the inhibition of HCV viral replication and/or HCV viral production, and/or as pharmaceutical composition ingredients. As pharmaceutical composition ingredients, these compounds, which includes reference to hydrates and solvates of such compounds, and their salts may be the primary active therapeutic agent, and, when appropriate, may be combined with other therapeutic agents including but not limited to other HCV antivirals, anti-infectives, immunomodulators, antibiotics or vaccines.

More particularly, the present disclosure relates to a compound of formula (**I**):



(**I**)

and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

Ⓐ is chosen from the group consisting of 9-membered bicyclic aryl ring systems that contain from 0 to 4 heteroatoms independently chosen from the group consisting of N, O and S, and that are substituted on C or N atoms by ***u*** substituents R^1,

each R^1 is independently chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, $-OR^{3a}$, -CN, $-(CH_2)_{0-6}C(O)R^3$, $-CO_2R^{3a}$, $-C(O)N(R^{3a})_2$, $-SR^{3a}$, $-S(O)R^{3a}$, $-S(O_2)R^{3a}$, $-(CH_2)_{0-6}N(R^{3a})_2$, $-N(R^{3a})SO_2R^{3a}$, $-N(R^{3a})CO_2R^{3a}$, $-N(R^{3a})C(O)R^3$, $-N(R^{3a})COR^{3a}$, $-N(R^{3a})C(O)N(R^{3a})$, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-8}carbocycle containing from 0 to 3 heteroatoms chosen from N, O and S, and phenyl, and the

C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-8}carbocycle and phenyl are substituted by from 0 to 3 substitutents independently chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, $-OR^{3a}$, -CN, $-CO_2R^{3a}$, $-C(O)N(R^{3a})_2$, $-N(R^{3a})_2$, $-N(R^{3a})CO_2R^{3a}$, $-SR^{3a}$, $-S(O)R^{3a}$, $-S(O_2)R^{3a}$, $-N(R^{3a})SO_2R^{3a}$, $-N(R^{3a})CO_2R^{3a}$, $-N(R^{3a})C(O)N(R^{3a})$, C_{1-6}alkyl, $-O-C_{1-6}$alkyl, $-S-C_{1-6}$alkyl, and C_{3-8}cycloalkyl,

u is from 0 to 4,

(xiv) 3- to 8-membered carbocycles containing from 0 to 3 heteroatoms independently chosen from the group consisting of N, O and S,

or two R^{10} may be taken together to form oxo;

each R^{10a} is independently chosen from the group consisting of

(i) hydrogen,

(ii) -CN,

(iii) C_{1-6}alkyl,

(iv) C_{1-6}alkyl-O-R^{14},

(v) $-C(O)R^{14}$,

(vi) $-CO_2R^{14}$,

(vii) $-SO_2R^{14}$,

(x) $-N(R^{14})_2$,

(xi) $-N(R^{14})SO_2R^{14}$,

(xii) $-NCO_2R^{14}$,

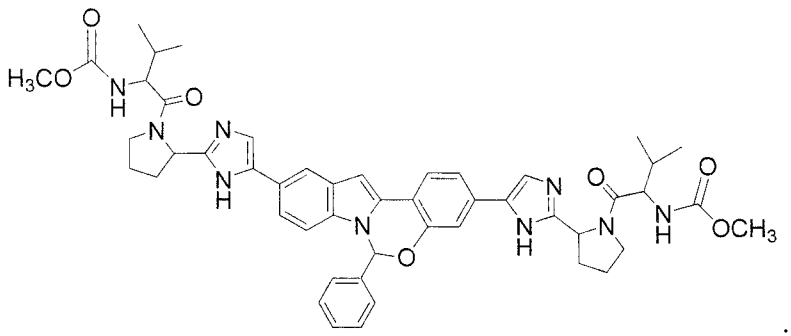
(xiii) $-NC(O)N(R^{14})_2$, and

(xiv) 3- to 8-membered carbocycles containing from 0 to 3 heteroatoms independently chosen from the group consisting of N, O and S,

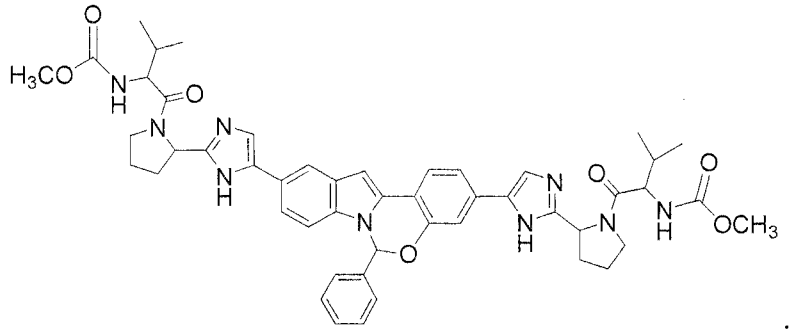
and two R^{10} or R^{10a} groups can be taken together with the N to which they are attached to form a ring, which may be substituted by from 0 to 3 substituents R^{14}, and

each R^{14} is independently chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_{0-3}C_{3-8}$cycloalkyl and phenyl.

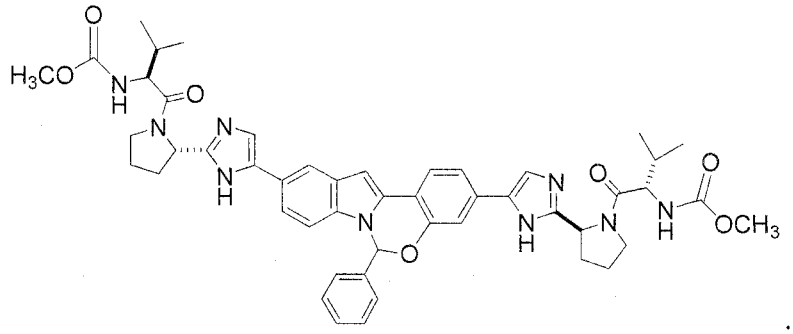
In one aspect, there is provided a compound having the structure:



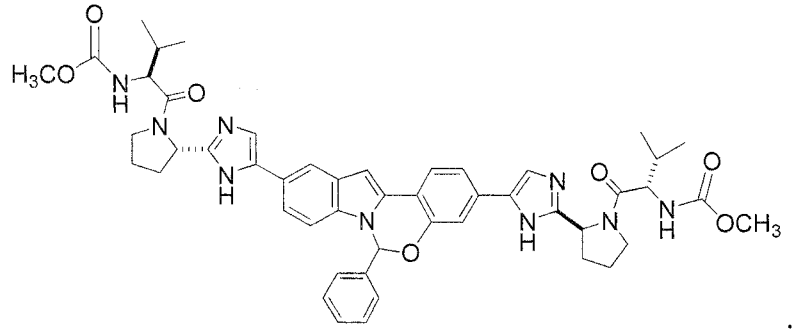
In another aspect, there is provided a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound having the structure:



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In another aspect, there is provided a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound having the structure:



The present disclosure also includes pharmaceutical compositions containing a compound of the present disclosure and methods of preparing such pharmaceutical compositions. In another aspect, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising (i) an amount of the compound as defined herein effective for inhibition of HCV viral replication, and (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another aspect, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising (i) an amount of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound as defined herein effective for inhibition of HCV viral replication, and (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The present disclosure

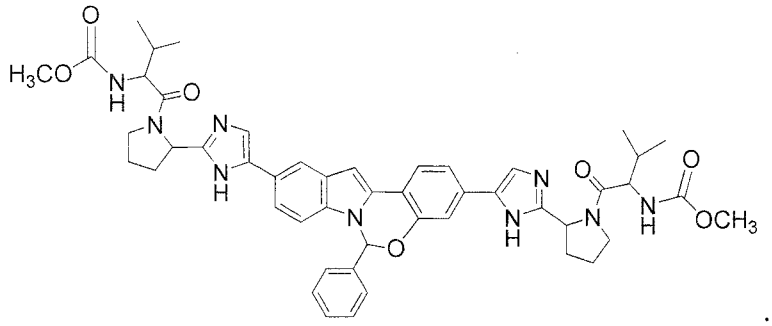
further includes methods of treating or reducing the likelihood or severity of HCV infection, methods for inhibiting the function of the NS5A protein, and methods for inhibiting HCV viral replication and/or viral production.

In another aspect, there is provided use of the compound as defined herein in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of HCV. In another aspect, there is provided use of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound as defined herein in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of HCV.

Other embodiments, aspects and features of the present disclosure are either further described in or will be apparent from the ensuing description, examples and appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound having the structure:



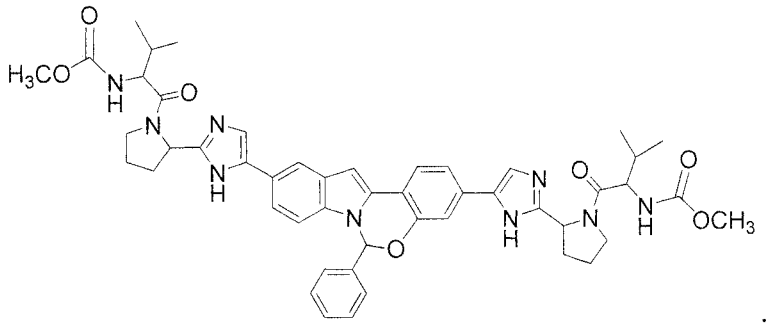
2. A pharmaceutical composition comprising (i) an amount of the compound of claim 1 effective for inhibition of HCV viral replication, and (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 2, further comprising one or more additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of HCV antiviral agents, immunomodulators and anti-infective agents.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, wherein said one or more additional therapeutic agents is selected from the group consisting of HCV protease inhibitors and HCV NS5B polymerase inhibitors.

5. Use of the compound of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of HCV.

6. A pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound having the structure:



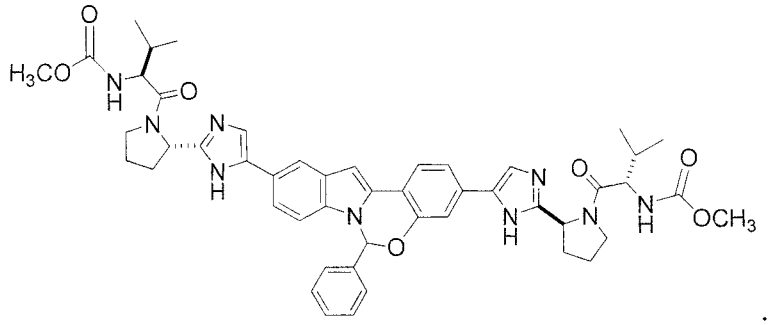
7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising (i) an amount of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 6 effective for inhibition of HCV viral replication, and (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 7, further comprising one or more additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of HCV antiviral agents, immunomodulators and anti-infective agents.

9. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 8, wherein said one or more additional therapeutic agents is selected from the group consisting of HCV protease inhibitors and HCV NS5B polymerase inhibitors.

10. Use of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 6 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of HCV.

11. A compound having the structure:



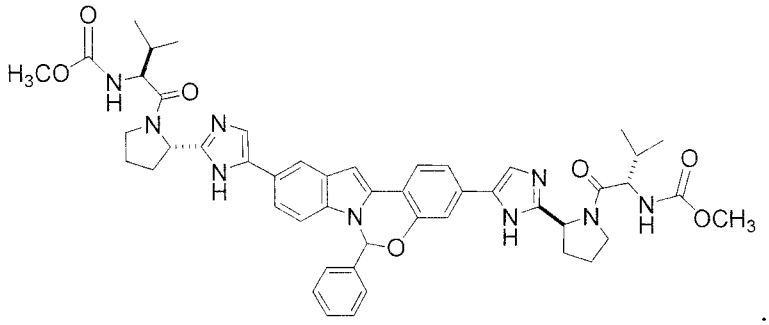
12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising (i) an amount of the compound of claim 11 effective for inhibition of HCV viral replication, and (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12, further comprising one or more additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of HCV antiviral agents, immunomodulators and anti-infective agents.

14. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein said one or more additional therapeutic agents is selected from the group consisting of HCV protease inhibitors and HCV NS5B polymerase inhibitors.

15. Use of the compound of claim 11 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of HCV.

16. A pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound having the structure:



17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising (i) an amount of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 16 effective for inhibition of HCV viral replication, and (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 17, further comprising one or more additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of HCV antiviral agents, immunomodulators and anti-infective agents.

19. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 18, wherein said one or more additional therapeutic agents is selected from the group consisting of HCV protease inhibitors and HCV NS5B polymerase inhibitors.

20. Use of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 16 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of HCV.