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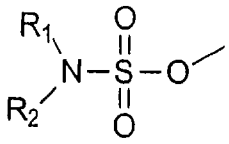
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ABSTRACT

STEROID SULPHATASE INHIBITORS

The invention provides purified compounds comprising a ring system and a sulphamate group of the formula



wherein each of R_1 and R_2 is independently selected from H, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl and aryl; wherein at least one of R_1 and R_2 is H; and

wherein the ring system comprises at least three rings, at least two of which are fused;

wherein the compound is an inhibitor of an enzyme having steroid sulphatase activity (EC 3.1.6.2);

wherein if the sulphamate group on the compound were to be replaced with a sulphate group to form a sulphate compound and incubated with a steroid sulphatase enzyme (EC 3.1.6.2) at a pH 7.4 and 37°C it would provide a K_m value of less than 50μM.

Fig. 1