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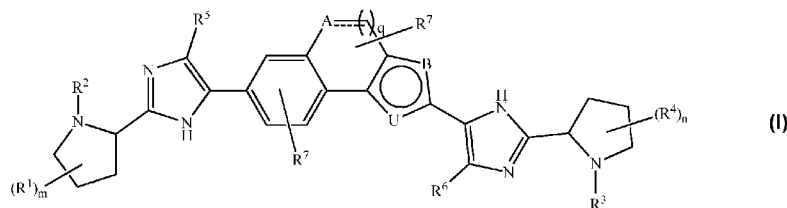
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(54) Title: ANTIVIRAL COMPOUNDS WITH A HETEROTRICYCLE MOIETY



(57) Abstract: Disclosed are compounds of formula (I) for use as antiviral agents, particularly as anti-hepatitis virus C agents, wherein A, B, U, R¹-R⁷, m, n, and q are as described herein. Also disclosed are pharmaceutical compositions and methods of treating or preventing viral infection in a host by the use of these compounds, either alone or in combination with other pharmaceutically active agents. Further disclosed are methods of preparing such compounds.