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(54) Titre : DERIVES D'ESTERS DE PENEM A PROPRIETES ANTIBACTERIENNES
(54) Title: ANTIBACTERIAL PENEM ESTERS DERIVATIVES

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

Antibiotic penem compounds are represented by formula (I), wherein R represents a group of general formulae (II), (III), or CH₂-Z, in which R₁ is a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl group, R₂ is a particular substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl or aralkyl group, n is an integer of 1-6, Y is a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic aliphatic group having 1 or 2 oxygen atoms in the ring thereof and Z is a specific 5-substituted 2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl group. Antibiotic compositions for oral administration are also described.





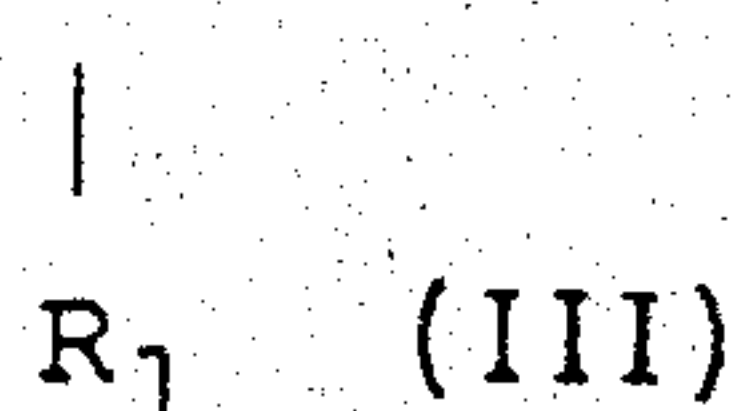
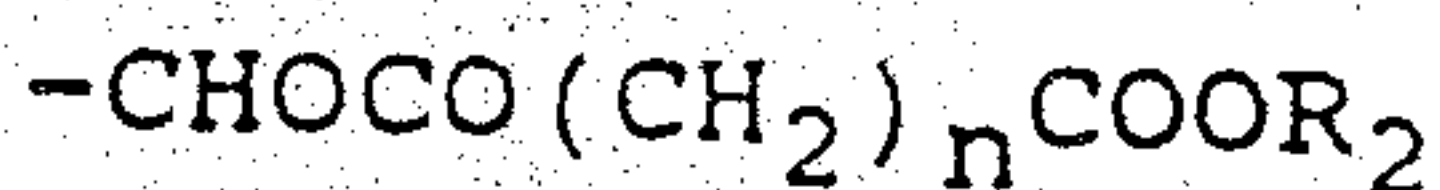
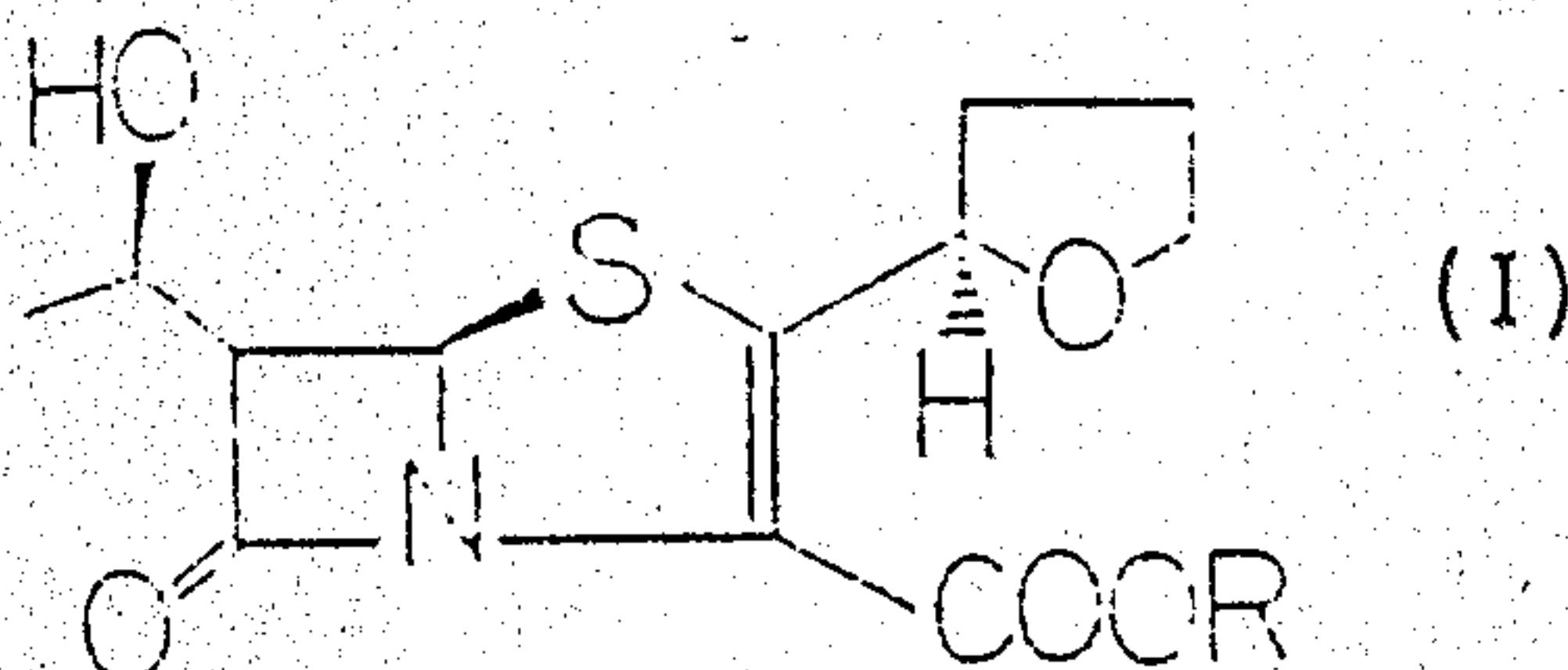
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/JP91/01098 (22) International Filing Date: 16 August 1991 (16.08.91) (30) Priority data: 2/217052 20 August 1990 (20.08.90) JP (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SUNTORY LIMITED [JP/JP]: 1-40, Dojimahama 2-chome, Kita-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 530 (JP). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): IWATA, Hiromitsu [JP/JP]; 27-7, Nanpeidai 5-chome, Takatsuki-shi, Osaka 569 (JP). NAKATSUKA, Takashi [JP/JP]: 405, 5-9, Wakayamadai 1-chome, Shimamoto-cho, Mishima-gun, Osaka 618 (JP). TANAKA, Rie [JP/JP]: 408, 1-37, Soujiji 1-chome, Ibaraki-shi, Osaka 567 (JP). ISHIGURO, Masaji [JP/JP]: 16-17, Fukui-cho, Takarazuka-shi, Hyogo 665 (JP).		(74) Agent: ONO, Nobuo; Fujii Bldg. 7F. 3-15, KandaSakumacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101 (JP). (81) Designated States: AT (European patent), AU, BE (European patent), BG, BR, CA, CH (European patent), CS, DE (European patent), DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FI, FR (European patent), GB (European patent), GR (European patent), HU, IT (European patent), JP, KR, LU (European patent), MC, NL (European patent), NO, PL, RO, SE (European patent), SU, US. Published With international search report.

(54) Title: ANTIBACTERIAL PENEM ESTERS DERIVATIVES



(57) Abstract

Antibiotic penem compounds are represented by formula (I), wherein R represents a group of general formulae (II), (III), or $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Z}$, in which R_1 is a linear or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl group, R_2 is a particular substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl or aralkyl group, n is an integer of 1-6, Y is a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic aliphatic group having 1 or 2 oxygen atoms in the ring thereof, and Z is a specific 5-substituted 2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl group. Antibiotic compositions for oral administration are also described.

DESCRIPTION

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ANTIBACTERIAL PENEM ESTERS DERIVATIVES

Technical Field

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The present invention relates to penem compounds, and more specifically to penem compounds which are expected to find clinical utility as promising antibiotics.

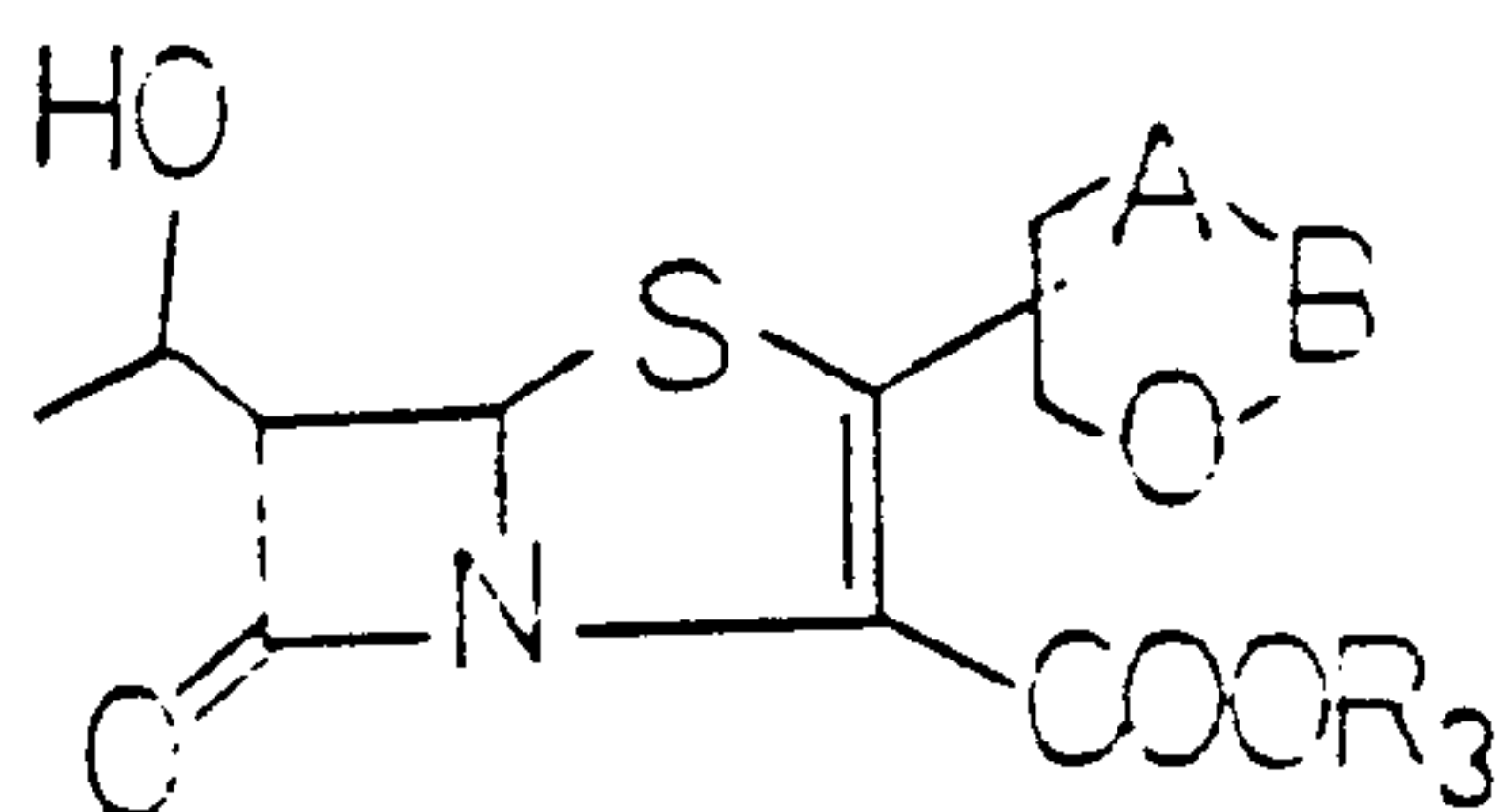
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Background Art

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The present inventors previously found that a group of penem compounds represented by the following formula (V):

25



(V)

wherein

30

R_3 is a hydrogen atom or allyl group,

-A- represents an oxygen or methylene group, and

-B- represents a methylene, ethylene or carbonyl group,

35

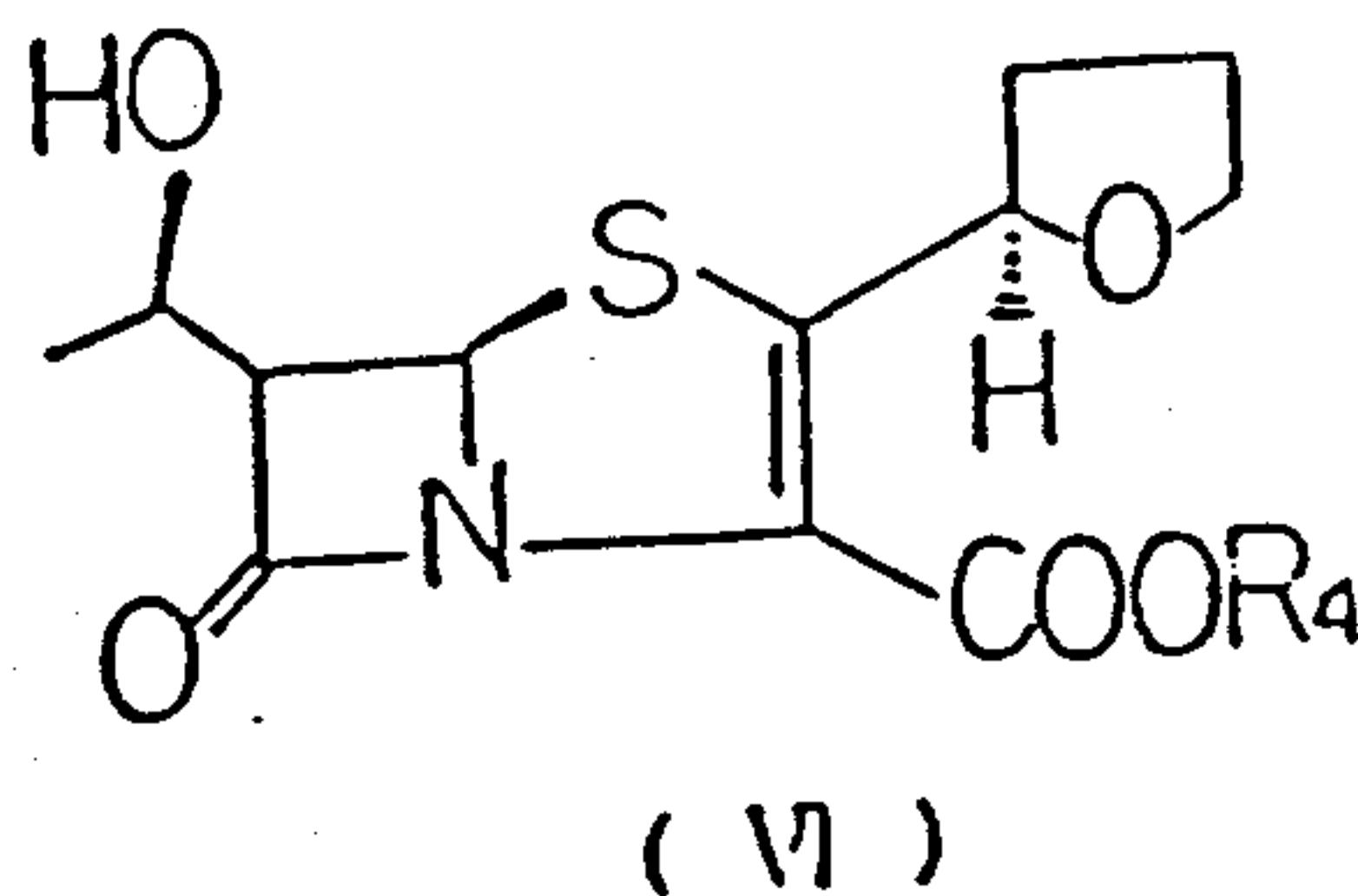
and their salts have excellent antibacterial activities on both gram-positive and gram-negative, aerobic or anaerobic bacteria

(Japanese Patent Publication No. 207387/1986).

High safety of these compounds has been confirmed by a safety test in which laboratory animals were used. Their development as medical drugs is now expected.

In the meantime, it has been found by the study on the correlation between structure and antibacterial activities of these compounds [J. Antibiotics, 41, 1685 (1988)] that, among 2-substituents of penem, (R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl group provides the highest antibacterial activities while (S)-2-tetrahydrofuryl group, a diastereomer at its 2-side chain group, and (R) or (S)-3-tetrahydrofuryl group, a position isomer, provide weaker activities particularly against gram-negative bacteria.

From these reasons, compounds represented by the following formula (VI):



wherein

R_4 represents a hydrogen atom or a group capable of forming a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, have drawn interest as antibiotics. These compounds

are also interesting in that they do not require any special chemical modification for oral absorption and they themselves can be developed as both injections and oral drugs.

5

The bioavailability of the above-described compounds *per se* in laboratory animal (rats) has been found by no means inferior to commercial drugs which are used clinically.

10

However, from the viewpoint of safety and economy, further enhancement of their bioavailability upon oral administration is apparently more advantageous. As far as the above compounds are concerned, there is yet room for further improvement in this regard.

15

Regarding improvements on the absorption upon oral administration, active studies have been conducted on penicillin and cephalosporin antibiotics so that many of these antibiotics are used as curative medicines. There are, however, only a few study reports of this type on penem and carbapenem antibiotics [J. Antibiotics, 36, 938, (1983); Japanese Patent Publication No. 67287/1990]. There has therefore been interest in determining whether or not the approaches used for penicillin and cephalosporin antibiotics are equally applicable to penem compounds.

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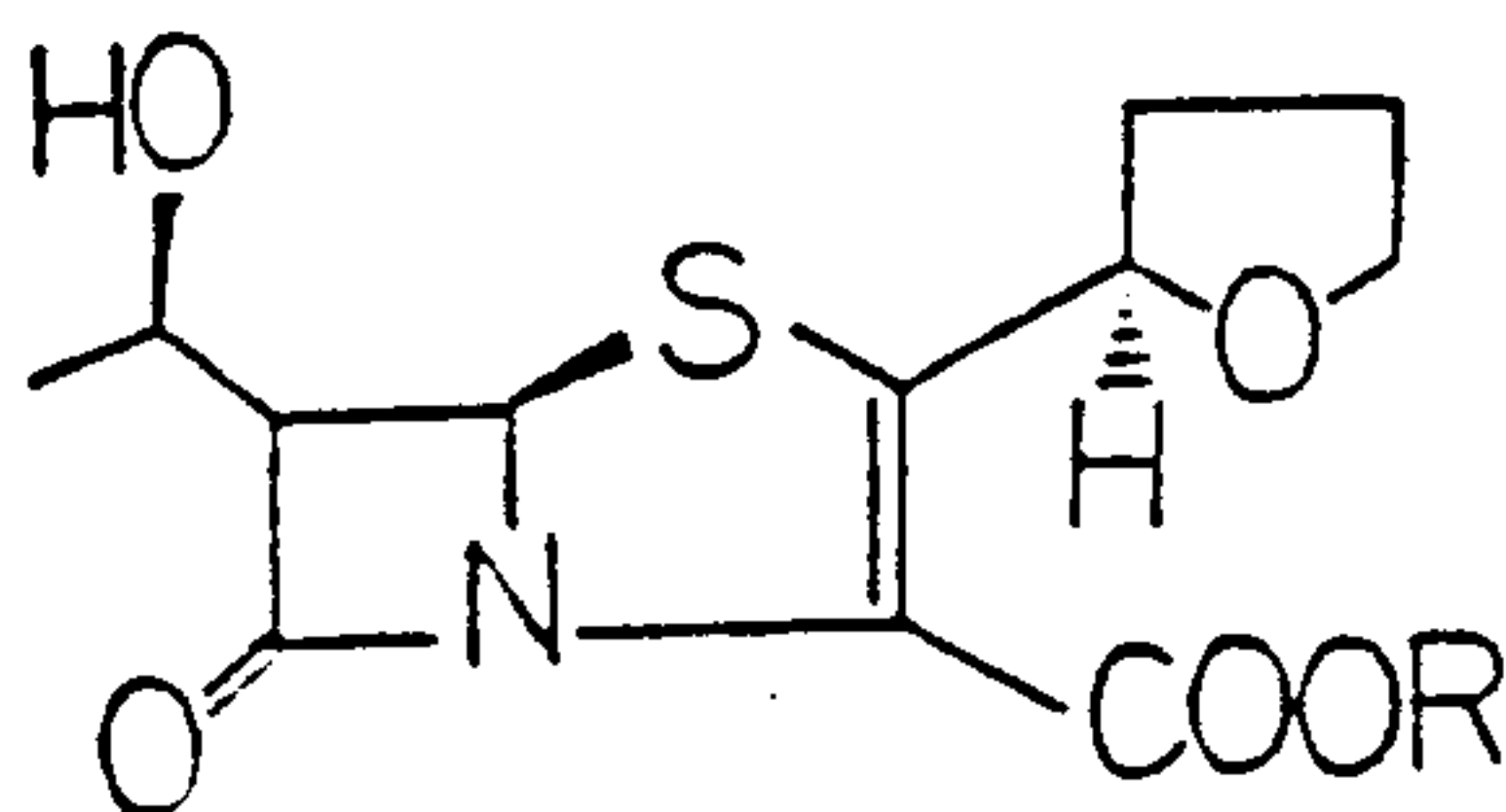
Disclosure of Invention

The present inventors have carried out an extensive investigation on the compounds (VI) with a view toward making an improvement in their bioavailability. As a result, it has been found that protection of their carboxyl group with a particular ester-forming group can significantly improve their bioavailability, leading to the completion of the present invention.

10

The present invention provides a penem compound represented by the following formula (I):

15



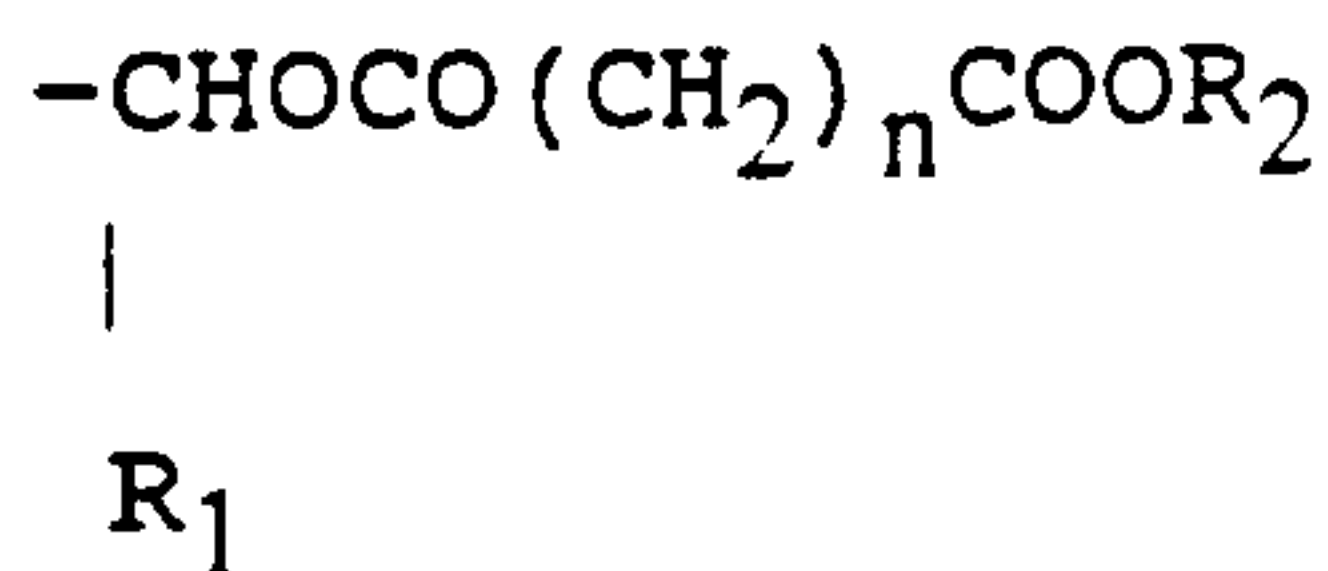
(I)

20

wherein

R represents a group of the general formula (II), (III) or (IV):

25



(II)

in which

30

R_1 is a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl group;

35

R_2 is a C_1 - C_6 alkyl or alkenyl group, a C_6 - C_{10} aryl group, a C_7 - C_{11} aralkyl group, or a said R_2 group substituted by one or more substituents selected from C_1 - C_6 alkyl groups, C_6 - C_{10} aryl groups, C_7 - C_{11} aralkyl groups, hydroxyl groups, C_1 - C_6

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 5 & \text{-CHOCO-Y} & \\ & | & \\ & \text{R}_1 & \end{array} \quad (\text{III})$$

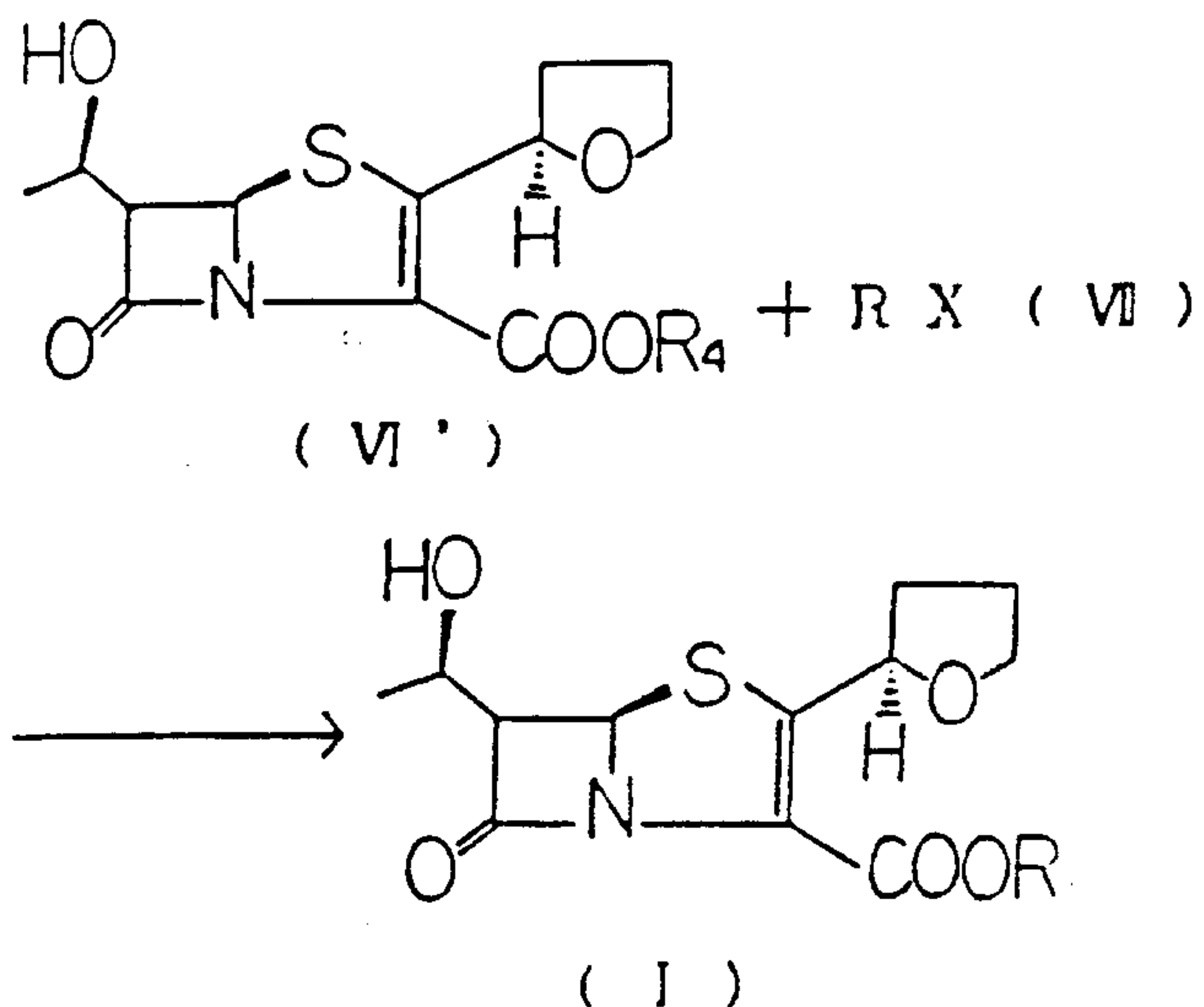
10 R₁ has the same meaning as defined above;
Y is a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic aliphatic group
having 1 or 2 oxygen atoms in the ring thereof, or

in which

20 Z is a 5-substituted 2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl group,
said 5-substituent being a C₁-C₆ alkyl group, a C₆-C₁₀ aryl
group, a C₇-C₁₁ aralkyl group, or a said 5- substituent
substituted by one or more substituents selected from C₁-C₆
alkyl groups, C₆-C₁₀ aryl groups, C₇-C₁₁ aralkyl groups,
hydroxyl groups, C₁-C₆ alkoxy groups and halogen atoms.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

The penem compound (I) of the present invention can be synthesized, for example, by reacting a halogenated alkyl compound (VII) with a penem compound (VI') in accordance with the following formula:



wherein

X represents a halogen atom,

R₄ represents a hydrogen or alkali metal atom or an amino residuum, and

5 R has the same meaning as defined above.

When R₄ in the compound (IV') is an alkali metal atom or an amino residuum in this invention, the target compound can be obtained by stirring the compound (VI') and the
10 halogenated alkyl compound (VII) in an organic solvent.

When R₄ in the compound (VI') is a hydrogen atom, on the other hand, it is first reacted with an alkali metal hydroxide, an alkali metal salt or an amine compound in an
15 organic solvent to form a salt. The halogenated alkyl compound (VII) is then reacted with the reaction mixture, whereby the target compound is synthesized.

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The halogenated alkyl compound represented by the formula (VII) serves to efficiently esterify the carboxyl group of the compound (VI') with the group R so that the target compound of the formula (I) is prepared. Examples of the compound (VII) include those containing, as the group R, a tetrahydrofuryl-carbonyloxymethyl group, tetrahydropyranylcabonyloxy-methyl group, 1,3-dioxolanylcabonyloxymethyl group, 2-oxo-1,3-dioxolanylcabonyloxymethyl group, 1,4-dioxanylcabonyloxymethyl group or the like or its optically active isomer such as an (R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl-carbonyloxymethyl group, (S)-2-tetrahydrofuryl-carbonyloxymethyl group or (5-methyl-2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl)methyl group and, as a halogen X, a chlorine, bromine or iodine atom.

No particular limitation is imposed on the alkali metal insofar as it forms a salt with the compound (VI'). Examples of the alkali metal include lithium, sodium and potassium. Examples of their hydroxides and salts include sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium bicarbonate, sodium carboxylate, potassium bicarbonate and potassium carbonate. Exemplary amine compounds include ammonia, triethylamine, and diisopropyl ethyl amine.

No particular limitation is imposed on the reac-

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tion solvent. Examples of the reaction solvent include aromatic hydrocarbons such as toluene and xylene, aliphatic hydrocarbons such as pentane and hexane, halogenated alkyls such as methylene chloride and chloroform, halogenated aryls such as chlorobenzenes, ketones such as acetone and methyl ethyl ketone, nitriles such as acetonitrile and propionitrile, amides such as dimethylformamide, sulfoxides such as dimethyl sulfoxide, ethers such as diethyl ether and tetrahydrofuran, and alcohols such as isopropanol and t-butanol. They can be used either singly or in combination.

The reaction may be carried out at room temperature or, when desired, under heating at a temperature below 80°C. The reaction time is generally 1-48 hours although it varies depending on the halogenated alkyl compound to be used.

As an alternative process for the preparation of the compound of this invention, the compound can also be synthesized by converting the compound of the formula (VI) into its chloromethyl or iodomethyl ester in accordance with the process proposed by B. Balzer et al. [J. Antibiotics, 33, 1183 (1980)] and then reacting it with a carboxylate salt represented by the following formula (VIII):

- 9 -

 R_5 -COOM

(VIII)

wherein R_5 has the same meaning as Y and M is an alkali metal or an amino residuum.

5 This reaction is carried out at a temperature in the range of from -40°C to room temperature, and is normally completed in 1-48 hours.

10 The penem compound (I) obtained as described above may be used as is but, in general, is purified, as needed, by a method such as column chromatography or recrystallization for use as a medicine.

For oral, parenteral or external administration, the compounds according to the present invention can be formulated as antibiotics in a manner known *per se* in the art.

15 Although the dosage of each penem derivative of the present invention varies depending on many factors, the typical daily dosage ranges from 50 mg to 3 g for standard adults with the administration of 100 mg to 2 g in divided portions being preferred. In general, 20 the above dosage will be administered in the form of a dosage unit which contains an appropriate amount of the active ingredient and a suitable, physiologically-acceptable carrier or extender.

25 For oral administration, tablets or capsules can be used. They may contain - together with the active

- 10 -

ingredient - an extender, e.g., lactose, glucose, sucrose, mannitol, sorbitol or cellulose, and a lubricant, e.g., talc, stearic acid or a stearate salt. Tablets may additionally contain a binder, for example, hydroxypropyl cellulose or starch.

The compounds according to the present invention can be used not only for men but also for animals.

The present invention will hereinafter be described more specifically by the following examples.

It is however borne in mind that the present invention is not limited at all by these examples.

Example 1

Chloromethyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]penem-3-carboxylate
(Compound 6):

To the mixture of sodium (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]penem-3-carboxylate 2.5 hydrate (Compound 1, 24.7 g), tetrabutylammonium sulfate (2.38 g) and potassium bicarbonate (21.0 g), water (70 ml) and methylene chloride (70 ml) were added. Into the resultant mixture, a solution of chloromethyl chlorosulfate (11.5 g) diluted in methylene chloride (280 ml) was added dropwise over about 10 minutes under ice cooling and stirring. After the reaction mixture was stirred for addi-

- 11 -

tional 2.5 hours at room temperature, the organic layer was collected and washed with water. The organic layer was dried and then concentrated. The residue so obtained was purified by passing it through a silica gel column. The title compound was obtained in the amount of 9.92 g.

Example 2

Iodomethyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-
2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]penem-3-carboxylate
(Compound 7):

The mixture of chloromethyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]penem-3-carboxylate (Compound 6, 334 mg), sodium iodide (225 mg) and acetone (2 ml) was stirred over night at room temperature, and the reaction mixture was concentrated. Ethyl acetate was added to the residue. The resultant solution was washed with water, dried, and then concentrated, whereby 359 mg of the title compound were obtained.

Example 3

[5-(allyloxy)glutaryl]oxymethyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]penem-3-carboxylate (Compound 2):

The mixture of iodomethyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]penem-3-

carboxylate (Compound 7, 3.4 g), sodium monoallyl-glutarate (3.83 g) and N,N-dimethylformamide (20 ml) was allowed to stand overnight at -20°C. The reaction mixture was then diluted with ethyl ether and washed with water. The organic layer was dried and then concentrated. The residue was purified by passing it through a silica gel column, whereby 0.553 g of the title compound was obtained.

Example 4

10

(R)-2-tetrahydrofurylcarbonyloxymethyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]-penem-3-carboxylate (Compound 3):

15

The mixture of iodomethyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]penem-3-carboxylate (Compound 7, 3.4 g), (R)-tetrahydro-2-furoic acid sodium salt (1.38 g) and N,N-dimethylformamide (20 ml) was stirred for 2 hours at room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl ether and then washed with water. The organic layer was dried and concentrated. The residue was purified by passing it through a silica gel column, whereby 0.72 g of the title compound was obtained.

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Example 5

(S)-2-Tetrahydrofurylcarbonyloxymethyl (5R,6S)-6-
[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]-
5 penem-3-carboxylate (Compound 4):

The mixture of iodomethyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-
hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]penem-3-carboxylate
(Compound 7, 3.4 g), (S)-tetrahydro-2-furoic acid sodium
10 salt (1.38 g) and N,N-dimethylformamide (20 ml) was stirred
for 2 hours at room temperature. The reaction mixture was
diluted with ethyl ether, followed by washing with water.
The organic layer was dried and then concentrated. The
residue was purified by passing it through a silica gel
15 column, whereby 0.92 g of the title compound was obtained.

Example 6

(5-Methyl-2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl)methyl (5R,6S)-
20 6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-
tetrahydrofuryl]penem-3-carboxylate (Compound 5):

The mixture of sodium (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxy-
ethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]penem-3-carboxylate 2.5
25 hydrate (Compound 1, 3.4 g), 4-iodomethyl-5-methyl-2-
oxo-1,3-dioxolene (1.38 g) and N,N-dimethylformamide (20
ml) was stirred for 5 hours at room temperature. Water was
added to the reaction mixture, and the

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resultant mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate.
The ethyl acetate layer was washed with water, dried
and then concentrated. The residue was purified by
passing it through a silica gel column whereby 1.75 g
of the title compound were obtained.

Physical properties of the compounds synthesized
in Examples 2-7 are summarized in Table 1.

10

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Table 1 (1)

Comp'd No.	Compound	Appearance	IR ^{neat} (cm ⁻¹)	NMR (CDCl ₃)
2	[[5-(allyloxy)glutaryl]oxy]-methyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[[[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]-penem-3-carboxylate	Yellow oil	3495, 2976 2879, 1790 1768, 1716 1324	1.34(3H, d, J=6.6Hz), 1.72-1.86(1H, m), 1.90-2.09(3H, m), 2.34-2.53(4H, m), 3.72(1H, dd, J=1.3Hz, 6.6Hz), 3.80-4.05(2H, m), 4.18-4.27(1H, m), 4.58(2H, md, J=5.3Hz), 5.20-5.37(3H, m), 5.51(1H, d, J=1.3Hz), 5.80-5.98(3H, m)
3	(R)-2-tetrahydrofurylcarbonyloxy-methyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]-penem-3-carboxylate	Yellow oil	3488, 2975 2877, 1786 1719, 1323	1.33(3H, d, J=6.0Hz), 1.60-2.14(6H, m), 2.17-2.31(1H, m), 2.36-2.53(1H, m), 3.71(1H, dd, J=1.3Hz, 6.6Hz), 3.82-4.09(4H, m), 4.15-4.26(1H, m), 4.47-4.55(1H, m), 5.32(1H, t, J=7.3Hz), 5.51(1H, d, J=1.3Hz), 5.90(2H, s)
4	(S)-2-tetrahydrofurylcarbonyloxy-methyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]-penem-3-carboxylate	Yellow oil	3466, 2975 2876, 1786 1719, 1323	1.34(3H, d, J=5.8Hz), 1.52-2.16(6H, m), 2.18-2.34(1H, m), 2.38-2.52(1H, m), 3.71(1H, dd, J=1.3Hz, 6.6Hz), 3.81-4.06(4H, m), 4.15-4.28(1H, m), 4.45-4.56(1H, m), 5.31(1H, t, J=7.3Hz), 5.50(1H, d, J=2Hz), 5.88(2H, dd, J=5.9Hz, 14.5Hz)

Table 1 (2)

Comp'd No.	Compound	Appearance	IR ^{neat} (cm ⁻¹)	NMR (CDCl ₃)
5	(5-Methyl-2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl)methyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]-penem-3-carboxylate	Pale yellow crystal	3500, 1820 1785, 1706 1322	1.35(3H, d, J=6Hz), 1.75-2.10(3H, m), 2.20(3H, s), 2.35-2.50(1H, m), 3.72(1H, d, J=5Hz), 3.80-4.05 (2H, m), 4.24(1H, q, J=5Hz), 4.95(2H, s), 5.31 (1H, t, J=7Hz), 5.50(1H, s)
6	Chloromethyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]penem-3-carboxylate	Pale yellow amorphous		1.36(3H, d, J=6.6Hz), 1.38-2.09(6H, m), 2.43-2.58 (1H, m), 3.73(1H, dd, J=2.0Hz, 6.6Hz), 3.83-4.04(2H, m), 4.17-4.30(1H, m), 5.28-5.37(1H, m), 5.53(1H, d, J=1.3Hz), 5.80(2H, dd, J=5.9Hz, 23.8Hz)
7	Iodomethyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]penem-3-carboxylate	Yellow crystal		1.36(3H, d, J=6.6Hz), 1.73-2.12(3H, m), 2.45-2.60 (1H, m), 3.73(1H, dd, J=1.3Hz, 5.9Hz), 3.81-4.04 (2H, m), 4.18-4.31(1H, m), 5.33(1H, t, J=7.3Hz), 5.52(1H, d, J=1.3Hz), 6.01(2H, s)

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Example 7

The bioavailability of certain compounds (I) of the present invention was tested relying upon their recovery rates in urine.

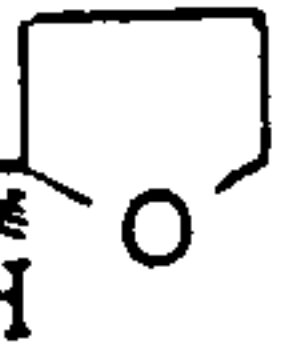
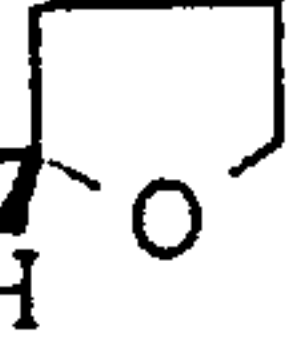
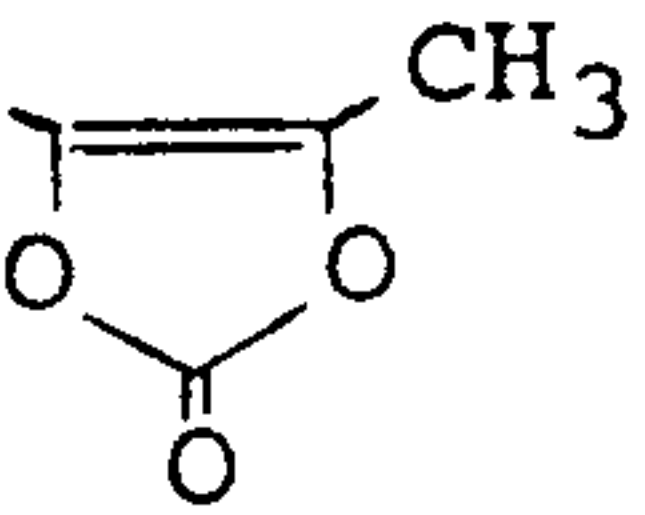
5 Each test compound (30 μ mole/kg) was orally administered to SD strain rats (three male rats per group). Urine was collected over 6 hours from the administration, and the recovery rate of the corresponding compound present in the urine was determined by
10 bioassay. The results are shown below.

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20

25

Table 2

Comp'd No.	R in the compound (I)	Urinary recovery (%)	Ratio
1	Na	4.38	1 (Control)
2	$-\text{CH}_2\text{OCO}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{COOCH}_2\text{CHCH}_2$	7.53	1.7
3	$-\text{CH}_2\text{OCO}$ 	10.90	2.5
4	$-\text{CH}_2\text{OCO}$ 	11.57	2.6
5	$-\text{CH}_2$ 	22.27	5.1

As is apparent from the results, the compounds (I) of the present invention showed a higher urinary recovery rate, in other words, a higher bioavailability compared with the penem compound (VI).

5

Preparation Examples

In each of the following preparation examples, the active ingredient may be, for example, Compound 5 or an equivalent amount of any one of the other compounds of the present invention.

15 Preparation 1

Capsules

	<u>Ingredient No.</u>	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>mg/capsule</u>
20	1	Invention compound	150
	2	Lactose	20
25	3	Magnesium stearate	4
		(Total)	174 mg

(Production procedures)

30

Ingredients 1 and 2 were combined together in a suitable mixer, to which Ingredient 3 was added, followed by further mixing. The resultant mixture was filled into capsules by a capsule filling machine.

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Preparation 2

Tablets

5	<u>Ingredient No.</u>	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>mg/tablet</u>
	1	Invention compound	150
	2	Crystalline cellulose	50
	3	Calcium carboxymethylcellulose	10
10	4	Magnesium stearate	4
		(Total)	214 mg

(Production procedures)

15 Ingredients 1-3 were combined together in a suitable mixer, to which Ingredient 4 was added, followed by mixing for additional several minutes. The resultant mixture was compressed into tablets of a predetermined size and weight by a tableting machine.

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Industrial Applicability

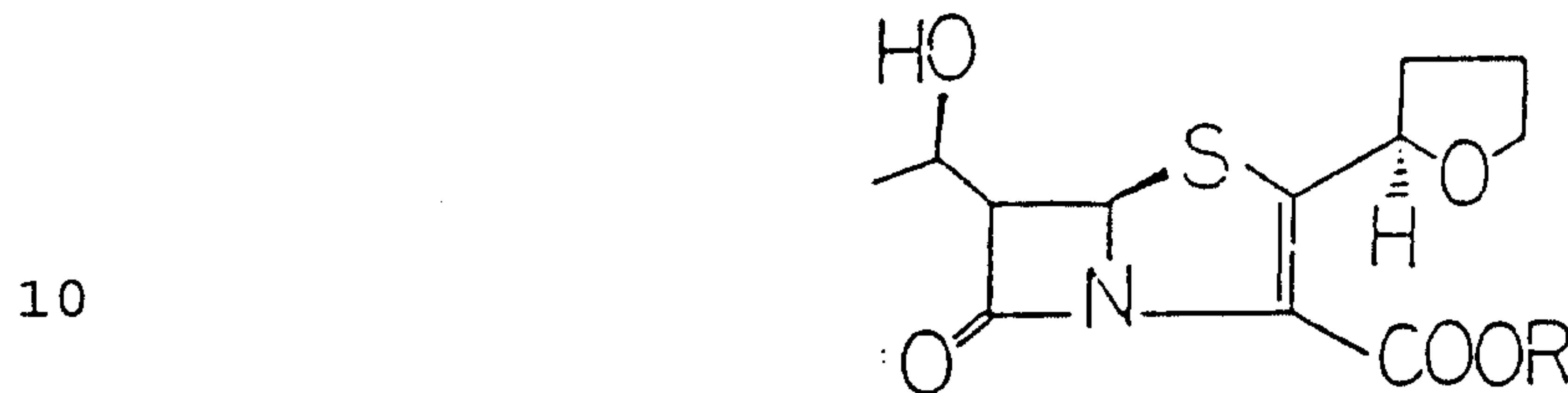
25 As has been described above, the compounds of the present invention exhibit an excellent bioavailability so that they can be advantageously used as oral antibiotics.

SUBSTITUTE SHEET

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THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

- 5 1. A penem compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein, R represents a group of the formula $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Z}$ in which Z is a 5-substituted 2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl group, said 5-substituent being a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, a C_6-C_{10} aryl group, a C_7-C_{11} aralkyl group, or said 5-substituent is substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_6-C_{10} aryl, C_7-C_{11} aralkyl, hydroxyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy and halogen.

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2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R represents a (5-methyl-2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl)methyl group.

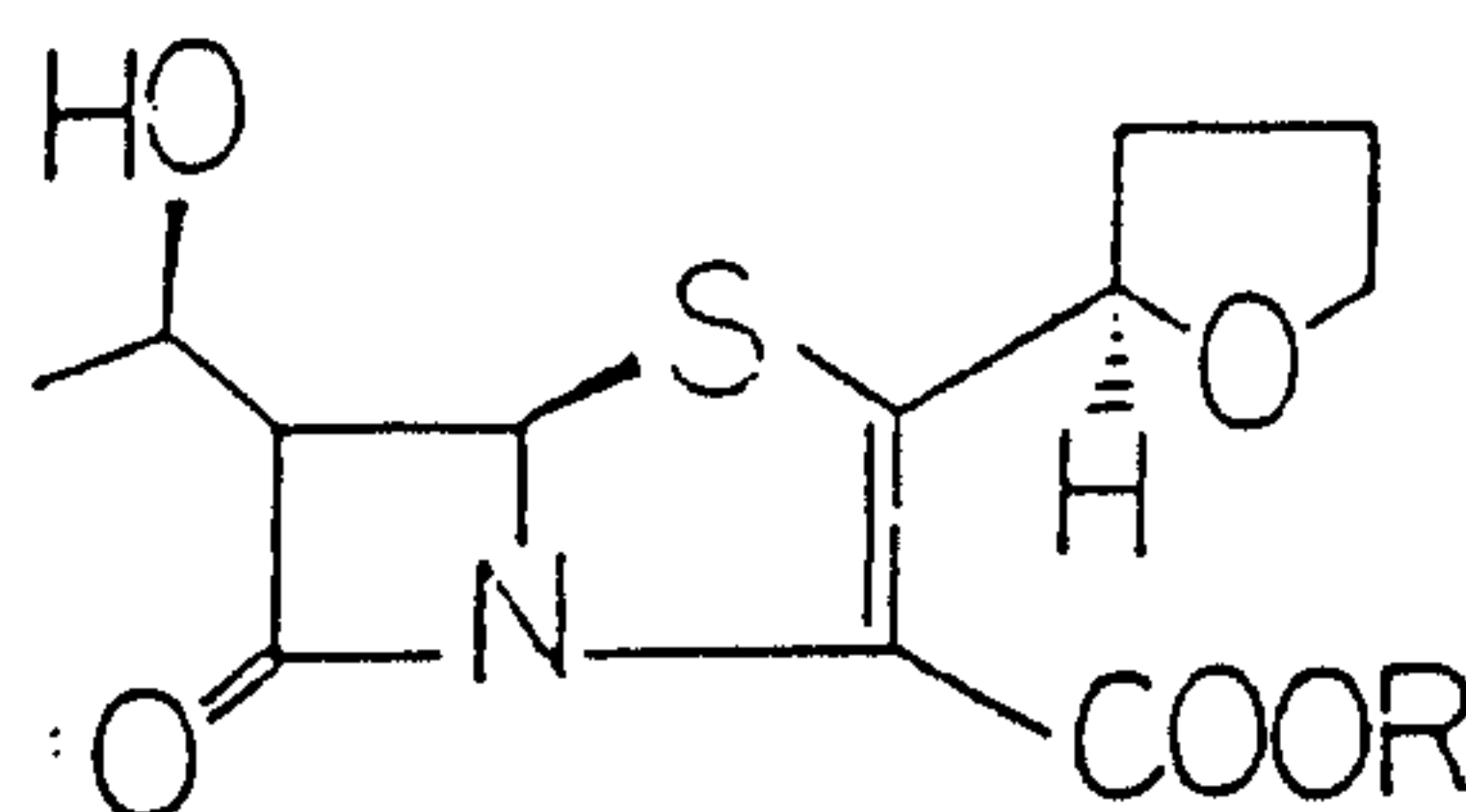
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3. The compound according to claim 1, which is (5-methyl-2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl)methyl(5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]-penem-3-carboxylate.

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4. An antibiotic composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of formula (I):

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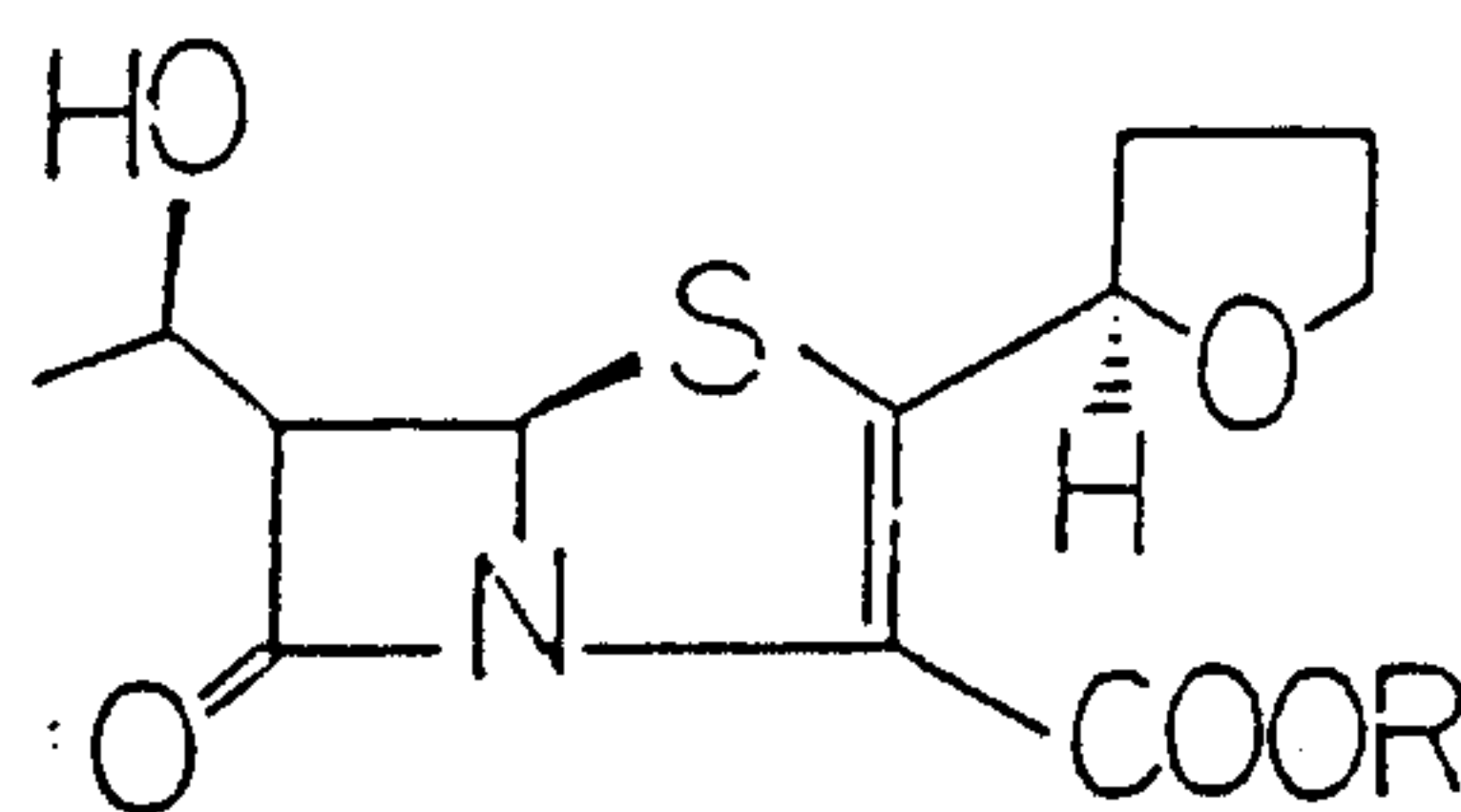


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wherein R represents a group of the formula $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Z}$ in which Z is a 5-substituted 2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl group, said 5-substituent being a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, a C_6-C_{10} aryl group, a C_7-C_{11} aralkyl group, or said 5-substituent is substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_6-C_{10} aryl, C_7-C_{11} aralkyl, hydroxyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy and halogen; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5. The composition according to claim 4 which is an oral dosage form.

6. A process for the preparation of a penem compound represented by formula (I):



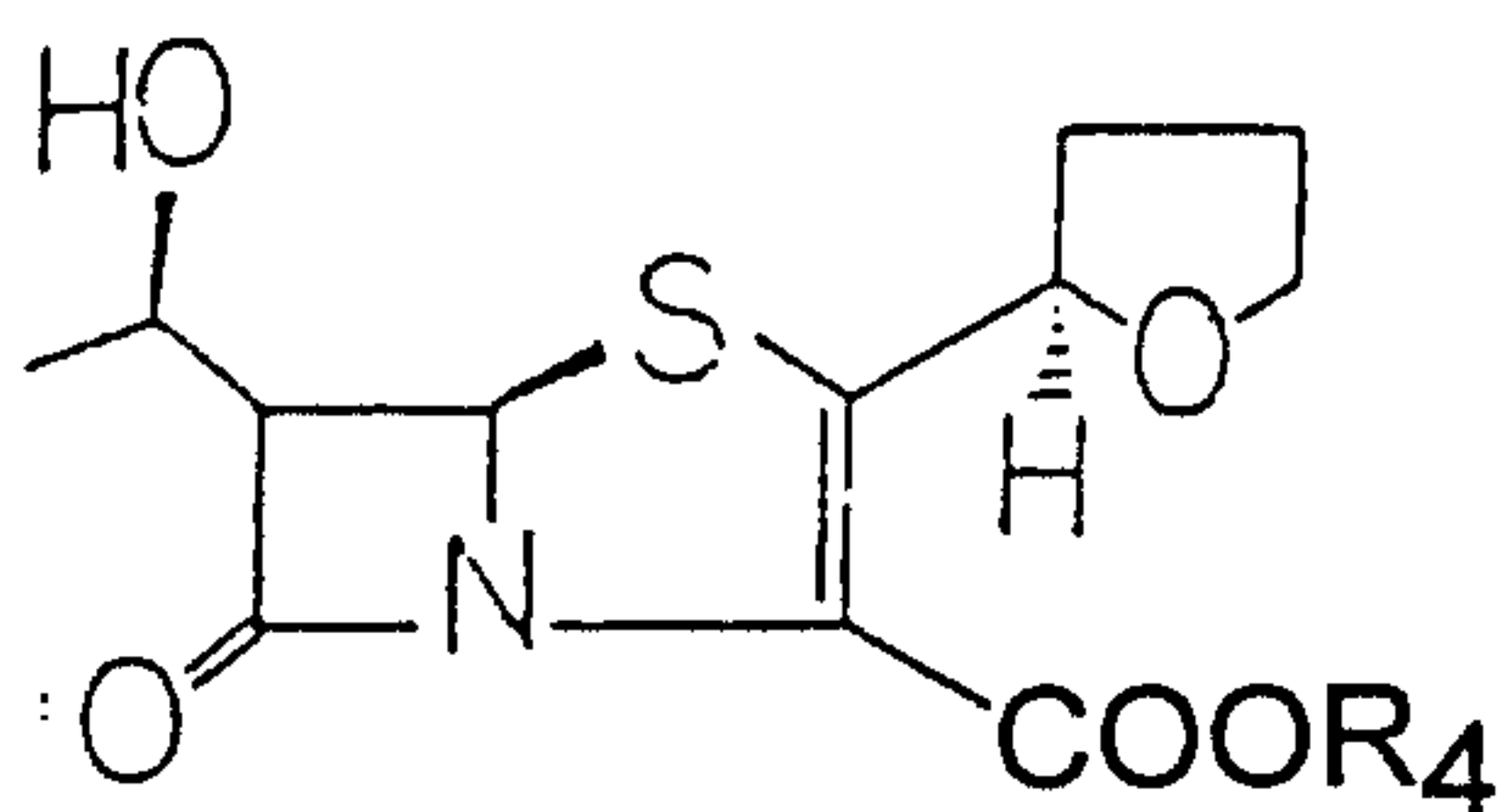
wherein R represents a group of the formula $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Z}$ in which Z is a 5-substituted 2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl group, said 5-substituent being a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, a C_6-C_{10} aryl group, a C_7-C_{11} aralkyl group, or said 5-substituent is substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_6-C_{10} aryl, C_7-C_{11} aralkyl, hydroxyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy and halogen, which comprises reacting a halogenated alkyl compound (VII):



in which X represents a halogen atom, and R has the same meaning as defined above, with a penem compound (VI):

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in which R_4 represents a hydrogen or alkali metal or an amino residuum.

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7. The process according to claim 1, wherein R represents a (5-methyl-2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl)methyl group.

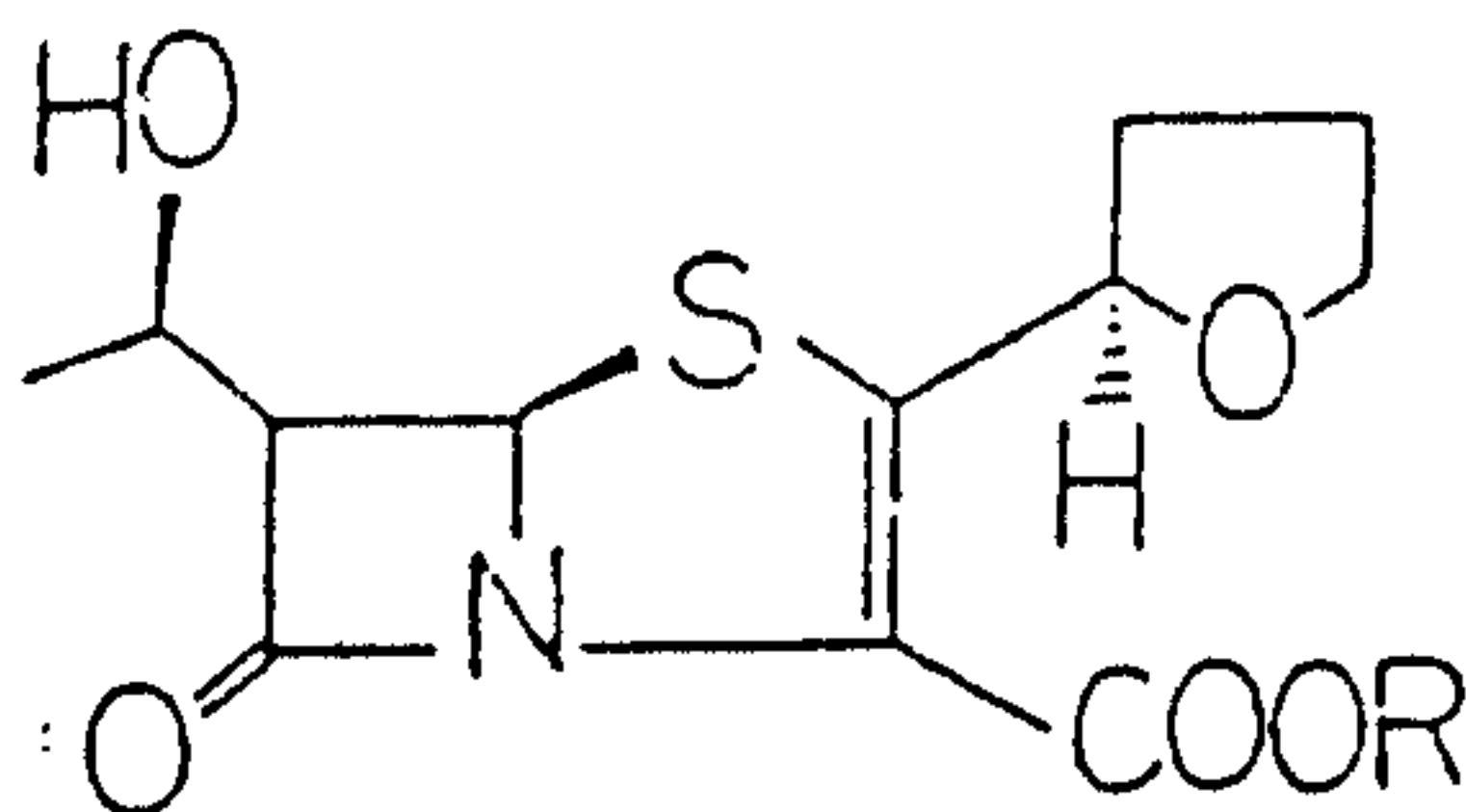
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8. The process according to claim 1, wherein the penem compound is (5-methyl-2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl)methyl (5R,6S)-6[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]-penem-3-carboxylate.

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9. The use of a penem compound for animals or humans in need of an antibiotic, comprising administering to such animals or humans an effective amount of a penem compound represented by formula (1):

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wherein R represents a group of the formula $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Z}$ in which Z is a 5-substituted 2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl group, said 5-substituent being a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, a C_6-C_{10} aryl group, a C_7-C_{11} aralkyl group, or said 5-substituent is substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_6-C_{10} aryl, C_7-C_{11} aralkyl, hydroxyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxyl and halogen.

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10. Use of claim 9, wherein R represents a (5-methyl-2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl)methyl group.

11. Use of claim 9, wherein the penem compound is
5 (5-methyl-2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl)methyl (5R,6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]-penem-3-carboxylate.

12. The use of claim 9, wherein the penem compound is
10 orally administered.