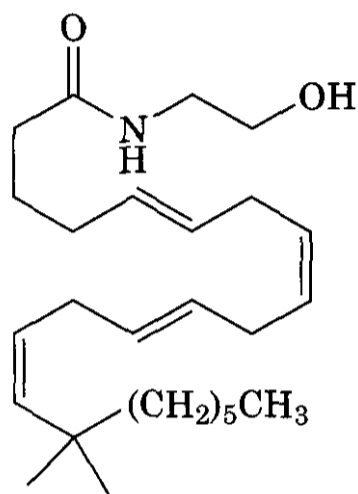


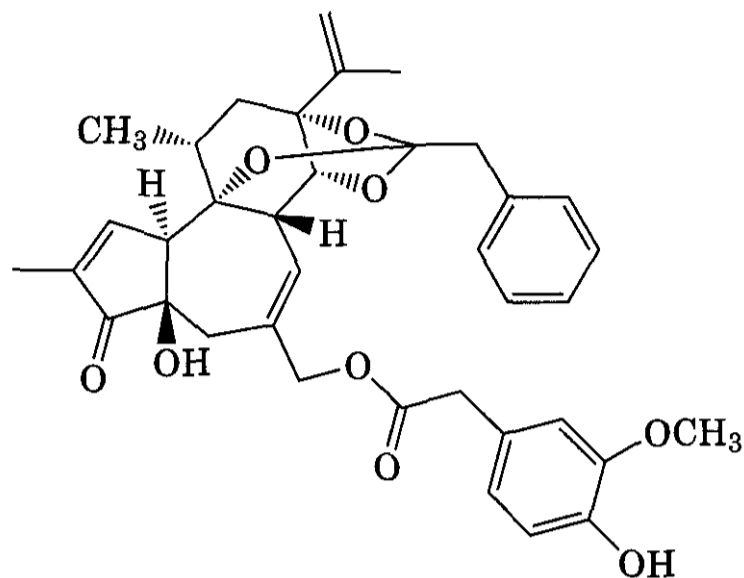
(19) R-methanandamide



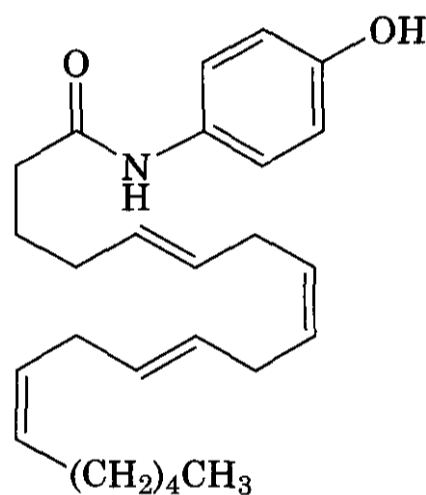
(20)

ceptors, previously characterized through their interactions with two other natural products, capsaicin (21) and resiniferatoxin (22) (30) and responsible for the "hot" sensation caused by compounds in, for example, chilies. A functional vanilloid receptor was cloned in 1997 and is activated by heat and acid as well as the chemical ligands (30). A combination of the anandamide structure with a vanilloid motif, as in AM404 (23), enhances the anandamide transport inhibitory properties (29). The situation is complex from the viewpoint of drug design, not least because there are two cannabinoid (CB) receptors,

plus a hydrolase and a transport protein, interference with any or all of which might provide new drugs.

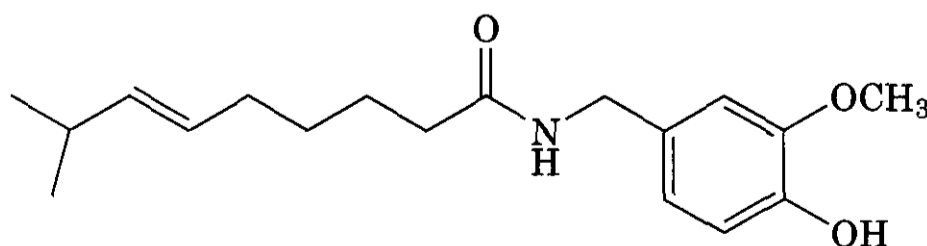


(22) resiniferatoxin



(23) AM404

The cannabinoid acids, which are devoid of psychotropic activity, are promising anti-inflammatory agents (31) and it is possible that the next useful therapeutic agent will come from this direction, rather than the sought-after analgesic.



(21) capsaicin