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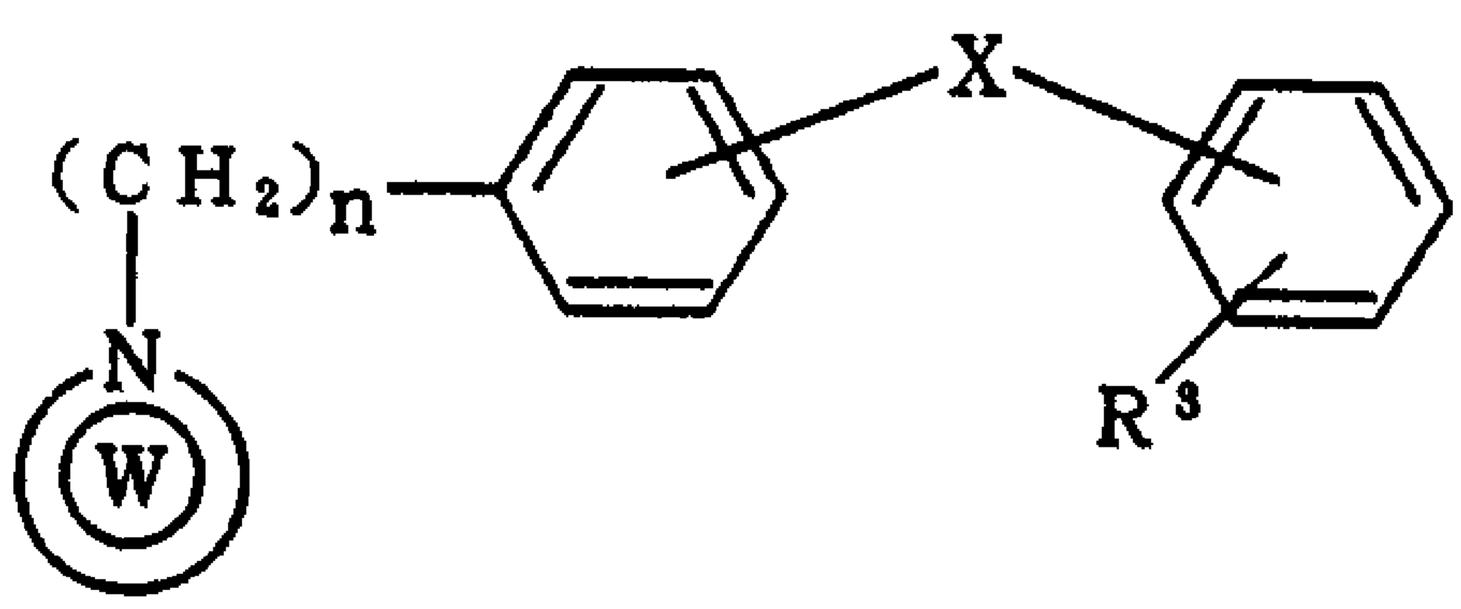
(54) Titre : COMPOSITIONS PHARMACEUTIQUES POUR USAGE BUCCAL ET LEUR METHODE DE PREPARATION
(54) Title: PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS FOR ORAL USE AND METHOD OF PREPARING THEM

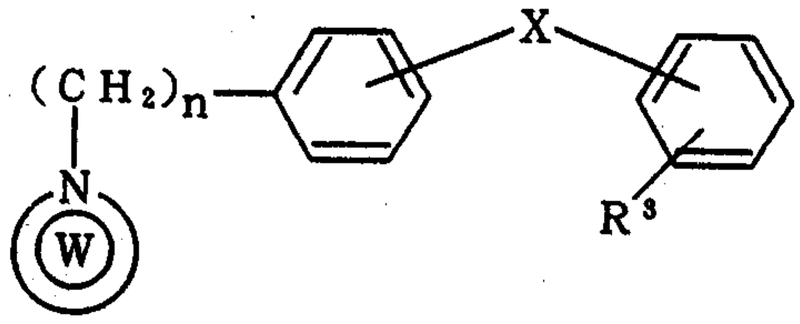


(I)

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:
A pharmaceutical composition for oral use comprising an effective amount of a compound of the formula (I) having antagonistic action to angiotensin II (see formula I) (wherein the ring W is an optionally substituted N-containing heterocyclic residue; R^3 is a group capable of forming an anion or a group convertible thereinto; X is a direct bond or a spacer having an atomic length of two or less between the phenylene group and the phenyl group; and n is an integer of 1 or 2) and an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point, and a method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for oral use comprising an effective amount of a compound of the formula (I) and an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point, which comprises admixing the compound of the formula (I) with an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point and then subjecting the mixture to molding.

Abstract of the Disclosure

A pharmaceutical composition for oral use comprising an effective amount of a compound of the formula (I) having antagonistic action to angiotensin II



(I)

(wherein the ring W is an optionally substituted N-containing heterocyclic residue; R^3 is a group capable of forming an anion or a group convertible thereinto; X is a direct bond or a spacer having an atomic length of two or less between the phenylene group and the phenyl group; and n is an integer of 1 or 2) and an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point, and
a method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for oral use comprising an effective amount of a compound of the formula (I) and an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point, which comprises admixing the compound of the formula (I) with an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point and then subjecting the mixture to molding.

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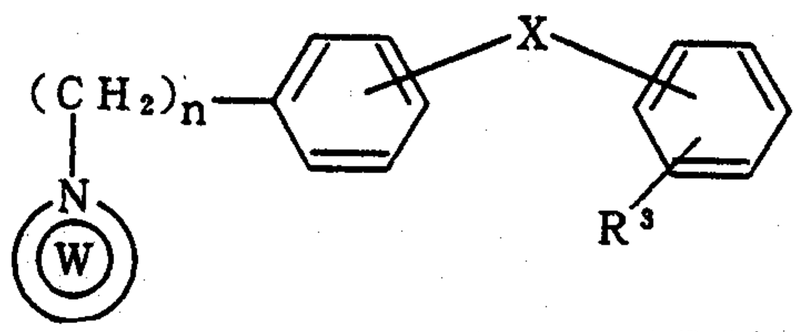
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS FOR ORAL USE AND METHOD OF PREPARING THEM

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to orally administrable pharmaceutical compositions capable of suppressing decomposition of the active component contained therein and maintaining excellent stability with days and method of preparing them.

More specifically, the present invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition for oral use comprising an effective amount of a compound of the formula (I) having antagonistic action to angiotensin II



(I)

, wherein the ring W is an optionally substituted N-containing heterocyclic residue; R^3 is a group capable of forming an anion or a group convertible thereinto; X is a direct bond or a spacer having an atomic length of two or less between the phenylene group and the phenyl group; and n is an integer of 1 or 2, and an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point, which is effective for the therapy of, among others, hypertension and congestive heart, and to a method of preparing the composition.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In the field of therapy of hypertension, angiotensin II (AII) receptor antagonist (AIIA) has attracted attention as an effective agent for the therapy of hypertension following angiotensin I converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors. A compound of the formula (I), for example, benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid and derivatives thereof having a strong anti-AII

action (cf. EP Publication No. 0425921 A1 official gazette and EP Publication No. 0459136 A1 official gazette) are considered to have, for example, the following advantages as compared with ACE inhibitors.

1) It has been known that there are a series capable of producing AII, which are not in the series of ACE. For example, benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid and derivatives thereof also inhibit the action of this AII which is not dependent on ACE, and therefore it may well be that these compounds exhibit a stronger and more effective hypotensive action than that of ACE inhibitors.

2) Since benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid and derivatives thereof do not enhance the action of bradykinin observed in ACE inhibitors, they are less possible to cause coughing as a side effect.

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

However, while the compounds of the formula (I) having antagonistic action to angiotensin II, for example, benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid and derivatives thereof, useful as therapeutic agent of hypertension are stable against temperature, moisture and light when they are alone in the solid state, when they are prepared into tablets of a formulation incorporated with other ingredients, it has been observed that lowering of the content of the active ingredient is apt to be enhanced with the lapse of day due to deformation of crystals caused by, for example, pressure, abrasion and heat, applied in the step of granulation or molding under elevated pressure in the course of preparation.

While research and development of the compound of the formula (I) (hereinafter sometimes called "active component") thereof as therapeutic agent of hypertension have been conducted, problems in respect of the stability in the course of preparation are not

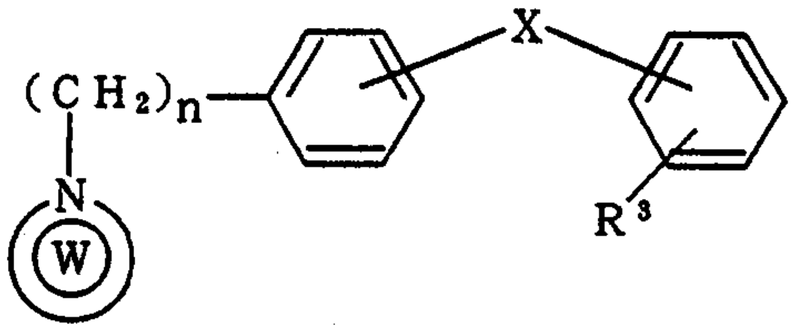
satisfactorily solved yet. Especially, no practical technique for improving the stability of a benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid and derivatives thereof contained in the preparation, by sufficiently suppressing decomposition of the active component with the lapse of day, the decomposition being observed in the case where the active component is formulated into a solid preparation such as tablets, has been established yet. Thus, the object of this invention is to provide stabilized preparations of the compound of the formula (I) having antagonistic action to angiotensin II. Furthermore, the present invention aims at sufficiently practical method of stabilization from the economical viewpoint as well, without resorting to a method inevitably requiring the rise of cost, such as that involving use of an excess amount of the active component or extremely minimizing the moisture content. The present invention is also to heighten the value of finished products by prolonging the period expiration through improved stability of the compositions.

In view of the circumstances described as above, the present inventors attempted various means of general use in order to realizing the stabilization of compositions containing the compound of the formula (I) having antagonistic action to angiotensin II. In no compositions prepared thus above, however, was found a satisfactorily practical stabilizing effect. The present inventors further continued various investigations, and unexpectedly found that, by incorporating an oleaginous substance having a low melting point into a formulation containing the compound of the formula (I) having antagonistic action to angiotensin II, decomposition of the active component is remarkably suppressed to afford a stable composition, and further investigations were conducted

repeatedly to accomplish the present invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

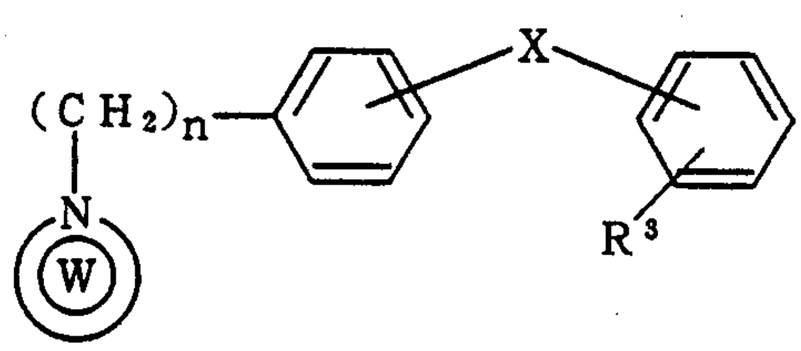
An object of the present invention is to provide (1) a pharmaceutical composition for oral use comprising an effective amount of a compound of the formula (I) having antagonistic action to angiotensin II



(I)

(wherein the ring W is an optionally substituted N-containing heterocyclic residue; R^3 is a group capable of forming an anion or a group convertible thereinto; X is a direct bond or a spacer having an atomic length of two or less between the phenylene group and the phenyl group; and n is an integer of 1 or 2) and an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point, and

(2) further object of the present invention is to provide a method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for oral use comprising an effective amount of a compound of the formula (I) having antagonistic action to angiotensin II



(I)

(wherein the ring W is an optionally substituted N-containing heterocyclic residue; R^3 is a group capable of forming an anion or a group convertible thereinto; X

is a direct bond or a spacer having an atomic length of two or less between the phenylene group and the phenyl group; and n is an integer of 1 or 2) and an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point, which comprises admixing the compound of the formula (I) with an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point and then subjecting the mixture to molding.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

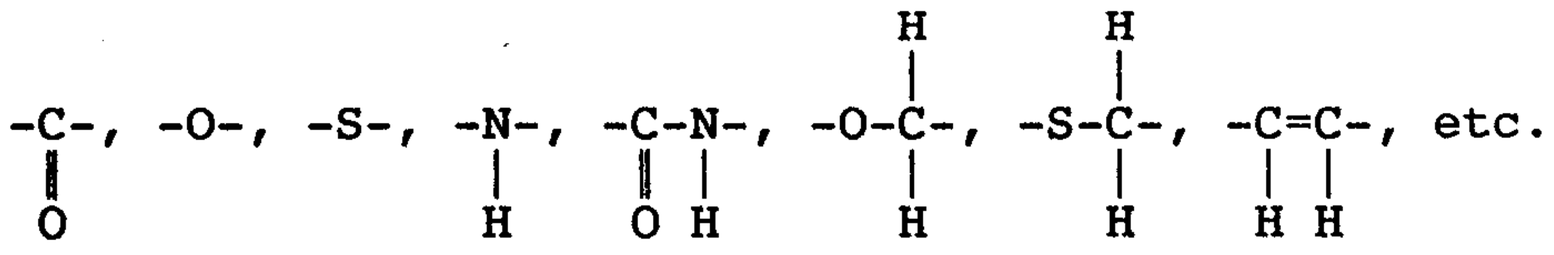
Referring to the formula (I), examples of a group capable of forming an anion (a group having hydrogen atom capable of being protonated) and a group convertible thereinto represented by R^3 include an optionally substituted 5- to 7-membered (preferably 5- to 6-membered) monocyclic heterocyclic residue containing one or more of N, S and O or a group convertible thereinto, for example, carboxyl, tetrazolyl, trifluoromethanesulfonic amide ($-NHSO_2CF_3$), phosphoric acid, sulfonic acid, cyano, lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxycarbonyl, and the like. These groups may be protected with, for example, an optionally substituted lower alkyl group (e.g. lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxymethyl, optionally substituted arylmethyl, etc.) or an acyl group (e.g. lower (C_{2-5}) alkanoyl, optionally substituted benzoyl, etc.). Such groups may include those which are capable of forming anions or convertible thereinto either chemically or under biological and/or physiological conditions (for example, in vivo reaction such as oxidation-reduction or hydrolysis catalyzed by in vivo enzymes).

Other examples of a group represented by R^3 are, like oxadiazole or thiadiazole ring, those having -NH or -OH group as proton-donor and a carbonyl group, a thiocarbonyl group or sulfinyl group as proton acceptor simultaneously.

R^3 is tetrazolyl or carboxyl each of which is optionally protected with an optionally substituted

lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl (e.g. methyl, triphenylmethyl, methoxymethyl, ethoxyethyl, p-methoxybenzyl, p-nitrobenzyl, etc.) or an acyl (e.g. a lower (C_{2-5}) alkanoyl, benzoyl, etc.), preferably tetrazolyl group. R^3 may be substituted on any of the ortho-, meta- or para-positions, preferably the ortho-position.

X shows that the adjacent phenylene group is bonded to the phenyl group directly or through a spacer with an atomic chain of 2 or less. As the spacer, any one can be exemplified, so long as it is a divalent chain in which the number of atoms constituting the straight chain is 1 or 2, and it may have a side chain. Examples of such spacers include lower (C_{1-4}) alkylene,

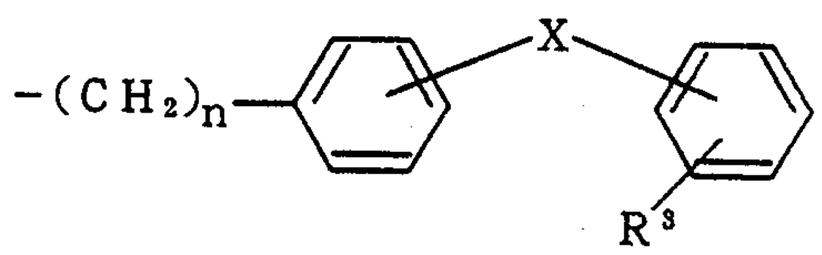


etc.

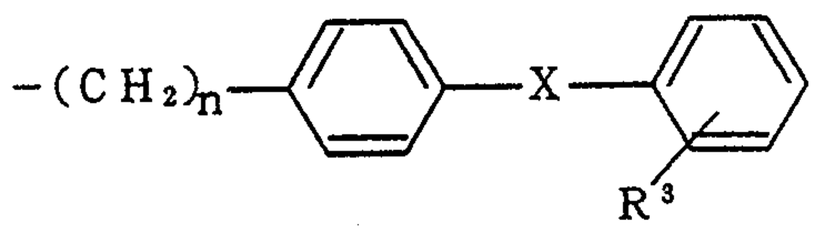
The most preferred X is a chemical bond between the phenylene group and the phenyl group.

n denotes an integer of 1 or 2 (preferably 1).

Among the compound shown by R^3, X and n described above, that shown by the following formula, for example, are preferable:

among  ,

a compound shown by the formula

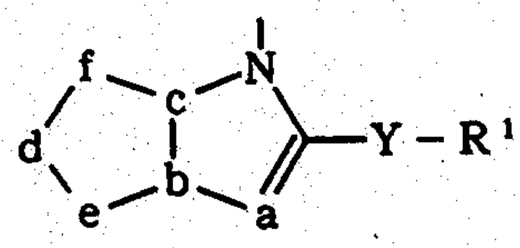


are preferable.

Typical examples of a N-containing heterocyclic

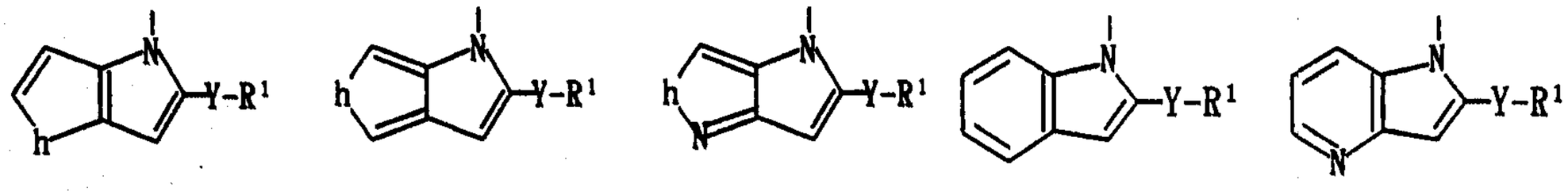
residue represented by the ring W are specifically shown as follows. Incidentally, in the following formulae, R^1 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon residue; and Y is a bond, -O-, -S(O)m- (where m denotes 0, 1 or 2) or -N(R^4)- (where R^4 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl group). Among them, R^1 is preferably a lower (C_{1-5}) alkyl (preferably a lower (C_{2-3}) alkyl) optionally substituted with hydroxyl group, amino group, halogen or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy group; and Y is preferably a bond, -O-, -S- or -N(R^4)- (wherein R^4 stands for hydrogen or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl).

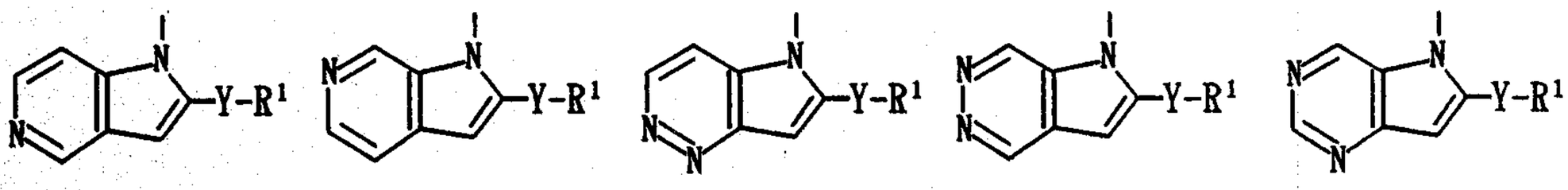
Examples of the residue shown by the formula (III)

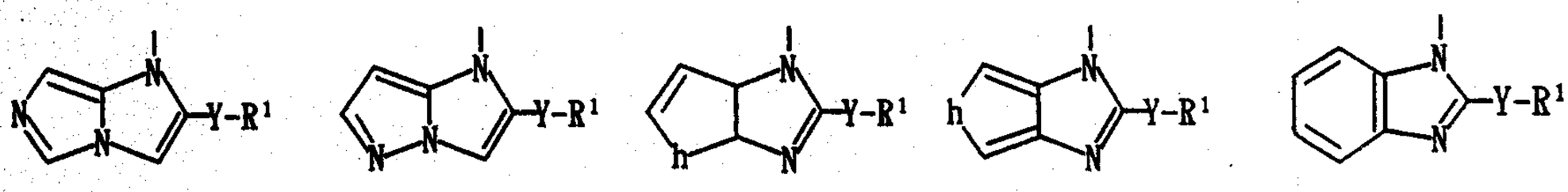


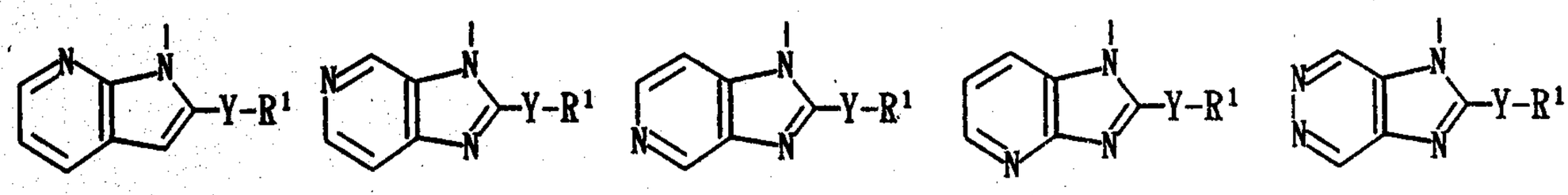
(III)

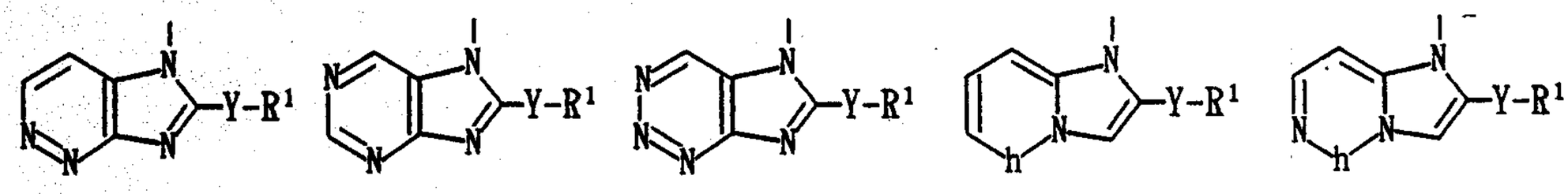
, wherein a and e forming the heterocyclic residue are independently one or two optionally substituted carbon or hetero atoms; d and f forming the heterocyclic residue are independently one optionally substituted carbon or hetero atom and b and c are independently one optionally substituted carbon or nitrogen atom, include the following, but are not limited thereto:

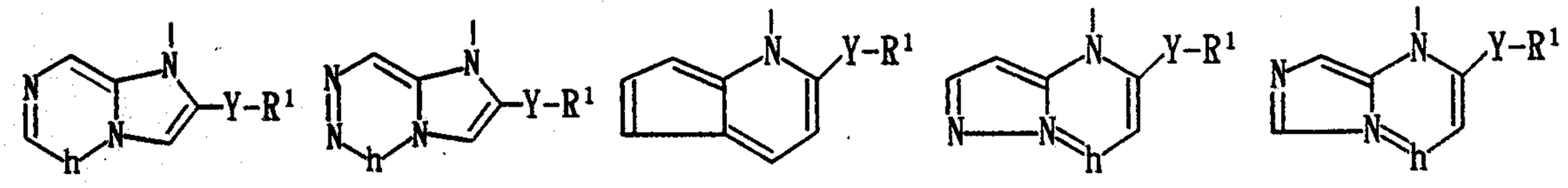

Y-R1

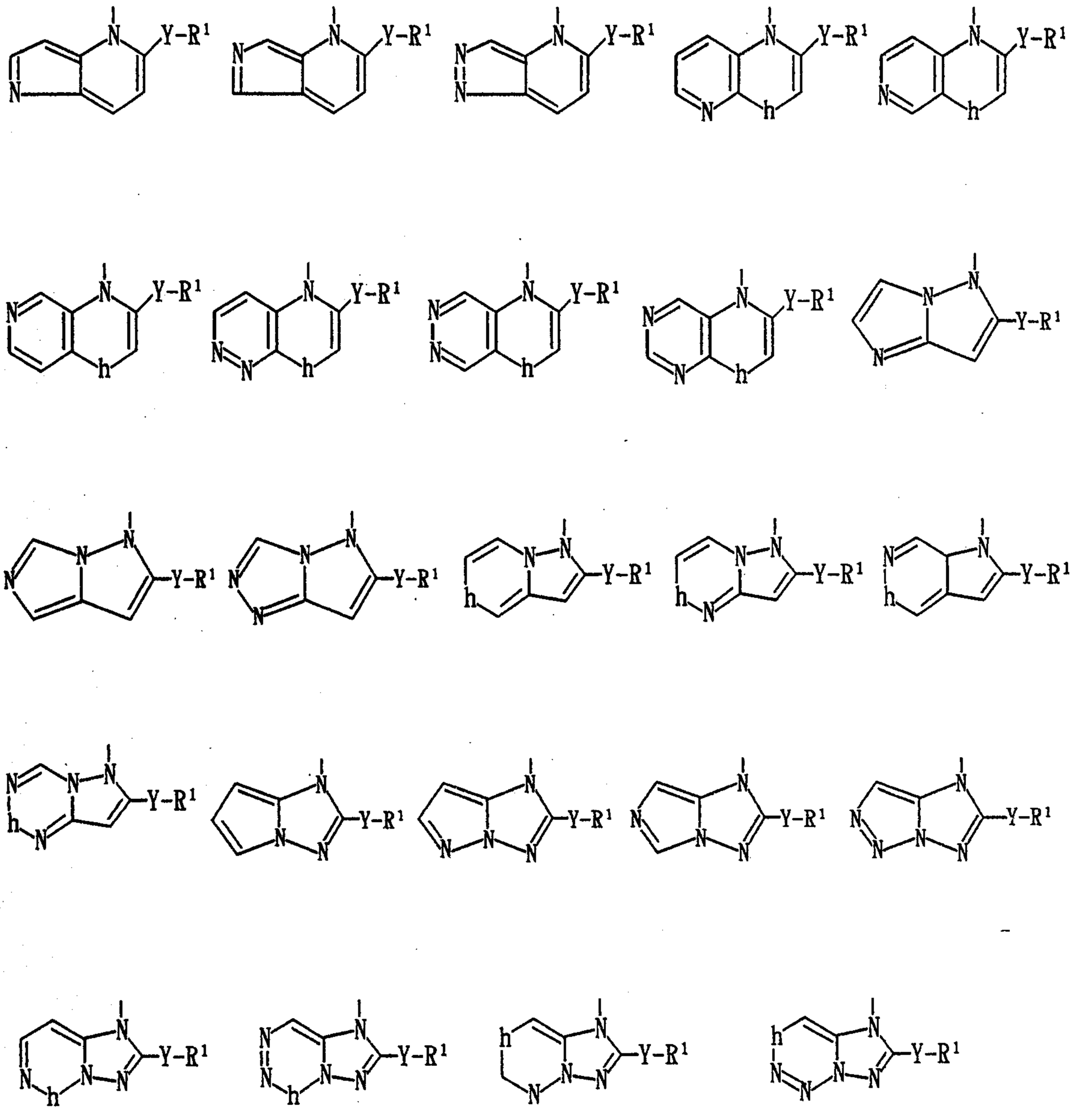

Y-R1


Y-R1


Y-R1

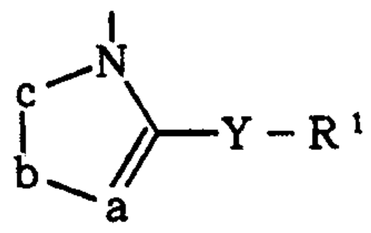

Y-R1


Y-R1



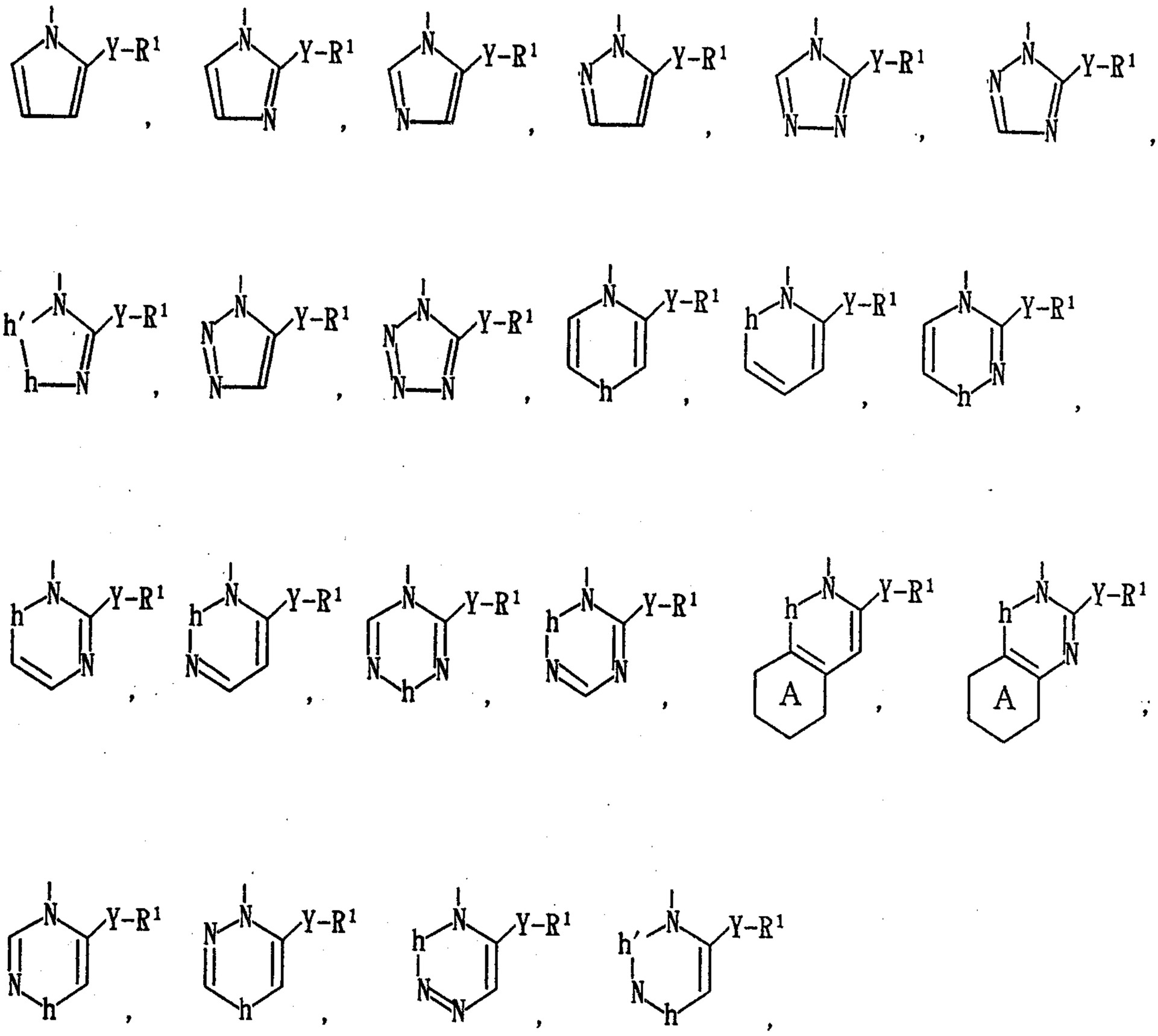
, wherein h is $>CH_2$, $>=O$, $>=S$, $>S-(O)m$, $-N(R^4)-$ or $-O-$; m denotes 0, 1 or 2 and R^4 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted lower alkyl (preferably hydrogen or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl).

Other examples of the residue shown by the formula (IV)



(IV)

, wherein a and b forming the heterocyclic residue are independently one or two optionally substituted carbon or hetero atoms and c is an optionally substituted carbon or hetero atom, include the following, but are not limited thereto:



, wherein A is an optionally substituted aromatic hydrocarbon residue, optionally containing a hetero-atom, or heterocyclic residue (preferably aromatic hydrocarbon residue such as phenyl), h and h' each

shows

$>CH_2$, $>=O$, $>=S$, $>S-(O)_m$, $-N(R^4)-$ and $-O-$

and, m and R^4 are of the same meaning as defined above, are exemplified.

The heterocyclic residue represented by the above-mentioned formula (III) may optionally be substituted, besides the group represented by $Y-R^1$, with a group represented by R^2 (e.g. a group capable of forming an anion or a group convertible thereinto). The substitution position of R^2 is preferably the position of f atom in the formula (III).

Examples of the group R^2 capable of forming anion or a group convertible thereinto include optionally esterified or amidated carboxyl, tetrazolyl, trifluoromethanesulfonic acid amide ($-NHSO_2CF_3$), phosphoric acid and sulfonic acid. These groups may optionally be protected by an optionally substituted lower alkyl group or acyl group, and may be any one as long as they are capable of forming anion under biological or physiological conditions (for example, an <u>in vivo</u> reaction such as oxidation, reduction or hydrolysis by <u>in vivo</u> enzymes) or chemically.

Examples of optionally esterified or amidated carboxyl represented by R^2 include groups represented by the formula -CO-D [wherein D stands for hydroxyl group, optionally substituted amino (e.g. amino, N-lower (C_{1-4}) alkylamino, and N,N-di-lower (C_{1-4}) alkylamino) or optionally substituted alkoxy {e.g. a lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxy group, whose alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with hydroxyl group, optionally substituted amino (e.g. amino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, piperidino and morpholino), halogen, lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxy, lower (C_{1-6}) alkylthio or optionally substituted dioxolenyl (e.g. 5-methyl-2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl), or groups represented by the formula -$O-CH(R^6)-OCOR_5$ [wherein R^6 stands for hydrogen, a C_{1-6}

straight-chain or branched lower alkyl group (e.g. methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, t-butyl, n-pentyl, isopentyl and neopentyl), a C_{2-6} straight-chain or branched lower alkenyl group or a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group (e.g. cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl), and R^5 stands for a C_{1-6} straight-chain or branched lower alkyl group (e.g. methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, t-butyl, n-pentyl, isopentyl and neopentyl), a C_{2-6} straight-chain or branched lower alkenyl group, a C_{3-8} cycloallyl group (e.g. cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl), a C_{1-3} lower alkyl group substituted with C_{3-8} cycloalkyl (e.g. cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl) or an optionally substituted aryl group such as phenyl (e.g. benzyl, p-chlorobenzyl, phenethyl, cyclopentylmethyl and cyclohexylmethyl), a C_{2-3} lower alkenyl group optionally substituted with C_{3-8} cycloalkyl or an optionally substituted aryl group such as phenyl (e.g. cinnamyl, etc. having alkenyl moiety such as vinyl, propenyl, allyl and isopropenyl), an aryl group such as optionally substituted phenyl (e.g. phenyl, p-tolyl and naphtyl), a C_{1-6} straight-chain or branched lower alkoxy group (e.g. methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, isopropoxy, n-butoxy, isobutoxy, sec-butoxy, n-pentyloxy, isopentyloxy and neopentyloxy), a C_{2-8} straight-chain or branched lower alkenyloxy group (e.g. allyloxy and isobutenyloxy), a C_{3-8} cycloallyloxy group (e.g. cyclopentyloxy, cyclohexyloxy, and cycloheptyloxy), a C_{1-3} lower alkoxy group substituted with C_{3-8} cycloalkyl (e.g. cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cyloheptyl) or an aryl group such as optionally substituted phenyl (e.g. benzyloxy, phenethyloxy, cyclopentylmethyloxy and cyclohexylmethyloxy having alkoxy moiety such as methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy and isopropoxy), a C_{2-3} lower alkenyloxy group substituted with C_{3-8} cycloalkyl (e.g.

cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl) or an aryl group such as optionally substituted phenyl (e.g. cinnamyloxy having an alkenyloxy moiety such as vinyloxy, propenyloxy, allyloxy and isopropenyloxy) and an aryloxy group such as optionally substituted phenoxy (e.g. phenoxy, p-nitrophenoxy and naphthoxy)]}]. And, examples of the substituent represented by R^2 may also include a group capable of forming anion or a group convertible thereinto (e.g. tetrazolyl, trifluoromethanesulfonic acid amide, phosphoric acid or sulfonic acid optionally protected with alkyl (e.g. a lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl) or acyl (e.g. lower (C_{2-5}) alkanoyl and optionally substituted benzoyl).

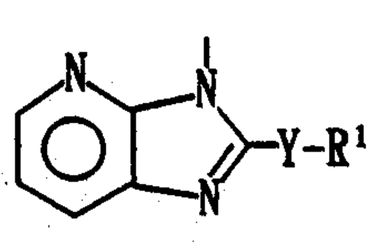
Examples of the substituent R^2 include -COOH and a salt thereof, -COOMe, -COOEt, -COOtBu, -COOPr, pivaloyloxymethoxycarbonyl, 1-(cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy)ethoxycarbonyl, 5-methyl-2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-ylmethoxycarbonyl, acetoxymethyloxycarbonyl, propionyloxymethoxycarbonyl, n-butyryloxymethoxycarbonyl, isobutyryloxymethoxycarbonyl, 1-(ethoxycarbonyloxy)ethoxycarbonyl, 1-(acetyloxy)ethoxycarbonyl, 1-(isobutyryloxy)ethoxycarbonyl, cyclohexylcarbonyloxymethoxycarbonyl, benzoyloxymethoxycarbonyl, cinnamyloxycarbonyl and cyclopentylcarbonyloxymethoxycarbonyl. As such groups as above, any one capable of forming anion (e.g. COO^- and its derivatives) or a group convertible thereinto under biological or physiological conditions (e.g. <u>in vivo</u> reaction such as oxidation, reduction or hydrolysis catalyzed by <u>in vivo</u> enzymes) or chemically is mentioned. R^2 may be carboxyl or a prodrug thereof. R^2 may also be groups convertible into anion <u>in vivo</u>, for example, biologically or chemically.

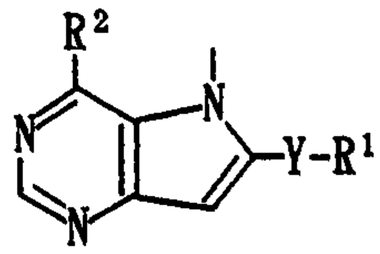
R^2 is preferably a group represented by the

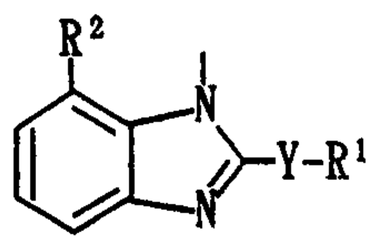
formula -CO-D-, wherein D is hydorxyl or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy whose alkyl portion is optionally substituted with hydroxyl, amino, halogen, a lower (C_{2-6}) alkanoyloxy (acetyloxy, pivaloyloxy, etc.), 1-lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxycarbonyloxy (e.g. methoxycarbonyloxy, ethoxycarbonyloxy, cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy, etc.) or a lower (C_{1-4}) alokoxy.

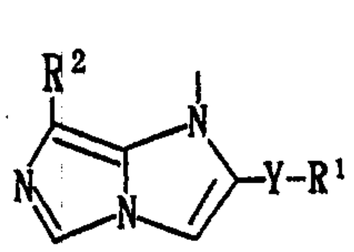
The heterocyclic residue represented by the formula (III) may optionally have, besides the groups represented by $Y-R^1$ and R^2, further substituents as exemplified by halogen (e.g. F, Cl and Br), nitro, cyano, a lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl, a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy, an optionally substituted amino group [e.g. amino, N-lower (C_{1-4}) alkylamino (e.g. methylamino), N,N-di-lower (C_{1-4}) alkylamino (e.g. dimethylamino), N-arylamino (e.g. phenylamino), alicyclic amino (e.g. morpholino, piperidino, piperazino and N-phenylpiperazino)], a group represented by the formula -CO-D'-, wherein D' is hydorxyl group or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy whose alkyl portion is optionally substituted with hydroxyl, a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy, a lower (C_{2-6}) alkanoyloxy (acetyloxy, pivaloyloxy, etc.) or a lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxycarbonyloxy (e.g. methoxycarbonyloxy, ethoxycarbonyloxy, cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy, etc.) and tetrazolyl, trifluoromethanesulfonic acid amide, phosphoric acid or sulfonic acid, each optionally protected with alkyl (e.g. lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl) or acyl (e.g. lower (C_{2-5}) alkanoyl and optionally substituted benzoyl). One or two of these substituents may optionally be substituted simultaneously on optional positions of the ring.

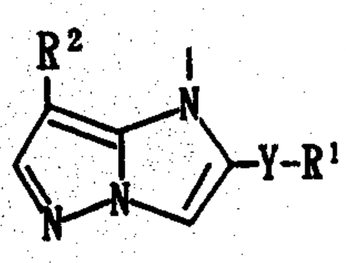
Among the compounds represented by the formula (III), as condensed heterocyclic ring, preferable examples are

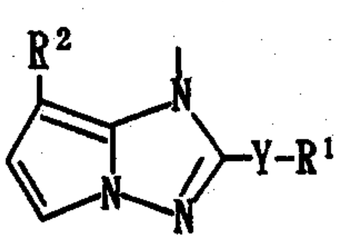


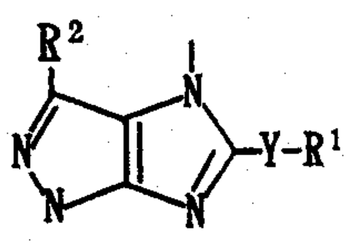


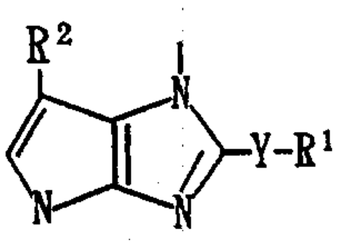


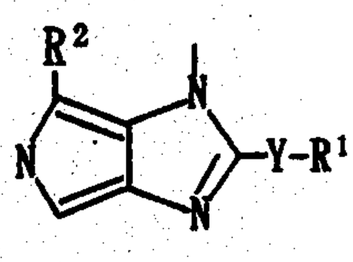


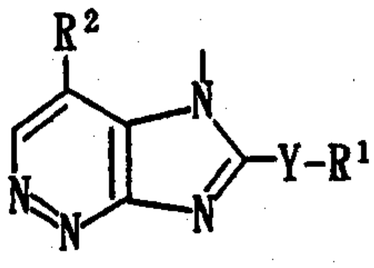


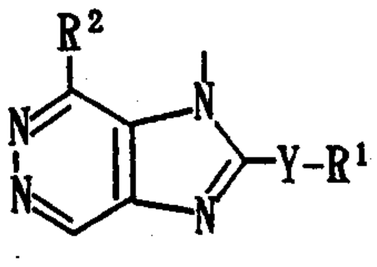


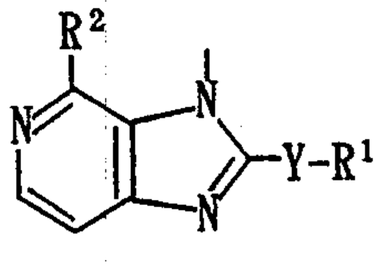


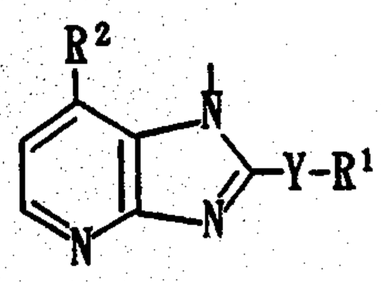


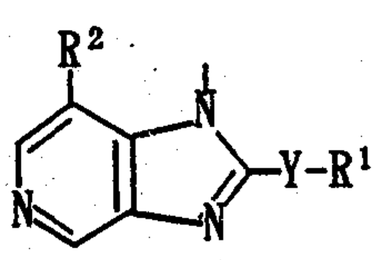


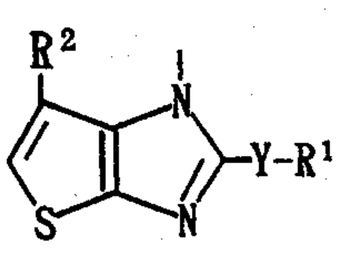


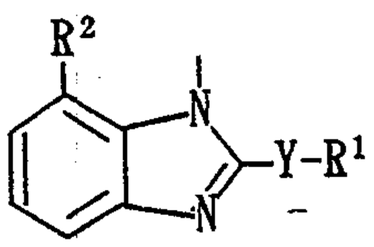


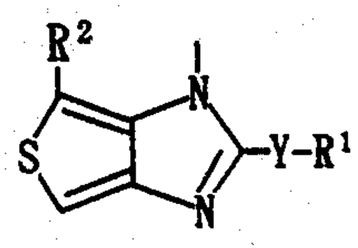






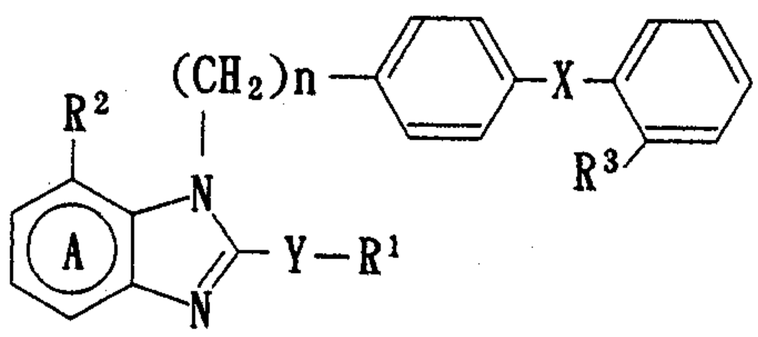






, wherein $Y-R^1$ and R^2 are of the same meaning as defined above, namely the condensed heterocyclic ring is preferably a ring of benzimidazole, thioimidazale or imidazopyridine (preferably benzimidazole and thioimidazole).

Among the compounds represented by the above mentioned formula (I), preferable one is represented by the formula

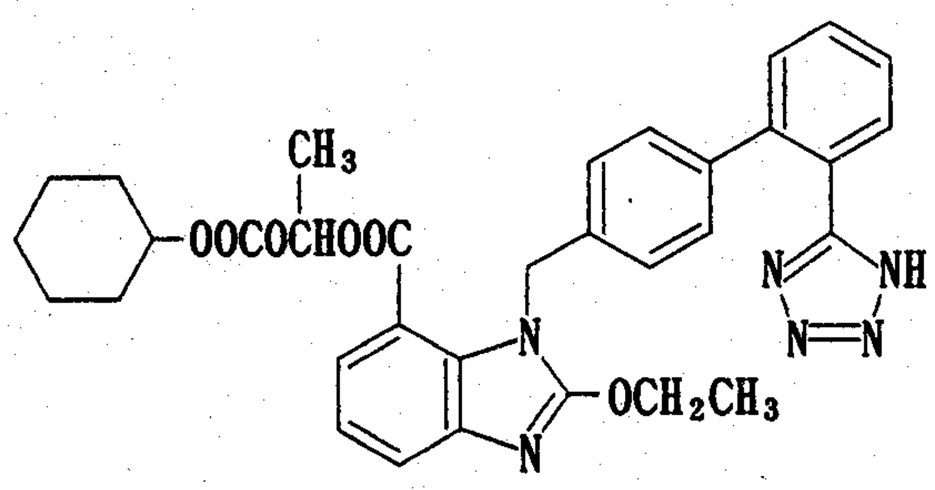


, wherein the ring A is a benzene ring which may have, besides the group represented by R^2, further substituents; R^1 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon residue; R^3 is a group capable of forming anion or a group convertible thereinto; X shows that phenylene group and phenyl group are bonded directly or through a spacer having two or less atomic chain; R^2 is an optionally esterified carboxyl group; Y is a bond, -O-, -S(O)m- (where m denotes 0, 1 or 2) or $-N(R^4)-$ (where R^4 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl group); and n denotes an integer of 1 or 2, or their salts. More specifically, among the benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid derivatives disclosed in the official gazette of EP Publication No. 0425921 A1 or the official gazette of EP Publication No. 0459136 A1, any of the crystallized ones can be employed. Among them, preferable are a compound (I'), which are the compound (I) wherein R^1 is a lower C_{1-5}

alkyl (preferably a lower (C_{2-3}) alkyl) optionally substituted with hydroxyl group, amino group, halogen or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy group; R^2 is a group represented by the formula -CO-D, [wherein D is hydrorxyl or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy whose alkyl portion is optionally substituted with hydroxyl, amino, halogen, a lower (C_{2-6}) alkanoyloxy (e.g. acetyloxy, pivaloyloxy, etc.), 1-lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxycarbonyloxy (e.g. methoxycarbonyloxy, ethoxycarbonyloxy, cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy, etc.) or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy]; The ring A is a benzene ring which may have, besides the group represented by R^2, further substituents selected from the class of halogen (e.g. F, Cl, Br, etc.), a lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl, a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy, nitro, a group represented by the formula -CO-D'-, wherein D' is hydroxyl group or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy whose alkyl portion is optionally substituted with hydroxyl, a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy, a lower (C_{2-6}) alkanoyloxy (e.g. acetyloxy, pivaloyloxy, etc.) or a 1-lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxycarbonyloxy (e.g. methoxycarbonyloxy, ethoxycarbonyloxy, cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy, etc.), and amino optionally substituted with a lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl, preferably a substituent such as a lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl, halogen etc., more preferably, a benzene ring which has no substituents but those shown by R^2; Y is a bond, -O-, -S- or $N(R^4)$-, wherein R^4 is hydrogen or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl,: R^3 is tetrazolyl or carboxyl each of which is optionally protected with an optionally substituted lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl (e.g. methyl, triphenylmethyl, methoxymethyl, ethoxyethyl, p-methoxybenzyl, p-nitrobenzyl, etc.) or an acyl (a lower (C_{2-5}) alkanoyl, benzoyl, etc.); n denotes 1; and X is a bond.

Among the above-mentioned formula (I), (±)-1-(cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy)ethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-7-

carboxylate (hereinafter sometimes called the formula (V). cf. the following structural formula) is preferably employed, namely a compound (I), wherein R^1 stands for ethyl; R^2 stands for 1-(cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy)-ethoxycarbonyl; the ring A stands for a benzene ring having no further substituent but the group shown by R^2; Y stands for -O-; R^3 stands for tetrazolyl; n denotes 1; and X stands for a bond. While the crystal form of these compounds is not critical, stable C-type crystals described in the Experimental Example 1 in the official gazette of EP Publication No. 0459136 A1 is especially desirable in the case of the formula (V).



(V)

Among the compound represented by the formula (I) having antagonistic action to angiotensin II, those with a crystalline having the melting point of 100 to 200°C, especially 130 to 180°C are conveniently employed form the viewpoint of stability.

Among the oleaginous substances, any one can be used, so long as it is oleaginous and has the melting point of about 20 to 90°C, preferably 20 to 60°C and exerts no undesirable influence on the active component. Furthermore, among them, any one may be soluble or unsoluble in water. Here, an example of the oleaginous substances which is soluble in water is a polymer of alkylene oxide, as mentioned below.

Examples of these substances include hydrocarbon, higher fatty acid, higher alcohol, fatty acid ester of polyhydric, higher alcohol ether of polyhydric alcohol, and polymer or copolymer of alkylene oxide. Among them, fatty acid ester of polyhydric alcohol, higher alcohol ether of polyhydric alcohol, polymer or copolymer of alkylene oxide, especially polymer of alkylene oxide, are preferably employed.

Examples of hydrocarbon include C_{17-50} n-alkane such as n-heptadecane, n-octadecane, n-nonadecane, n-eicosane, n-heneicosane, n-docosane, n-tricosane, n-tetracosane, n-pentacosane, n-triacontane, n-pentatriacontane, n-tetracontane and n-pentacontane, as well as a mixture of them (petrolatum, paraffin wax, microcrystalline wax, etc.)

Examples of higher fatty acid include capric acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, arachidinic acid, behenic acid, lignoceric acid, cerotic acid and a mixture of them, as well as higher fatty acid collectable from natural fatty acid.

Examples of higher alcohol include lauryl alcohol, myristyl alcohol, cetyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol, aralkyl alcohol and a mixture of them, as well as higher alcohol collectable from natural oil.

Examples of fatty acid ester of polyhydric alcohol include esters formed by esterification of an alcohol having two or more hydroxyl groups in the molecule (for example, alkylene glycols such as ethylene glycol and propylene glycol; polyalkylene glycols such as polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol or copolymers of them; sugars such as sorbitol, sucrose and raffinose; intramolecular dehydrates such as 1,5-sorbitan, 1,4-sorbitol and 3,6-sorbitan; glycerin, diethanolamine, pentaerythritol, etc.) with a fatty acid (for example, acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, pelargonic acid, capric acid undecylic acid,

lauric acid, tridecylic acid, myristic acid, pentadecylic acid, palmitic acid, heptadecylic acid stearic acid, nonadecanoic acid undecylenic acid, oleic acid, elaidic acid, sorbic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, arachidonic acid, stearolic acid, etc.), more specifically, sorbitan fatty acid esters having a molecular weight of 400 to 900, such as sorbitan monostearate, sorbitan tristearate, soribtan monooleate, sorbitan sesquioleate or sorbitan monopalmitate; polyoxyalkylene sorbitan fatty acid esters having a molecular weight of 1000 to 1500, such as polyoxyethylene sorbitan tristearate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate or polyoxyethylene sorbitan tripalmitate; polyoxyalkylene sorbitol fatty acid esters, such as polyoxyethylene sorbitol hexastearate, polyoxyethylene sorbitol hexaoleate, polyoxyethylene sorbitol tristearate or polyoxyethylene sorbitol tetralaurate; polyoxyalkylene sorbitol bees wax derivatives such as polyoxyethylene sorbitol bees wax derivatives; polyoxyalkylene hydrous lanolin derivatives such as polyoxyethylenehydrous lanolin derivatives; propylene glycol fatty acid esters having a molecular weight of 200 to 700 such as propylene glycol monopalmitate, propylene glycol monostearate, propylene glycol dilaurate, propylene glycol dimyristate, propylene glycol dipalmitate or propylene glycol distearate; alkylene glycol fatty acid esters including ethylene glycol fatty acid ester having a molecular weight of 500 to 1200, such as ethylene glycol monolaurate, ethylene glycol palmitate, ethylene glycol margarate, ethylene glycol stearate, ethylene glycol dilaurate, ethylene glycol dimyristate, ethylene glycol dipalmitate or ethylene glycol dimargarate; polyoxyethylene castor oil derivatives having a molecular weight of 3500 to 4000, such as polyoxyethylene castor oil derivatives; polyoxyalkylene

fatty acid esters having a molecular weight of 1900 to 2200, such as polyoxyethylene stearate, polyoxyethylene oleate polyoxyethylene palmitate or polyoxyethylene linolate; glycerine monofatty acid esters having a molecular weight of 300 to 600, such as glycerine monoacetate, glycerine monopropionate, glycerine monostearate, glycerine monooleate, glycerine monopalmitate or glycerine monolinolate; and sucrose fatty acid esters having a molecular weight of 400 to 1300, such as sucrose monolaulate, sucrose monomyristate, sucrose monopalminate, sucrose monostearate, sucrose trimyristate, sucrose tripalmitate or sucrose tristearate.

Examples of higher alcohol ether of polyhydric alcohol include ethers formed by etherification of a polyhydric alcohol (set forth as alcohol components of the fatty acid ester of polyhydric alcohol mentioned above) with a higher fatty acid alcohol (for example, cetyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol, oleyl alcohol, octyl alcohol or decyl alcohol), more specifically, polyoxyethylene higher alcohol ethers such as polyoxyethylene lauryl alcohol ether, polyoxyethylene cetyl alcohol ether, polyoxyethylene stearyl alcohol ether, polyoxyethylene oleyl alcohol ether, polyoxyethylene octyl alcohol ether or polyoxyethylene decyl alcohol ether; and polyoxypropylene polyoxyethylene higher alcohol ethers such as polyoxypropylene polyoxyethylene cetyl alcohol ether, polyoxypropylene polyoxyethylene stearyl alcohol ether, polyoxypropylene polyoxyethylene oleyl alcohol ether, polyoxypropylene polyoxyethylene octyl alcohol ether or polyoxypropylene polyoxyethylene lauryl alcohol ether are generally used.

As the polymer of alkylene oxide, use is made of those having a molecular weight of 1,000 to 10,000 (e.g. polyethylene glycol 6000). Examples of the

alkylene oxide include ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, trimethylene oxide and tetrahydrofuran (preferably ethylen oxide).

As the copolymer of alkylene oxide, use is made of copolymers of two or more species of the above-mentioned alkylene oxides, having a molecular weight of 1,000 to 10,000.

These substances may be used singly or as a mixture of two or more of them.

These substances are added to the active component in a solid or liquid state.

The present invention is more conveniently applied to a solid composition (e.g. granules and tablets, preferably tablets) prepared by molding (e.g. granulation or molding under elevated pressure).

Preparation of a solid composition of the present invention is usually conducted by incorporating such an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point into the active component, followed by subjecting the mixture to molding. The incorporation is conducted by a method conventionally employed in the field of pharmaceutical preparations, for example, mixing, massing, kneading, sieving and stirring. For example, an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point is directly added to the active component and to make a mixture (addition in powdery state), or a solvent is added the mixture, followed by conventional granulating and drying. Alternatively, an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point is dissolved in an adequate solvent, then the solution is mixed with the active component, followed by conventional kneading, granulating and drying (addition in liquid state). Further, a liquid material containing an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point and a liquid material containing the active component are independently sprayed onto a powdery material such as

an excipient, followed by mixing the resultant material. In the case of "addition in liquid state", any solvent which does not exert undesirable influence on the effective component, for example, water, dimethylformamide, acetone, ethanol, propyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, butyl alcohol, methylene chloride and trichloroethane, can be employed. After completing the blending, the material is subjected to a conventional molding process under elevated pressure to prepare tablets containing the active component. The molding under elevated pressure means that a material is compressed under elevated pressure into a desired form, and it refers to, most generally, tabletting. Incorporation of such an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point as described above serves to minimize crystalline disorder possibly caused in the steps of kneading, granulating and molding under elevated pressure, and is considered to further serve advantageously to improve the moldability and to lower the pressure to be elevated. And, in the method of preparing the composition of this invention, a variety of additives to be employed for solid compositions can be added in an adequate step. These additives are exemplified by excipients such as crystalline cellulose (e.g. Avicel* PH 101 (manufactured by Asahi Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.)), carboxymethyl cellulose calcium, corn startch, wheat starch, lactose, sucrose, glucose, calcium sulfate, calcium phosphate or sodium chloride, binders such as gum arabic, geletin, methyl cellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, hydroxypropyl cellulose (hereinafter sometimes abbreviated as HPC) or hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, lubricants such as magnesium stearate, talc, sunthetic aluminum silicate, sodium lauryl sulfate, boric acid, magnesium oxide or paraffin, colorants, flavoring agents, odor-improving agents, etc. Incidentally, in the case of using such a

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crystalline compound whose specific gravity is relatively small as the formula (V), it is desirable to have the compound dispersed in advance in a thick liquid containing water and a binder such as HPC. Furthermore, the composition of this invention may be prepared into coated tablets as well.

The coating may be conducted by a per se known method. Conventional coating agents (e.g. hydroxylpropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose and polyvinyl pyrrolidone), auxiliary agents for coating, for example, polyethylene glycol 6000, polysorbate (e.g. Tween* 80), titanium oxide, and pigments such as red iron oxide may be employed.

In the stabilized pharmaceutical composition for oral use of the present invention prepared by admixing an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point with the active component, the amount of the oleaginous substances is 0.005 to 0.15 weight, preferably 0.01 to 0.1 weight, more preferably 0.02 to 0.05 weight per 1 weight of the composition, and the amount of the active component is 0.001 to 0.15 part by weight, preferably 0.007 to 0.09 part by weight, more preferably 0.015 to 0.04 part by weight per 1 part of the composition by weight.

Also, the stabilized pharmaceutical composition for oral use of the present invention is desirable to be able to disintegrate in an aqueous solution within 30 minutes.

In the orally administrable pharmaceutical composition thus prepared by incorporating an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point into the active component, decomposition within a day possibly caused by compression can be suppressed to provide a

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stable composition. Where the pharmaceutical composition of this invention is used for the therapy of hypertension, cardiac diseases, cerebral apoplexy or renal diseases of mammals (e.g. man, dog, rabbit or rat), it can be administered orally as tablets. The dosage may range from about 1 to 50 mg. preferably from about 2 to 30 mg per day in terms of the active component (e.g. the compound of the formula (I) having antagonistic action to angiotensin II).

[Working Examples]

For a more complete understanding of the instant invention, reference is made to the following illustrative examples, although it should be clearly understood that the invention is not to be limited thereto.

Example 1

In a fluid-bed granulator (Powrex*, FD-3S), in accordance with the following formulation, polyethylene glycol 6000 as the oleaginous substance having a lower melting point was mixed with other ingredients including the compound of the formula (I) having antagonistic action to angiotensin II (the active component). Onto the mixture was sprayed an aqueous solution of hydroxypropyl cellulose as the binder, which was granulated and dried to give granules. To the granules were added calcium carboxymethyl cellulose and magnesium stearate, and the mixture was made into tablets by a tabletting machine (Kikusui Seisakusho, Correct* 19K) using a punch (7.0 mm in diameter) of bevelled edge at a weight of 130 mg under a pressure of 2.0 ton/cm^2. The tablets thus prepared were stored at 50°C or 40°C and subjected to stability test.

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Formulation

Materials	Sample	Control
	A	B
the formula (V)	1.0 mg	1.0 mg
Lactose	93.0	99.0
Corn startch	20.0	20.0
Polyethylene glycol 6000	6.0	-
Hydroxypropyl cellulose	4.0	4.0
(water)	(0.135 ml)	(0.135 ml)
Sub-total	124.0 mg	124.0 mg
Carboxylmethylcellulose-calcium	5.6	5.6
Magnesium stearate	0.4	0.4
Total	130.0 mg	130.0 mg

Results of stability test

I t e m	Sample	Control
	A	B
At the initial time of test (hereinafter simply written as "initial")	(100)	(100)
Residual ratio after storing at 50°C for 4 weeks	99.3	89.7
Residual ratio after storing at 40°C for 8 weeks	99.8	94.8

The stability test was conducted by determining the content of the formula (V) after storing the respective periods by liquid chromatography, and the residual ratios were shown by percent. As the control,

the composition (B) containing no stabilizing agent (an oleaginous substance having a lower melting point) was employed, and the test was conducted by comparing it with the composition (A) containing polyethylene glycol 6000 as the oleaginous substance having a lower melting point. As is clear from the test results, the composition of this invention is excellent in stability as compared with the control.

Example 2

In a fluid-bed granulator (Glatt* WSG-15), in accordance with the same formulation as in Example 1, polyethylene glycol 6000 as the oleaginous substance having a lower melting point was dissolved in water, in which the formula (V) was dispersed, then the dispersion was sprayed on a powder mixture of lactose and corn starch. The resultant material was further sprayed with an aqueous solution of hydroxypropyl cellulose, which was granulated and dried to give granules. The granules were mixed with calcium carboxymethyl cellulose and magnesium stearate, and the mixture was made into tablets by a tabletting machine using a punch (7.0 mm in diameter) of bevelled edge at a weight of 130 mg under a pressure of 2.0 ton/cm^2.

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Test results of stability

Item	Sample	Control
	A	B
Initial	(100)	(100)
Residual ratio after storing at 50°C for one week	99.0	89.0
Residual ratio after storing at 40°C for 4 weeks	99.8	91.1

From the test results, it is understood that, in the composition of this invention, the formula (V) is remarkably stable as compared with that in the control.

Example 3

In a fluid-bed granulator (Powrex* FD-5S), in accordance with the same formulation as in Example 1, an aqueous solution of polyethylene glycol 6000 as the oleaginous substance having a lower melting point was sprayed onto a powder mixture of lactose and corn starch. The resultant material was further sprayed with a dispersion of the formula (V) in an aqueous solution of hydroxypropyl cellulose, which was granulated and dried to give granules. The granules were mixed with calcium carboxymethyl cellulose and magnesium stearate, and the mixture was made into tablets by a tabletting machine (Kikusui Seisakusho, Correct* 19K) using a punch of shallow concave (7.0 mm in diameter) at a weight of 130 mg under a pressure of 2.0 ton/cm^2.

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Further, in accordance with the following formulation of aqueous coating tablets, the aqueous coating (5 mg) was performed by Accelacoater* (Manesty Co., Ltd., Great Britain) using hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

Formulation

Materials	per tablet
Core tablet	130.0 mg
Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose	3.50 mg
Polyethylene glycol 6000	0.75 mg
Titanium oxide	0.75 mg
(water)	(0.05 ml)
Total	135.0 mg

Results of stability test

Item	Sample	Control
	A	B
Initial	(100)	(100)
Residual ratio after storing at 50°C for 4 weeks	99.4	88.4
Residual ratio after storing at 40°C for 8 weeks	100.0	90.2

From the results of the test, it is understood that the formula (V) according to this invention is remarkably stable

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as compared with that of the control.

Example 4

In a granulator equipped with stirrer (Powrex*, vertical granulator VG10), the formula (V) was dispersed in an aqueous solution of polyethylene glycol 6000 as the oleaginous substance having a lower melting point and HPC. This dispersion was added to a powder mixture of lactose and corn starch, which was granulated and dried to give granules, followed by addition of calcium carboxymethyl cellulose and magensium stearate. The mixture was made into tablets by a tabletting machine using a punch of bevelled edge (7.0 mm in diameter) at a weight of 130 mg under a pressure of 2.0 ton/cm^2.

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Formulation

Materials	Sample	Control
	A	B
the formula (V)	10.0 mg	10.0 mg
Lactose	84.0	90.0
Corn startch	20.0	20.0
Polyethylene glycol 6000	6.0	-
Hydroxypropyl cellulose	4.0	4.0
(water)	(0.024 ml)	(0.024 ml)
Sub-total	124.0 mg	124.0 mg
Carboxylmethylcellulose-calcium	5.6	5.6
Magnesium stearate	0.4	0.4
Total	130.0 mg	130.0 mg

Results of stability test

I t e m	Sample	Control
	A	B
Initial	(100)	(100)
Residual ratio after storing at 50°C for 4 weeks	99.1	87.2
Residual ratio after storing at 40°C for 8 weeks	99.5	89.7

From the results of the test, it is understood that, in the composition of this invention, the formula (V) is remarkably stable as compared with that in the control.

Example 5

In substantially the same manner as in Example 1,

tablets were prepared under the formulation as shown in the following Table 1. These tablets were subjected to the test of stability in substantially the same manner as in Example 1. The results are shown in Table 2.

[Table 1]
Formulation

Materials	Samples				Control
	A	B	C	D	E
the formula (V)	1.0 mg	1.0 mg	1.0 mg	1.0 mg	1.0 mg
Lactose	98.0	89.0	93.0	93.0	99.0
Corn starch	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Stearyl alcohol	1.0	10.0	-	-	-
Sucrose fatty acid ester	-	-	6.0	-	-
Sorbitan fatty acid ester	-	-	-	6.0	-
Hydroxy propyl cellolose	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
(Water)	(0.135ml)	(0.135)	(0.135)	(0.135)	(0.135)
Sub-total	124.0mg	124.0	124.0	124.0	124.0
Carboxymethyl cellulose calcium	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
Magnesium stearate	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total	130.0mg	130.0	130.0	130.0	130.0

[Table 2]

Results of stability test

Item	Samples				Control
	A	B	C	D	E
Initial	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)
Residual ratio after storing at 50°C for 4 weeks	99.0	99.4	98.9	99.1	89.7
Residual ratio after storing at 40°C for 4 weeks	99.2	100.0	99.3	99.6	94.8

From the above test results, it is understood that the composition of this invention in which an oleaginous substance having a relatively low melting point is excellent in the stability of the formula (V) contained therein.

Example 6

In substantially the same manner as in Example 1, tablets can be prepared under the formulations as shown in the following Table 3.

[Table 3]
Formulation

Materials	Samples			
	A	B	C	D
2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid	1.0mg	-	-	-
2-butyl-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid	-	1.0	-	-
1-(cyclohexyloxy-carbonyloxy)ethyl 2-butyl-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]-methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylate	-	-	1.0	-
pivaloyloxymethyl 2-butyl-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]-methyl]-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate	-	-	-	1.0
Lactose	93.0	93.0	93.0	93.0
Corn starch	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Polyethylene glycol 6000	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Hydroxypropyl cellulose	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
(Water)	(0.135ml)	(0.135ml)	(0.135ml)	(0.135ml)
Sub-total	124.0mg	124.0mg	124.0mg	124.0mg
Carboxylmethylcellulose calcium	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
Magnesium stearate	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total	130.0mg	130.0mg	130.0mg	130.0mg

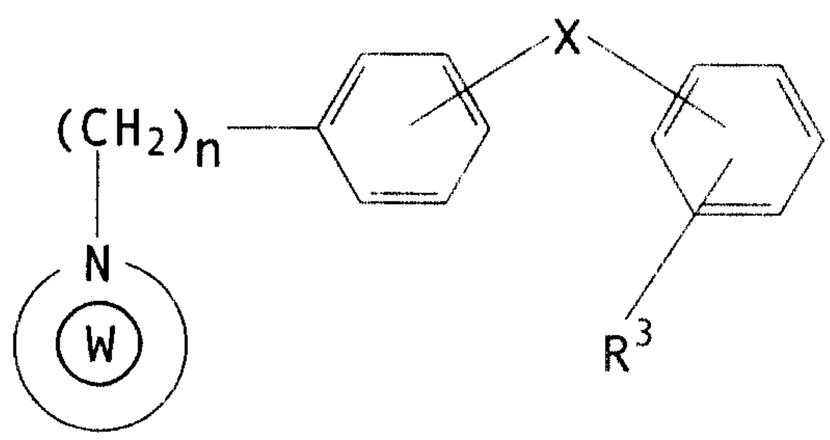
According to the present invention, orally administrable stable pharmaceutical compositions, in which decomposition of the active component is suppressed to maintain its high content ratio even

after the lapse of days, can be provided, by having the active components, including the formula (V), incorporated with an oleaginous substance whose melting point is relatively low.

CLAIMS:

1. A pharmaceutical composition for oral use, which comprises:

an effective amount of a compound having an antagonistic action to angiotensin II of the formula (I):



(I)

(wherein the ring W is an optionally substituted N-containing heterocyclic residue; R^3 is a group capable of forming an anion or a group convertible thereinto; X is a direct bond or a spacer having an atomic length of two or less between the phenylene group and the phenyl group; and n is an integer of 1 or 2), and

an oleaginous substance having a melting point of 20°C to 90°C in an amount sufficient to stabilize the compound of the formula (I).

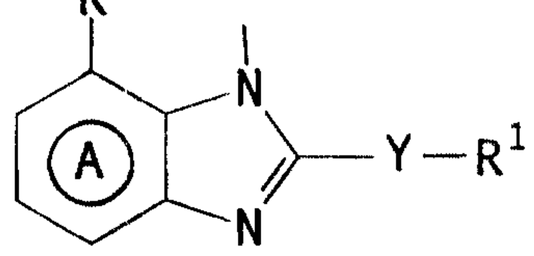
2. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula (I) is a crystalline substance having a melting point of 100 to 200°C.

3. The composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein X in the compound of the formula (I) is a direct bond.

4. The composition according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the ring W in the compound of the formula (I) is a benzimidazole ring.

24205-949

5. The composition according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the ring W in the compound of the formula (I) is a benzimidazole ring of the formula (II):



(II),

wherein:

the ring A is a benzene ring which may have besides R^2, at least one further substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, nitro, -CO-D' (in which D' is hydroxyl or C_{1-4}alkoxy whose alkyl portion is unsubstituted or substituted with hydroxyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{2-6}alkanoyloxy, 1-C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyloxy or amino which is unsubstituted or substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl);

R^1 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon residue;

R^2 is an optionally esterified carboxyl group; and

Y is a bond, -O-, -S(O)m-, wherein m denotes 0, 1 or 2, or $-N(R^4)-$, where R^4 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl group.

6. The composition according to claim 5, wherein R^2 in the benzimidazole ring of the formula (II) is a group represented by the formula -CO-D, wherein D is a hydroxyl group or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy whose alkyl portion is optionally substituted with hydroxyl, amino, halogen, a lower (C_{2-6}) alkanoyloxy, 1-lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxycarbonyloxy or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy.

7. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein R^3 in the compound of the formula (I) is an optionally substituted 5- to 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic residue containing one or more of N, S and O.

8. The composition according to claim 7, wherein the heterocyclic residue is tetrazolyl.

9. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula (I) is (±)-1-cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy)ethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate.

10. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula (I) is 2-butyl-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid.

11. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the melting point of the oleaginous substance ranges from about 20 to 60°C.

12. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the oleaginous substance is at least one member selected from the group of a hydrocarbon, a higher fatty acid, a higher alcohol, a fatty acid ester of a polyhydric alcohol, a higher alcohol ether of a polyhydric alcohol and a polymer or copolymer of an alkylene oxide.

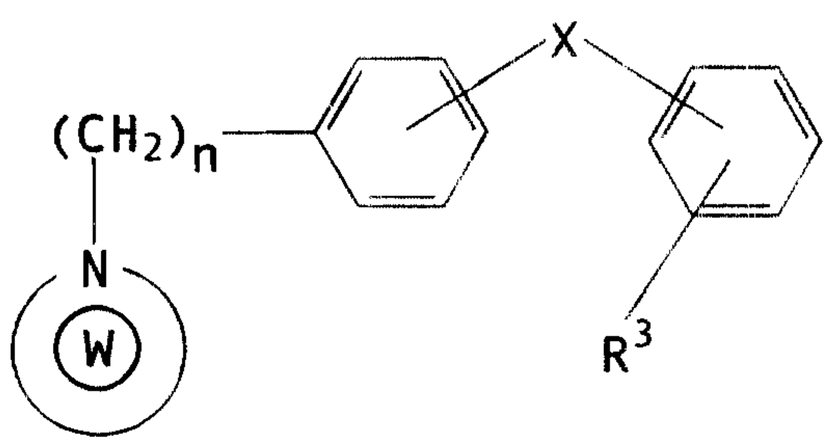
13. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the oleaginous substance is a polymer of an alkylene oxide.

14. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula (I) is (±)-1-(cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy)ethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-7-

carboxylate and the oleaginous substance is a polymer of an alkylene oxide.

15. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein the amount of the oleaginous substance is less than 0.1 part by weight per part by weight of the composition.

16. A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for oral use, which comprises an effective amount of a compound having antagonistic action to angiotensin II of the formula (I):



(I)

(wherein the ring W is an optionally substituted N-containing heterocyclic residue; R^3 is a group capable of forming an anion or a group convertible thereinto; X is a direct bond or a spacer having an atomic length of two or less between the phenylene group and the phenyl group; and n is an integer of 1 or 2), and an oleaginous substance having a melting point of 20°C to 90°C in an amount sufficient to stabilize the compound of the formula (I), which comprises:

admixing the compound of the formula (I) with the oleaginous substance and,

then subjecting the mixture to molding.

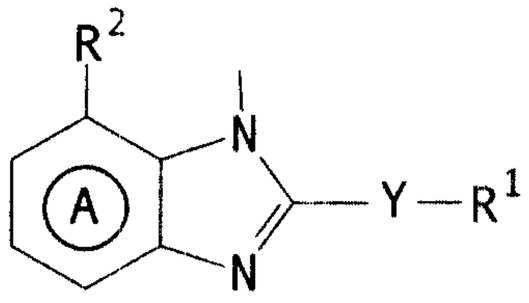
17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the compound of the formula (I) is a crystalline substance having a melting point of 100 to 200°C.

24205-949

18. The method according to claim 16 or 17, wherein X in the compound of the formula (I) is a direct bond.

19. A method according to claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the ring W in the compound of the formula (I) is a benzimidazole ring.

20. The method according to claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the ring W in the compound of the formula (I) is a benzimidazole ring of the formula (II):



(II),

wherein:

the ring A is a benzene ring which may have besides R^2, at least one further substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, nitro, -CO-D' (in which D' is hydroxyl or C_{1-4}alkoxy whose alkyl portion is unsubstituted or substituted with hydroxyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{2-6}alkanoyloxy, 1-C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyloxy or amino which is unsubstituted or substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl);

R^1 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon residue;

R^2 is an optionally esterified carboxyl group; and

Y is a bond, -O-, -S(O)m-, wherein m denotes 0, 1 or 2, or $-N(R^4)-$, where R^4 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl group.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein R^2 in the benzimidazole ring of the formula (II) is a group represented by the formula -CO-D, wherein D is hydroxyl or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy whose alkyl portion is optionally substituted with hydroxyl, amino, halogen, a lower (C_{2-6}) alkanoyloxy, 1-lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxycarbonyloxy or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy.

22. The method according to any one of claims 16 to 21, wherein R^3 in the compound of the formula (I) is an optionally substituted 5- to 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic residue containing one or more of N, S and O.

23. The method according to claim 22, wherein the heterocyclic residue is tetrazolyl.

24. The method according to claim 16, wherein the compound of the formula (I) is (±)-1-(cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy)ethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate.

25. The method according to claim 16, wherein the compound of the formula (I) is 2-butyl-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid.

26. The method according to any one of claims 16 to 25, wherein the melting point of the oleaginous substance ranges from about 20 to 60°C.

27. The method according to any one of claims 16 to 26, wherein the oleaginous substance is at least one member selected from the group of a hydrocarbon, a higher fatty acid, a higher alcohol, a fatty acid ester of a polyhydric alcohol, a higher alcohol ether of a polyhydric alcohol and a polymer or copolymer of an alkylene oxide.

24205-949

28. The method according to any one of claims 16 to 26, wherein the oleaginous substance is a polymer of an alkylene oxide.

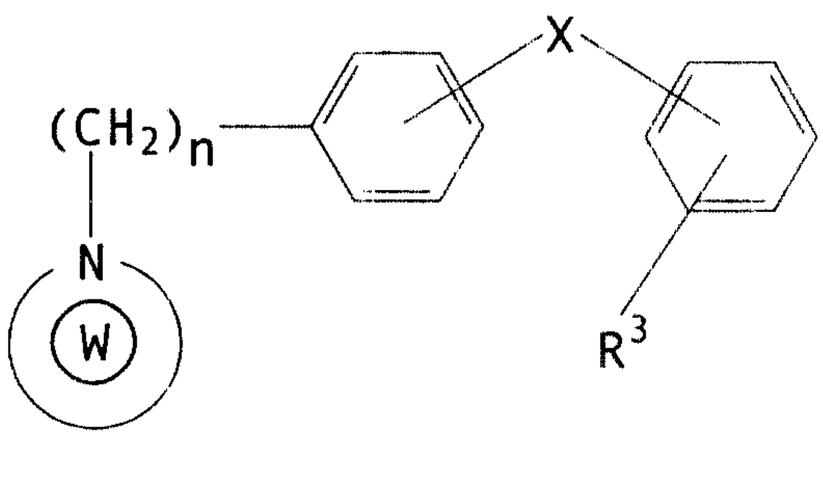
29. The method according to claim 16, wherein the compound of the formula (I) is (±)-1-(cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy)ethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate and the oleaginous substance is a polymer of an alkylene oxide.

30. The method according to any one of claims 16 to 29, wherein the amount of the oleaginous substance is less than 0.1 part by weight per part by weight of the composition.

31. The method according to any one of claims 16 to 30, wherein the molding is done under an elevated pressure.

32. A method for preparing a tablet comprising:

an angiotensin II (AII) receptor antagonist effective amount of a compound of the formula (I):



(I)

(wherein the ring W is an optionally substituted N-containing heterocyclic residue; R^3 is a group capable of forming an anion or a group convertible thereinto; X is a direct bond or a spacer having an atomic length of two or less between the phenylene group and the phenyl group; and n

is an integer of 1 or 2), that is a crystalline compound having a melting point of 100 to 200°C;

a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient suitable for preparing the tablet; and

an oleaginous substance having a melting point of 20°C to 90°C and exerting no undesirable influence on the compound of the formula (I) in an amount sufficient to stabilize the compound of the compound of the formula (I),

which method comprises:

blending the compound of the formula (I), the excipient and the oleaginous substance to form a mixture thereof; and

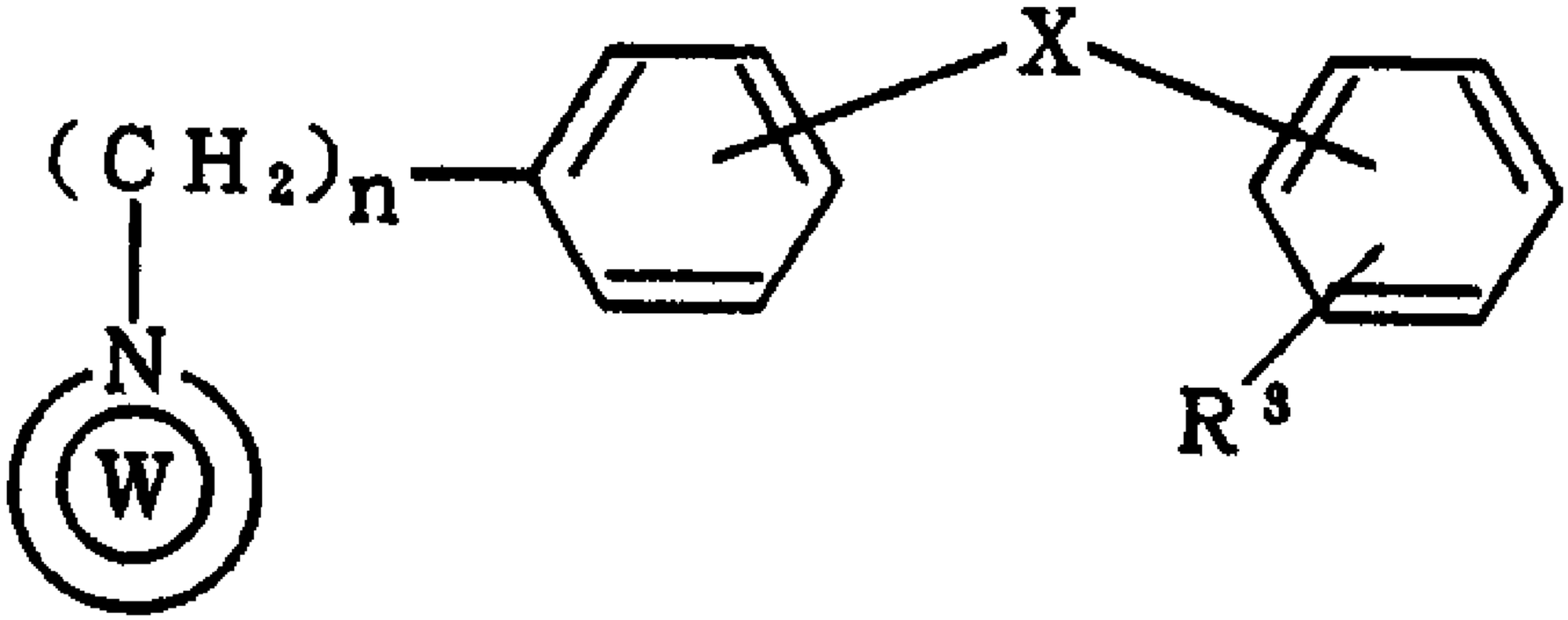
molding the mixture under an elevated pressure to form the tablet.

33. The method according to claim 32, wherein the compound of the formula (I) is (±)-1-(cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy)ethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate.

34. The method according to claim 32 or 33, wherein the oleaginous substance is a polymer of an alkylene oxide.

35. The method according to claim 34, wherein the polymer is polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of 1,000 to 10,000.

36. The method according to any one of claims 32 to 35, wherein the excipient comprises lactose, corn starch or both.



(I)