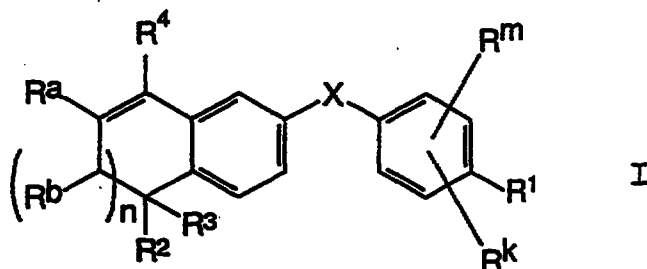


ABSTRACTRETINOID-LIKE COMPOUNDS

The present invention relates to a compound of formula I



or a nontoxic pharmaceutically acceptable salt, physiologically hydrolyzable ester or solvate thereof, in which

X is -O-CO-, -NH-CO-, -CS-NH-, -CO-O-, -CO-NH-, -COS-, -SCO-, -SCH₂-, -CH₂-CH₂-, -C≡C-, -CH₂-NH-, -COCH₂-, -NHCS-, -CH₂S-, -CH₂O-, -OCH₂-, -NHCH₂- or -CR⁵=CR⁶-;

R^m and R^k are independently hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆alkyloxy or nitro;

n is zero or one;

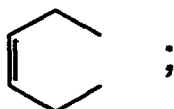
R⁴ is -(CH₂)₆-Y, C₁₋₆alkyl, or C₃₋₆cycloalkyl;

R¹ is -CO₂Z, C₁₋₆alkyl, CH₂OH, -CONHR^y, or CHO;

R² and R³ are independently hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl;

R^a and R^b are independently hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl;

but when n is one, R^a and R^b together can form a radical of the formula



Y is naphthyl or phenyl, both radicals can be optionally substituted with one to three same or different C₁₋₆alkyl or halogen;

Z is hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl;

5 R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are independently hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl; and
t is zero to six.

Also provided by this invention are methods for
10 preventing and/or treating tumors, arthritis and non-malignant skin disorders comprising administering a compound of formula I to a mammal. Further provided is a pharmaceutical formulation (composition) comprising a compound of formula I in admixture with
15 (a) pharmaceutically acceptable excipient(s).
