

CURRENT PATENTS GAZETTE



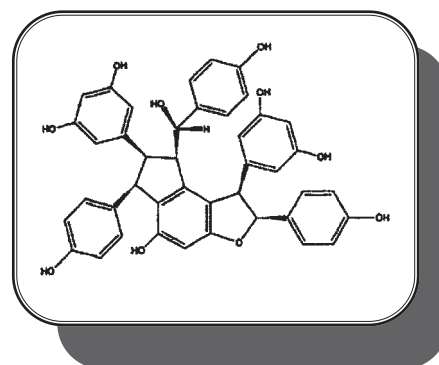
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DRUG PATENTING IN CONTEXT

Current Patents Gazette is the most rapid competitive intelligence service covering innovation in the pharmaceutical industry. Patent applications published during the past week have been classified and analysed, in order to place the inventions in context. For the most crucial innovations, those involving new chemical compounds, additional information is given in the form of front page images. These can be enlarged to show details of chemical structures and inventor teams, for example. Applications filed jointly, representing collaborative research, are highlighted, as are sequences of inter-related documents.

THIS WEEK

Meiji Milk claims Neparinols A, B and C, natural products with excellent topoisomerase II inhibitory activity, suggesting their use as antitumour agents.



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Section A

New Compounds- novel entities, with images of front pages adding valuable additional information

Section B

New Uses, Formulations & Methods of Treatment- developments extending and enhancing the utility of existing products, including diagnostic and analytical applications

Section C

Chemical Processes and Combinatorial Technology- inventions concerned with efficient generation of candidates for screening, and with scale-up of laboratory syntheses in support of development activity

Section D

Biotechnology- molecular biology, nucleic acids, proteins, transgenics and gene therapy

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HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Du Pont's interest in aggrecanase inhibitors, first given prominence in WO9718207, reaches a further stage with the publication of an application claiming the **metalloproteinase aggrecan** itself. Predictably, this invention has narrow territorial coverage, being essentially infrastructural in nature; **TNO** (WO9725437) and **Shriners Hospitals** (WO9322429) have also worked in this field, the latter having highlighted the significance of **Ala374**. An earlier case from **Du Pont**, WO9851665, describes macrocyclic inhibitors of aggrecanase which also display TNF-inhibitory activity.

The University of Bradford is now collaborating with **Generic Biologicals** in the development of **tamoxifen** and its analogues. Having claimed crystallization of the preferred geometric isomer in WO9726234, the same team now claims a further improvement, based on the use of hexanol as the crystallization solvent. Two tamoxifen analogues, CCRL-1054 & -1056, are known to be under investigation at Bradford, where previous industrial collaborations include work for **Glaxo** on the use of serotonin modulators.

Telemedicine techniques, claimed last week by **Abbott**, are further explored by the Japanese company **A&T Corporation**. Here a clinical examination analyzer is described, by means of which data are collected, checked and stored, in accordance with specified schedules. In a second application, A&T joins forces with **Tokuyama** to claim a method for determining coagulation parameters, suitable for use with autoanalyzers. Though principally interested in polymers and semiconductors, Tokuyama has previously patented diabetes diagnostics, and has collaborated with **Daiichi** on antibacterials. Other data processing techniques relevant to biomedical research include a query system for a gene expression database from **Affymetrix**, a polynucleotide sequencing method from **Medical Biosystems**, and a computerised mass spectrometry sequence data correlation technique from **Rapigene**.

Penaeid prawns were the source of the **antimicrobial peptides** claimed jointly by the French research institutions **CNRS** and **IFREMER**. The latter is the Institut Francais de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer, an organization with broad maritime interests, encompassing not only chemicals, but also pumps, boat design and bioreactors. Through one of the inventors there is a link with work carried out at CNRS in the early 1990s on antibacterial **glycopeptides** (WO9405787), and with subsequent peptide work in which there was **Rhone-Poulenc Agrochimie** involvement (WO9730082). There is evidence of studies at **Louisiana State University** on penaeid extracts, but prawns seem not to have been widely studied as a source of therapeutic agents.

Current Patents would like to apologise for the delayed publication of the *Gazette* over the last couple of weeks which has proved unavoidable due to late delivery of full specification documents from **WIPO**. This has also led to some of the images in Section A being of a lower standard this week, as at time of publication these documents were still unavailable and images had to be adapted from their website.