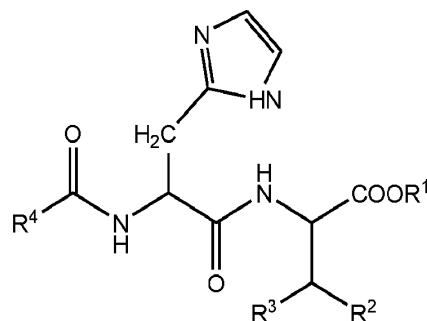


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula:



wherein

R¹ is H or (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R² is (C₁-C₁₀)hydrocarbyl;

R³ is (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R⁴ is chosen from (C₁₄-C₂₀)hydrocarbyl; (C₁₄-C₂₀)hydrocarbyl substituted with one or more of halogen, hydroxy, mercapto, (C₁-C₆)acyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₆)haloalkoxy, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkylamino, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino, and (C₁-C₆)alkylthio; (C₁₀-C₂₀)oxaalkyl; (C₁₀-C₂₀)thiaalkyl and (C₁₀-C₂₀)azaalkyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is H.
3. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R² is ethyl and R³ is methyl.
4. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R² and R³ are both methyl.
5. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R⁴ is a (C₁₄-C₂₀)aliphatic hydrocarbon.
6. A compound according to claim 5 wherein R⁴ is linear (C₁₄-C₂₀)alkyl.
7. A compound according to claim 4 wherein R¹ is H and R⁴ is (C₁₄-C₂₀)alkyl.
8. A compound according to claim 1 comprising
N-[N-(1-oxohexadecyl)-L-histidyl]-L-valine;
N-[N-(1-oxohexadecyl)-L-histidyl]-L-isoleucine;
N-[N-(1-oxohexadecyl)-L-histidyl]-L-valine ethyl ester;
N-[N-(1-oxohexadecyl)-D-histidyl]-D-valine; or
N-[N-(1-oxohexadecyl)-D-histidyl]-D-valine ethyl ester.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound according to any of claims 1 to 8 or a combination of any two or more of said compounds.
10. A method for treating breast cancer comprising administering to a mammal in need of treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 8 or a combination of any two or more of said compounds or a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9.
11. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8 or a combination of any two or more of said compounds for use in treatment of breast cancer.
12. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8 or a combination of any two or more of said compounds in the manufacture of a medicament for treating breast cancer.