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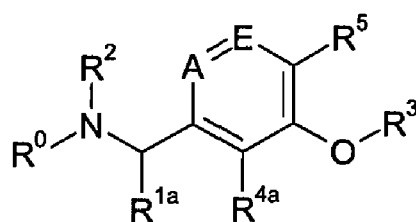
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(54) Title: SUBSTITUTED BENZYLAMINE COMPOUNDS, THEIR USE IN MEDICINE, AND IN PARTICULAR THE TREATMENT OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV) INFECTION



(I)

(57) Abstract: The invention provides compounds of the formula (I); or a salt, N-oxide or tautomer thereof, wherein A is CH, CF or nitrogen; E is CH, CF or nitrogen; and R⁰ is hydrogen or C₁₋₂ alkyl; R^{1a} is selected from CONH₂; CO₂H; an optionally substituted acyclic C₁₋₈ hydrocarbon group; and an optionally substituted monocyclic carbocyclic or heterocyclic group of 3 to 7 ring members, of which 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 are heteroatom ring members selected from O, N and S; R² is selected from hydrogen and a group R^{2a}; R^{2a} is selected from an optionally substituted acyclic d-8 hydrocarbon group; an optionally substituted monocyclic carbocyclic or heterocyclic group of 3 to 7 ring members, of which 0, 1 or 2 ring members are heteroatom ring members selected from O, N and S; and an optionally substituted bicyclic heterocyclic group of 9 or 10 ring members, of which 1 or 2 ring members are nitrogen atoms; wherein at least one of R¹ and R² is other than hydrogen; R³ is an optionally substituted 3- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring containing 0, 1, 2 or 3 heteroatom ring members selected from N, O and S; R^{4a} is selected from halogen; cyano; C₁₋₄ alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms; C₁₋₄ alkoxy optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms; hydroxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl; and C₁₋₂ alkoxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl; R⁵ is selected from hydrogen and a substituent R^{5a}; and R^{5a} is selected from C₁₋₂ alkyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms; C₁₋₃ alkoxy optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms; halogen; cyclopropyl; cyano; and amino. The compounds have activity against hepatitis C virus and can be used in the prevention or treatment of hepatitis C viral infections.



WO 2013/064538 A1



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