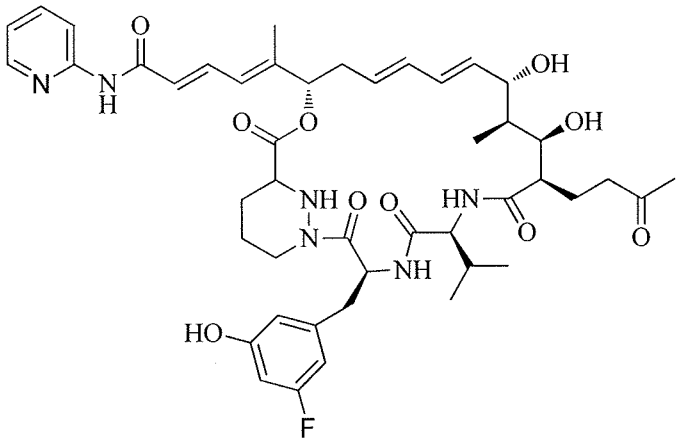


including any tautomer thereof; or an isomer thereof in which the C26, 27 C=C bond shown as *trans* is *cis*; and including a methanol adduct thereof in which a ketal is formed by the combination of the C-53 keto (if present) and the C-15 hydroxyl group and methanol;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 18 for use as a pharmaceutical.

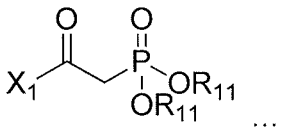
20. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 18 for use as a pharmaceutical for the treatment of viral infections such as HCV or HIV infection or as an immunosuppressant or an anti-inflammatory agent.

21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 18 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 18 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier further comprising a second or subsequent active ingredient.

~~23. A method of treatment of viral infections such as HCV or HIV infection or for use as an immunosuppressant or an anti-inflammatory agentwhich comprises administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one claims 1 to 18.~~

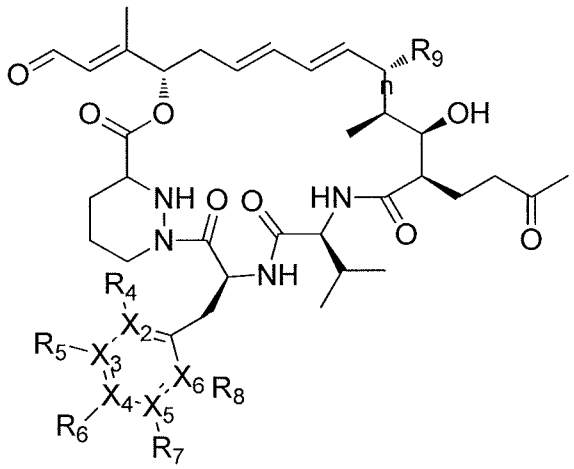
~~24~~23. A process for preparing a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 18 which comprises reacting a compound of formula V



Formula V

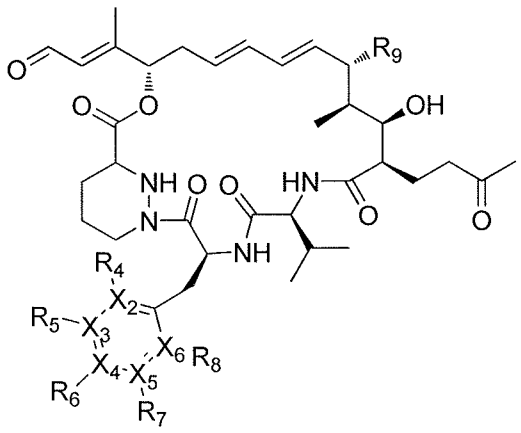
wherein X_1 is as defined in any one of claims 1 to 18 and each R_{11} is independently C_{1-4} alkyl or benzyl;

with an aldehydic macrocycle (compound of formula VI):



wherein X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_9, R_9,and n are as defined in any one of claims 1 to 18.

~~25~~24. A compound of formula (VI):



wherein X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_9, R_9,and n are as defined in any one of claims 1 to 18.