

Coumarin

Coumarin was first synthesized in 1868. It is used in the pharmaceutical industry as a precursor reagent in the synthesis of a number of synthetic anticoagulant pharmaceuticals similar to dicoumarol, the notable ones being [warfarin](#) (brand name Coumadin) and some even more potent rodenticides that work by the same anticoagulant mechanism. So-called “coumarins” (modified coumarins) are a type of vitamin K antagonists. Pharmaceutical (modified) coumarins were all developed from the study of sweet clover disease; see warfarin for this history. However, unmodified coumarin itself, as it occurs in plants, has no effect on the vitamin K coagulation system, or on the action of warfarin-type drugs.

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