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Heterocyclic analogs of mevalonolactone and derivatives thereof, processes for their production and their use as pharmaceuticals.

(57) Compounds of formula



I

wherein

Ra is a group -X-Z. Rb is R2, Rc is R3, Rd is R4 and Y is a group -N- or



Ra is R1, Rb is a group -X-Z, Rc is R2, Rd is R3 and Y is O, S or a group -N-;

 $R_1,\,R_2,\,R_3,\,$ and R_4 independently are $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, $C_{3\text{-}7}$ cycloalkyl or a ring



or in the case of $\ensuremath{R_3}$ and $\ensuremath{R_4}$ additionally hydrogen, or for $\ensuremath{R_3}$ when Y is O or S

$$R_{17}^{C} = C_{R_{19}}^{R_{18}}$$

whereby R₁₇ is hydrogen or C₁₋₃alkyl and R₁₈ and R₁₉ are independently hydrogen C₁₋₃alkyl or phenyl; each R₅ is independently hydrogen. C₁₋₃alkyl, n-butyl, i-butyl, t-butyl, C₁₋₃alkoxy, n-butoxy, i-butoxy, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, phenyl, phenoxy or benzyloxy; each R₆ is independently hydrogen. C₁₋₃alkyl, C₁₋₃alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, phenoxy or benzyloxy, and each R₇ is independently hydrogen, C₁₋₂alkyl, C₁₋₂alkoxy, fluoro or chloro.

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with the proviso that there may only be one each of trifluoromethyl, phenoxy or benzyloxy in each ring A present. X is $(CH_2)_m$ or $\{CH_2\}_qCH=CH-(CH_2)_q$. m is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and both q's are 0 or one is 0 and the other is 1.

wherein R₉ is hydrogen or C₁₋₃alkyl. In free acid form, or in the form of an ester or δ -lactone thereof or in salt form as appropriate, which compounds are indicated for use as pharmaceuticals in particular as hypolipoproteinemic and anti-atherosclerotic agents.

Description

HETEROCYCLIC ANALOGS OF MEVALONOLACTONE AND DERIVATIVES THEREOF, PROCESSES FOR THEIR PRODUCTION AND THEIR USE AS PHARMACEUTICALS

The present invention concerns heterocyclic analogs of mevalonolactone and derivatives thereof, processes for their preparation, pharmaceutical compositions containing them and their use as pharmaceuticals especially as agents for treating hyper-lipoproteinemia and atherosclerosis.

More particularly the invention concerns compounds of formula !

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wherein

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Ra is a group -X-Z, Rb is R2, Rc is R3, Rd is R4 and Y is a group -N- or

Ra is R₁, Rb is a group -X-Z, Rc is R₂, Rd is R₃ and Y is O, S or a group -N-; $\frac{1}{R_4}$

R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ independently are C₁₋₆alkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl or a



or in the case of R₃ and R₄ additionally hydrogen, or for R₃ when Y is O or S

$$_{35}$$
 $_{R_{17}}^{C}$ = $\zeta_{R_{19}}^{R_{18}}$

whereby R₁₇ is hydrogen or C₁₋₃alkyl and R₁₈ and R₁₉ are independently hydrogen C₁₋₃alkyl or phenyl; each Rs is independently hydrogen, C1-3alkyl, n-butyl, i-butyl, t-butyl, C1-3alkoxy, n-butoxy, i-butoxy, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, phenyl, phenoxy or benzyloxy; each Re is independently hydrogen, C1-3alkyl, C1-3alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, phenoxy or benzyloxy, and each R7 is independently hydrogen, C1-2alkyl, C1-2alkoxy, fluoro or chloro, with the proviso that there may only be one each of trifluoromethyl, phenoxy or benzyloxy in each ring A present, X is $(CH_2)_m$ or $(CH_2)_qCH = CH - (CH_2)_q$, m is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and both q's are 0 or one is 0 and the other is 1,

wherein R₉ is hydrogen or C₁₋₃alkyl,

in free acid form, or in the form of an ester or δ -lactone thereof or in salt form as appropriate.

Suitable esters include physiologically acceptable esters e.g. physiologically hydrolysable and -acceptable

By the term "physiologically-hydrolysable and -acceptable ester is meant an ester of a compound in accordance with the invention in which the carboxyl moiety if present is esterified, and which is hydrolysable under physiological conditions to yield an alcohol which is itself physiologically acceptable, e.g. non-toxic at desired dosage levels. For the avoidance of doubt, throughout this specification it is the right hand side of the X radical that is attached to the Z group. Preferred such acids, esters and salt forms as Z can be represented together with the free acid by formula a



wherein

R₉ is hydrogen or C₁₋₃alkyl and

 R_{10} is hydrogen, a physiologically acceptable ester forming group (R_{11}) or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation (M).

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When Z is in lactone form it forms a $\delta\text{-lactone}$ of formula b

and reference to "lactone" hereinafter refer to δ -lactones.

Salts of the compounds of the invention, e.g. of the compounds of formula I, include in particular their pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Such pharmaceutically acceptable salts include e.g. alkali metal salts such as the sodium and potassium salts and salts with ammonium.

References to compounds of formulae I and IA-ID and subscopes thereof are intended to cover all forms unless otherwise stated.

Depending on the nature of the various substituents the compounds of formula I may be divided into four main groups, namely

These four groups may be further divided into two sub-groups each depending on the significance of Z as either a group of formula II in other than lactone form (sub-group "a") or a group of formula b (sub-group "b"). The resulting eight sub-groups are designated as formulae IAa, IAb, IBa, IBb, ICa, ICb, IDa, IDb respectively.

As is self-evident to those skilled in the art, each compound of formula I (and every sub-group and species thereof) has at least two centres of asymmetry (e.g. the two carbon atoms bearing the hydroxy groups in the group of formula a and the carbon atom bearing the hydroxy group and the carbon atom having the free valence in the group of formula b) and these lead (e.g. with two centres) to four stereoisomic forms (enantiomers) of each compound (two racemates or pairs of diasteroisomers). In preferred compounds having only two such centres of asymmetry these four stereoisomers may be designated as the R,R; R,S; S,R; and S,S enantiomers, all four stereoisomers being within the scope of this invention. Depending on the nature of substituents further asymmetric carbon atoms may be present and the resulting isomers and mixtures thereof also form part of the invention. Compounds containing only two centres of asymmetry (four menmentioned stereoisomers) are preferred.

Preferably in compounds IA-ID one of R₁ and R₂ is C₁₋₆alkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom and the other is a Ring A. Also preferably in compounds IB and IC, one of R₃ and R₄ is a Ring A and the other is hydrogen or C₁₋₈alkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, preferably hydrogen or C₁₋₂alkyl and most preferably hydrogen except that R₄ in compounds IC is preferably other than hydrogen. More preferably, the preferences of both preceding sentences occur simultaneously. Thus, the preferred compounds IB and IC and each of the sub-scopes thereof are those having attached to the pyrrole ring two Rings A and two alkyl groups or in compounds IB especially one alkyl group and one hydrogen. Even more preferably the two Rings A are ortho to each other. Also preferably the pyrrole ring does not bear two ortho tertiary alkyl groups.

In Formula IB:

 R_1 is preferably R_{1Bx} , where R_{1Bx} is Ring A, more preferably $R_1^{\prime\prime}$ $R_1^{\prime\prime}$ $R_2^{\prime\prime}$, where $R_1^{\prime\prime}$ $R_2^{\prime\prime}$ is Ring A wherein $R_3^{\prime\prime}$ is $R_3^{\prime\prime}$, and R_7 is $R_7^{\prime\prime}$, even more preferably $R_1^{\prime\prime}$ $R_2^{\prime\prime}$, where $R_1^{\prime\prime}$ $R_2^{\prime\prime}$ is Ring A wherein $R_3^{\prime\prime}$ is $R_3^{\prime\prime}$, and $R_7^{\prime\prime}$ is hydrogen, and most preferably phenyl, 4-fluorophenyl or 3,5-dimethylphenyl, especially



4-fluorophenyl; or

R₁ is preferably R_{1By}, where R_{1By} is C₁₋₆alkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, more preferably R₁ By, where R₁ By is C₁₋₄alkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, and most preferably i-propyl. R₂ is preferably R_{2Bx}, where R_{2Bx} is C₁₋₆alkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, more preferably R₂ Bx, where R₂ Bx is C₁₋₄alkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, and most preferably i-propyl, or R₂ is preferably R_{2By}, where R_{2By} is Ring A, more preferably R₂ By, where R₂ By is Ring A wherein R₅ is R₅, R₆ is R'₆, and R₇ is R'₇, even more preferably R₂ By, where R₂ By is Ring A wherein R₅ is R'₆ and R₇ is hydrogen, and most preferably phenyl, 4-fluorophenyl or 3.5-dimethylphenyl, especially 4-fluorophenyl.

 R_3 is preferably R_{3Bx} , where R_{3Bx} is hydrogen or $C_{1\text{--}6}$ alkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, more preferably R_3^* B_{1} , where R_3^* B_{2} is hydrogen or $C_{1\text{--}2}$ alkyl, even more preferably R_3^* B_{2} , where R_3^* B_{3} is hydrogen or methyl, and most preferably hydrogen; or

 R_3 is preferably R_{3By} , where R_{3By} is Ring A, more preferably R_3^{\bullet} B_y , where R_3^{\bullet} B_y is Ring A wherein R is R'₅, R₆ is R'₆, and R₇ is R'₇, even more preferably R_3^{\bullet} B_y , where R_3^{\bullet} B_y is Ring A wherein R₅ is R"₅, R₆ is R"₆, and R₇ is hydrogen, and most preferably phenyl.

 R_4 is preferably R_{4Bx} , where R_{4Bx} is Ring A, more preferably R_4 R_5 where R_4 R_5 is Ring A wherein R_5 is R_5 , R_6 is R_5 , and R_7 is R_7 , even more preferably R_4 R_5 , where R_4 R_5 is Ring A wherein R_5 is R_5 , R_6 is R_6 , and R_7 is hydrogen, and most preferably phenyl; or R_4 is preferably R_{4By} , where R_{4By} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, more preferably R_4 R_7 , where R_4 R_7 is hydrogen or R_7 is hydrogen or methyl, and most preferably hydrogen.

In Formulae IA, IC and ID:

 R_1 is preferably R_{1Cx} , where R_{1Cx} is C_{1-6} alkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, more preferably R_1 C_1 , where R_1 C_2 is C_{1-4} alkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, and most preferably I_1 -propyl, or I_2 is preferably I_3 I_4 I_5 is I_5 and I_7 is I_7 even more preferably I_8 I_8 I_9 $I_$

 R_2 is preferably R_{2Cx} , where R_{2Cx} is Ring A, more preferably R_2' C_x , where R_2' C_x is Ring A wherein R_5 is R_5' , R_6 is R_6' and R_7 is R_7' , even more preferably R_2'' C_x , where R_2'' C_x is Ring A wherein R_5 is R_5'' , R_6 is R_5'' , and R_7 is hydrogen, and most preferably phenyl, 4-fluorophenyl or 3,5-dimethylphenyl, especially 4-fluorophenyl; or

 R_2 is preferably R_{2Cy} , where R_{2Cy} is C_1 -ealkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, more preferably R_2 cy, where R_2 cy is C_1 -ealkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, and most preferably i-propyl. R_3 is preferably R_{3Cx} , where R_{3Cx} is Ring A, more preferably R_3 cx, where R_3 cx, is Ring A wherein R_5 is R_5 , R_6 is R_6 , and R_7 is R_7 , even more preferably R_3 cx, where R_3 cx is Ring A wherein R_5 is R_6 , and R_7 is hydrogen, and most preferably phenyl; or

R₃ is preferably R₃C_y, where R₃C_y is hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, more preferably **R**³3 C_y, where **R**³3 C_y is hydrogen or C₁₋₂alkyl, and even more preferably **R**³3 C_y, where **R**³3 C_y is hydrogen or methyl, especially hydrogen.

In the compounds of formulae IA and ID, especially the former, R_{3cy} , R_{3cy} and R_{3cy} include $-CH = C(CH_3)_2$.

In formula IC:

R4 is preferably R4Cx, where R4Cx is hydrogen or C1-salkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, more preferably R4Cx, where R4Cx C1-2alkyl, even more preferably methyl, or

R₄ is preferably R₄C_y, where R₄C_y is Ring A, more preferably \mathbb{R}^4_4 C_y, where \mathbb{R}^4_4 C_y is Ring A wherein R is R'₅, R₆ is R'₆, and R₇ is R'₇, even more preferably \mathbb{R}^4_4 C_y, where \mathbb{R}^4_4 C_y is Ring A wherein R₅ is R"₅, R₆ is R"₆, and R₇ is hydrogen, and most preferably phenyl.

In addition, in the compounds IA and ID R₂ is preferably C₁₋₆alkyl not containing an asymmetric carbon atom, especially isopropyl or t-butyl, or phenyl or p-substituted phenyl, especially p-fluorophenyl and R₁ is preferably phenyl or p-substituted phenyl especially p-fluorophenyl.

Of IA and ID the former are preferred.

In each of IA, IB, IC and ID the following preferences apply.

Each R_5 independently is preferably R_5 ' where R_5 ' is hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-2} alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, fluoro or chloro, more preferably R_5 " where R_5 " is hydrogen methyl or fluoro. In the case of R_1 and R_2 being a Ring A each R_5 " is preferably fluoro, especially 4-fluoro. In the case of R_3 and R_4 being a Ring A R_5 " is preferably hydrogen.

Each R₆ independently is preferably R₆' where R₆' is hydrogen, C₁₋₂alkyl, fluoro or chloro more preferably R₆" where R₆" is hydrogen or methyl, most preferably hydrogen.

Each R₇ independently is preferably R₇' where R₇' is hydrogen or methyl, most preferably hydrogen.

Preferably, each Ring A, independently bears a maximum of one substituent selected from the group consisting of t-butyl, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, phenoxy and benzyloxy. More preferably, when any two or all three of the substituents on each Ring A independently are ortho to each other, at least one member of each pair that are ortho to each other is a member of the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, methoxy, fluoro and



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