

Coumarin And Its Multifaceted Pharmacological Activities: A Comprehensive Update

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ABSTRACT

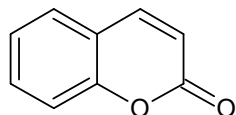
Coumarins, a class of aromatic lactones, and their synthesized derivatives exhibit diverse pharmacological activities, making them significant in drug development. Coumarin is a key heterocycle and its analogs are extracted from plants, animals, and microbes. Recent studies emphasize that modifications to the coumarin ring enhance efficacy, and potency, and reduce toxicity. This review provides an updated perspective on coumarin's pharmacological actions, such as antibacterial, antifungal, antineoplastic, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, PDE inhibitor, antitumor features. Furthermore, recent advancements in coumarin derivatives' synthesis and their mechanistic insights are discussed. This paper covers a variety of one pot coumarin derivative synthesis techniques as well as well-known name reactions. In this paper, we primarily covered conventional name reaction-mediated coumarin synthesis, detailed innovative synthetic approaches for accessing coumarin heterocycles, and demonstrated fresh intriguing uses that have been published in recent years. This article describes the physiological actions and chemical structures of coumarins.

Keywords: coumarin, antibacterial, antifungal, anticancer, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, PDE inhibitor

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INTRODUCTION

Coumarins are 2H-1-benzopyran-2-one (I), belongs to (benzopyrone class) aromatic lactones.¹



I

The greatest class of 1-benzopyran derivatives is coumarins. Most naturally occurring coumarins contain a carbon-7 hydroxycoumarin; umbelliferon (7-hydroxycoumarin) appears to be the structural and biogenetic parent of the 2H-chromen-2-one with higher oxygenation level.²⁻⁶ Coumarins possess wide variety of physiologically active substances found in plants, many of which have long been utilized in conventional medicine for ages. Due to its pleasant aroma, coumarin has been utilised in perfumes since 1882,

when it was first isolated from coumarone. In 1868, it was first synthesized.^{7,8} Several derivatives of coumarin have been shown to be widely distributed in plant kingdom. Several extraction techniques such as supercritical fluid extraction, maceration under sonication, and infusion can be used to extract coumarins from plants.^{9,10} As we know, plant extraction is laborious and lengthy procedure therefore for separation process an advanced instrument is required to obtain product with purity. Coumarins can be synthesized in number of ways including Knoevenagel condensation¹¹, Pechmann reaction^{12,13}, Claisen rearrangement¹⁴, Perkin¹⁵, Wittig, Reformatsky¹⁶ and catalytic cyclization reactions¹⁷ etc. Coumarins are well-known aromatic lactones with the IUPAC name 2H-1-benzopyran-2-one. They are widely distributed in nature and contain different plant based bioactive compounds, lot of them utilized in conventional medicine. Coumarin exhibited numerous

pharmacological actions, generally with less toxicity and also have enhanced remarkable interest due to effective benefits on health of human being. Recent developments have focused on the extraction and synthetic methodologies to obtain more potent coumarin derivatives. Modern methods of extraction including ultrasound-assisted extraction, supercritical fluid extraction, and green synthesis approaches have been explored for enhanced yield and purity.¹⁸

SOURCES OF COUMARIN

Various families like Rutaceae, Apiaceae, Fabaceae, Asteraceae, Calophyllaceae, Apocynaceae and much more provide sources for coumarins. Coumarins are obtained from different plant parts, like leaves, flowers and seeds. In general, coumarin concentration are higher in fruit and flowers than in leaves, stem bark, seeds and roots. An outline of coumarin affiliates classes, source parts, their isolation techniques provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Plant derived coumarins with class and isolation technique

Sr. No.	Sources	Part of source	Isolation method	Coumarin number and type	Reference
1.	Angelica dahurica	Roots (air-dried)	Reflux	Furanocoumarins (23 compounds)	19
2.	Bombax ceiba	Dried flowers	Ultrasound assisted extraction	Simple coumarins (24 compounds)	20
3.	Calophyllum brasiliense	Leaves (air-dried)	Percolation	Simple coumarins (3 compounds)	21
4.	Citrus species	Peels	Percolation	Simple and furanocoumarins (6 compounds)	22
5.	Citrus grandis	Dried fruits	Reflux	Simple and furanocoumarins (17 compounds)	23
6.	Murraya paniculate	Leaves & stem (air-dried)	Extraction	Simple coumarins (19 compounds)	24
7.	Paxillus involutus	Dried fruit	Soxhlet	Furanocoumarins (4 compounds)	25
8.	Ailanthus altissima	Root barks (air-dried)	Reflux	Simple coumarin (14 compounds)	26

SYNTHESIS OF COUMARIN DERIVATIVES

Coumarins can be synthesized through well-established name reaction methods, including the Pechmann reaction, Knoevenagel condensation, Perkin reaction, Witting reaction, Claisen reaction, Michael reaction, Baylis-Hillman reaction, and Reformatsky reaction.

Recent advances like microwave-assisted synthesis, ultrasound mediated synthesis, solvent-free synthesis metal catalyzed electrophilic cyclization, metal free radical cyclization and green catalytic methodologies have improved reaction efficiency and yield. Synthetic reactions shown in tables 2 and 3.

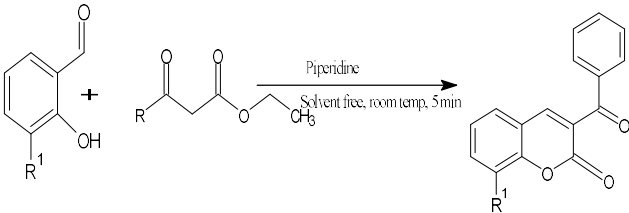
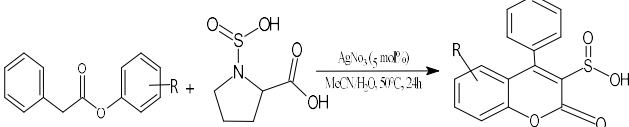
Table 2: Name reactions for synthesis of coumarin

Sr. no	Name of reaction	Schematic reaction	Reference
1.	Perkin reaction		15
2.	Witting reaction	$R = \text{H, alkyl, Aryl}; R^1 = \text{CO}_2\text{R, CoR, CN, CF}_3$	16

3.	Pechmann reaction	R = Me, Et	14
4.	Claisen reaction	R = Me, Et ; R¹ = CHBrCOOC₂H₅	14
5.	Reformatsky reaction	R = Me, Et ; R¹ = CHBrCOOC₂H₅	16
6.	Michael addition reaction		14

Table 3: New synthetic approaches for coumarins

Sr. no	Name of reaction	Schematic reaction	Reference
1.	Microwave assisted synthesis		27,28
2.	Ultrasound helped synthesis	R¹ = OH, OCH₃; R² = Me, Propyl	29
3.	Solvent free synthesis	R¹ = H; R² = OH; R³ = H; R = Ph, Me	30

4.	Metal free radical cyclization		31
5.	Metal mediated radical cyclisation		17,32

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES REPORTED FOR COUMARIN DERIVATIVES

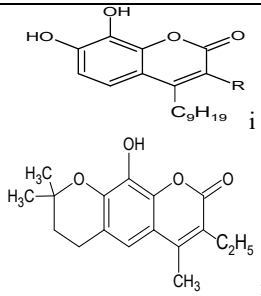
Anti-cancer Activity: A class of naturally occurring substances known as coumarins has been shown to have anticancer potential. Coumarins block several signaling pathways that are essential for cell division. For instance, they can inhibit the PI3K/mTOR pathway, which often harms cancer cells and reduces their growth and viability.³³ Many research has been done on coumarin's anti-tumorigenic effects which shown in table 4.

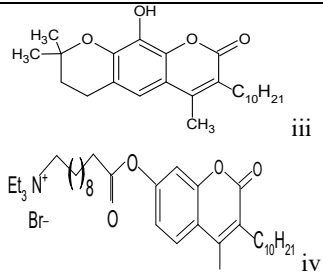
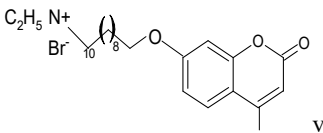
Table 4: Coumarin against cancers

Type of cancer	In vitro/In vivo	Cell lines	Source	Mechanism	Reference
Breast cancer	In vivo	SKBR 3 cells	Coumarin	Cell death caused by increased p21 protein and cell cycle arrest at G0/G1	34
Breast cancer	In vitro	MCF 7	Coumarin	Cytotoxic action showed against MCF 7 cells with IC50 values 1.24 to 8.68 μ M	35
Prostate cancer	In vivo	PC-3 cell lines	Coumarin	Coumarin has a significant inhibitory effect on 15-LOX-1	36
Colon cancer	In vitro	HT-29 cell lines	Coumarin	PI3K/mTOR/Akt and AMPK/mTOR signaling in HT-29 cells	37
Lung cancer	In vitro	A549 and A2170 cell lines	Coumarin	Inhibiting EMT-associated migration in 549 cells and reversing EMT in 1L-1- β stimulated a549 cells	38
Gastric cancer	In vivo	MGC-803 and HCG-27 cells	Coumarin	Tumor growth in MGC-803 xenograft models and suppression of MAPK signaling	39

Abha and colleagues published synthesis and also assessed ability of different coumarin derivatives for cell proliferation inhibition of SK-OV-3 (ovary cancer), MDAMB or MCF-7 (breast cancer), HT-29 (colon cancer) cells. Synthesized derivatives were coumarin carboxamide, 4-aminocoumarin, pyranocoumarin, 3-alkyl-4-methylcoumarins, quaternary ammonium coumarins, and amino derivatives of coumarins.³³ Compounds given in table 5 inhibited the proliferation of different cancer cells.

Table 5: Assessed by Abha et al

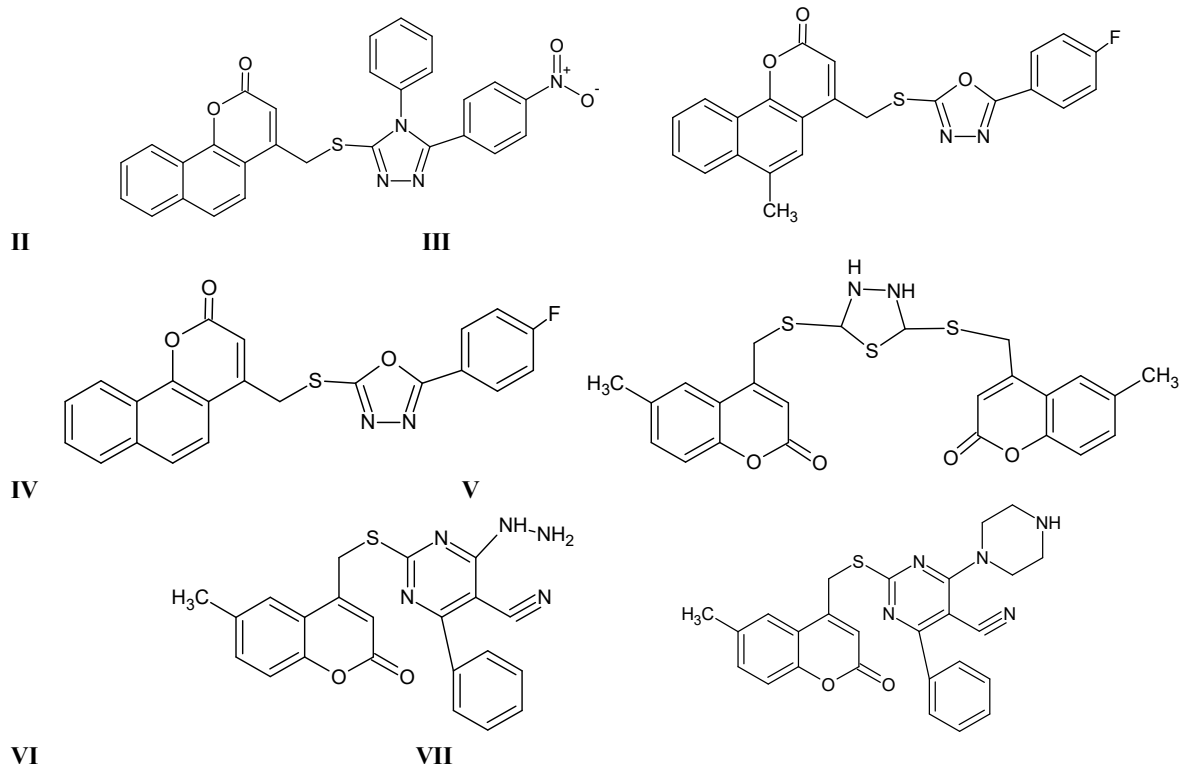
Compound	Structure	Cells	% inhibition
C- 3-Alkyl substituted analogs of 4-methylcoumarins (i) and C- 3-Alkyl substituted analogs of pyranocoumarins (ii)		MDA-MB 468 and SK-OV- 3	53-74% at 50 μ M concentration

3-decyl substituted pyranocoumarin (iii) and triethyl substituted quaternary ammonium coumarin derivative (iv)		HT-29 and SK-OV-3	63-72% at 50μM concentration
C-3 decyl substituted quaternary ammonium coumarin derivative v		Src kinase inhibition	78% at IC50 21.6μM

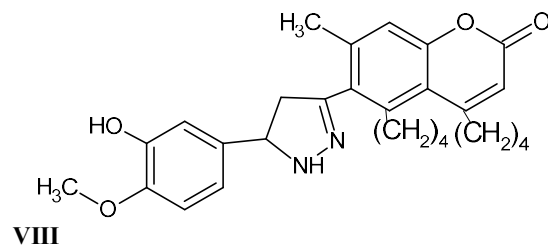
Amongst all the compounds studied, compound **v** showed the greatest Src kinase inhibition.⁴⁰

Shaimaa et al synthesized novel coumarin compounds with methylene thio-linker. At National cancer Institute, Cairo, Egypt various compounds were physiologically tested against hepatic cancer (HePG-2) and breast cancer cell lines using 5-fluorouracil as

reference. Against MCF-7 and HePG-2 cell lines, compounds **II**, **III**, **IV**, **V**, **VI** and **VII** shown potent activity. Compound **13a** was the most active with IC50 values of 5.5 mg/ml and 6.9 mg/ml respectively. The mode of binding of designed compounds with protein 1KE9 was studied using docking.⁴¹



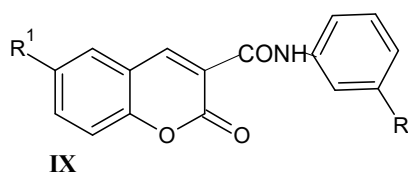
Yana et al employed a multistep procedure to synthesize a series of 6-pyrazolinylicoumarins using Claisen-Schmidt condensation, Fries rearrangement reactions. Recent studies indicate that coumarin derivatives exhibit strong anticancer potential. Novel 6-pyrazolinylicoumarins (compound **VIII**) with greatest antimitotic activity have been synthesized and evaluated in NCI-60 cell lines, demonstrating significant inhibition against leukemia and breast cancer cell lines⁴² Additionally, molecular docking studies have provided details into their mechanism, suggesting their role in apoptosis induction and kinase inhibition.



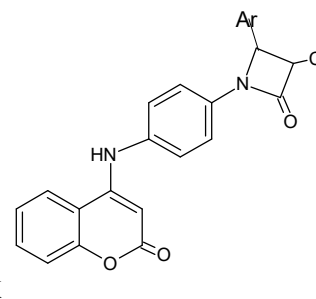
Antimicrobial activity

Multidrug resistant (MDR) bacterial infections are global concern that raise mortality rates due to the ineffectiveness of available treatments for bacterial infections. Several attempts have been made during the last ten years to find broad-spectrum antibacterials. The coumarin moiety proved to be a suitable scaffold for the development of potential antimicrobial medicines.⁴³

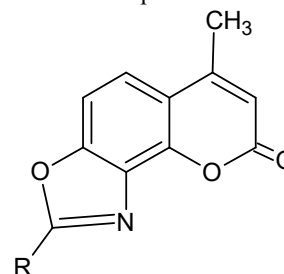
Alok et al produced different substituted coumarin & Schiff base through condensation reactions between (R) phenyl malonanilic acid and different substituted salicylaldehydes by using pyridine as catalyst at maintained temperature. Physical properties, elemental analysis and spectrographic identification like IR, NMR etc were used to characterize newly synthesized compound IX. Additionally, their antibacterial potential was tested against *S. aureus* and *E. coli* micro-organism.⁴⁴



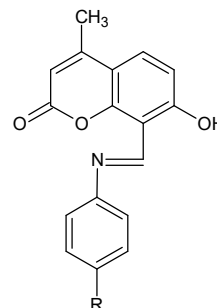
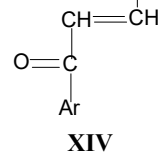
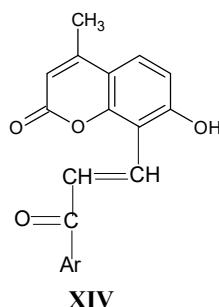
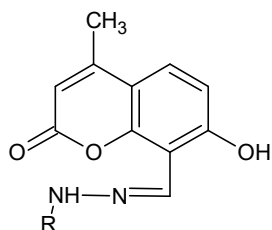
Divyesh et al synthesized novel azetidinones (X) in the presence of triethyl amine by using cyclo-condensation of different coumarin Schiff bases with chloro acetyl chloride. Further 4-chloro-3, 4', 3', 4"-tercoumarin were obtained on reacting 4-hydroxy coumarin with POCl₃. Then 4-[(4-aminophenyl)amino]-2*H*-chromen-2-one produced with *p*-phenylene diamine and finally different coumarin schiff bases were obtained by condensation of 4-[(4-aminophenyl)amino]-2*H*-chromen-2-one with different aldehydes. IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and element analysis done for structure elucidation and also tested for antimicrobial using broth dilution method.⁴⁵

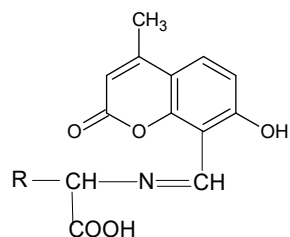


Swayam et al prepared 13 novel coumarin affiliates (XI) and characterization done by spectroscopy like IR and ¹H NMR. By using cup plate method, these novel affiliates were analyzed for antibacterial potential towards *E. coli* and *S. aureus*. Amoxicillin selected as reference. In recent study found that all novel obtained compounds (1-13) specifically (P<0.001) shown bacterial inhibition in comparison to control group.⁴⁶



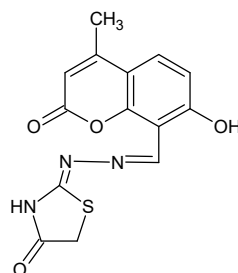
From 7-hydroxy-4-methyl coumarin, Shokhan and Ammar et al created a novel class of coumarin derivatives by inserting the formyl group at 8th carbon through Duff reaction. These derivatives include hydrazone (XII), chalcones (XIII), Schiff bases (XIV, XV) and hydrazinyl thiazole (XVI). Structure elucidation of newly synthesized derivatives was verified using the analytical and spectroscopic data, such as FT-IR, ¹³C-NMR, and mass spectroscopy. The preliminary screening for antibacterial activity of all newly synthesized coumarin affiliates was done by using method broth dilution against *S. epidermidis* and *S. hemolyticus* and *E. coli* and *K. pneumoniae*.⁴⁷





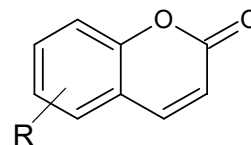
XV

XVI



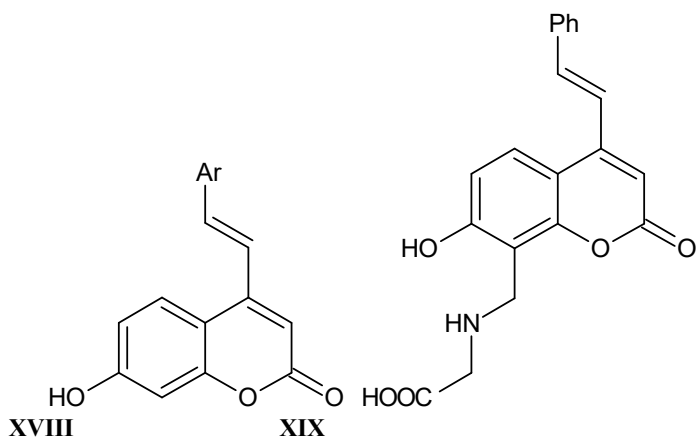
Vahid & Farhad prepared coumarin affiliates (XVII) through solvent free reaction Pechmann condensation using FeF_3 (catalyst) in one pot synthesis of ethyl acetoacetate with phenol using microwave irradiation. Systematic characterization of obtained compounds done by elemental analysis, InfraRed, Mass and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectral studies. By using disk diffusion method, obtained compounds tested for antibacterial efficacy against *S. aureus* and *E. coli* with various concentrations. In comparison to reference drug, penicillin all obtained compounds showed greater potential against both bacteria. Newly synthesized coumarin-Schiff base derivatives have shown promising antibacterial potential against multidrug-resistant *S. aureus* and *E. coli*. Moreover, coumarin derivatives conjugated with metal nanoparticles have

demonstrated enhanced antifungal properties against *Candida albicans* and *Aspergillus niger*.⁴⁸



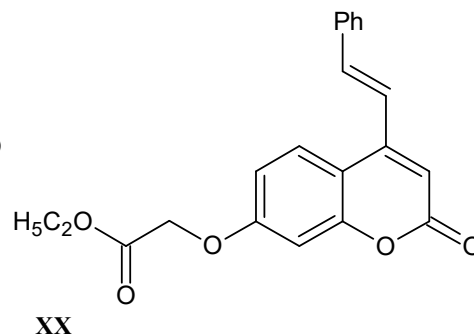
XVII

Fattah et al, synthesized various coumarin derivatives of 7-hydroxy-4-methylcoumarin (XVIII-XXII) through Pechmann condensation based on number of reactions. Synthesized derivatives were exhibited for antimicrobial potential against *Bacillus Subtilis*, *Serratia marcescens* and *Trichoderma Sp*.^{49,50}

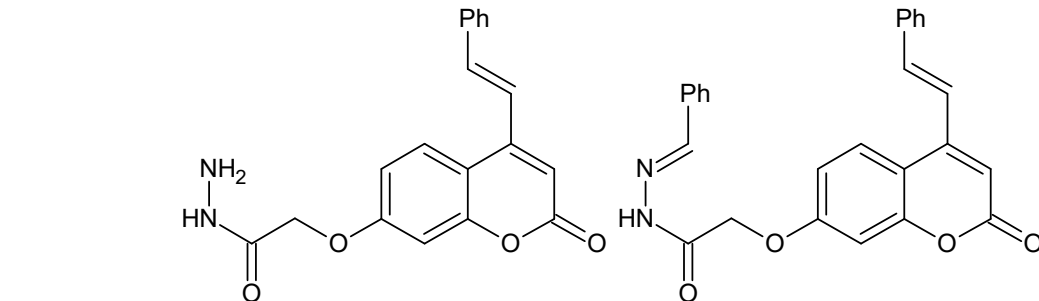


XVIII

XIX



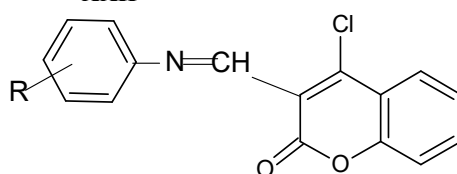
XX



XXI

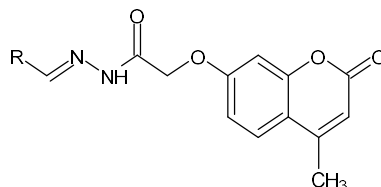
XXII

XXIII



Tamaya et al synthesized new Schiff bases through condensation of aromatic aldehydes (hetero/aryl) with different amines under conventional conditions and characterized by IR, ¹HNMR and LC-MS spectral methods. Synthesized derivatives have been evaluated

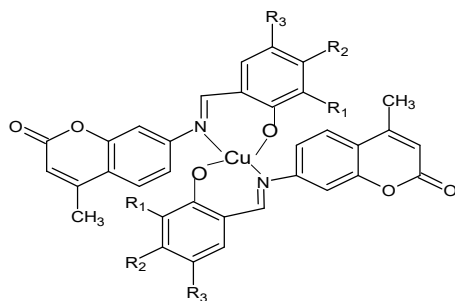
for antimicrobial potential. Compounds XXIV exhibited substantial activity against *Staphylococcus* and *Pseudomonas* species but not effective towards *Klebsiella* species.⁵¹



XXIV

Condensing 7-amino-4-methyl-coumarin and several salicylaldehyde (substituted), Bernadetta et al created new compounds that produced various schiff bases with good yields. Cu complexes were produced when ligands reacted with copper (II) acetate (XXV), and X-ray crystallography was used to describe some of these

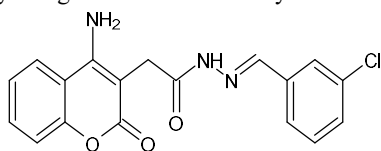
complexes. Synthesized ligands alongwith metal complexes were evaluated for anti-Candida potential. Several of synthesized ligands and complexes (XXVI) showed potential anti-Candida activity compared to Ketoconazole and Amphotericin B.^{52,53}



XXV

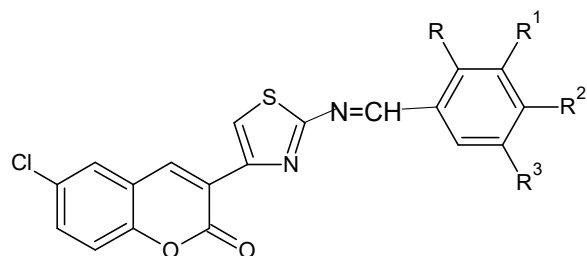
XXVI

Yadav S. et al synthesized, characterized and evaluated ten derivatives of 4-aminocoumarins. These derivatives showed effective antimicrobial profile against bacterial strains both gram positive and negative. Compound XXVII found the most effective for all microbial strains by using zone inhibition assay method.⁵⁴



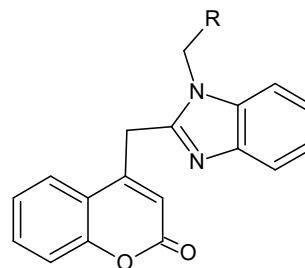
Analgesic & Antinflammatory Activity

Hamid S. J. et al synthesized aminothiazolylchlorocoumarin schiff bases (XXVIII) by reaction between aromatic aldehydes substituted and 2'-amino-4'-(6-chloro-3-coumarinyl)thiazole. Characterization of obtained compounds done by spectroscopical analysis and antiinflammatory as well as analgesic potential also evaluated. It was clear from the study that electron withdrawing substituents substituted on aromatic ring significantly increases analgesic activity whereas a electron donating group like methyl suppressed the activity. However, the schiff bases of aliphatic aldehydes such as formaldehyde and acetaldehyde showed reduced activity.⁵⁵



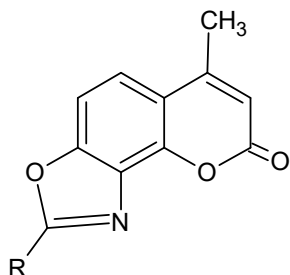
XXVIII

A series of novel chromen-2-one derivatives (XXIX) designed with formaldehyde and various secondary amines using Mannich condensation reaction by Kalyani et al. Derivatives were tested for anti-inflammatory potentials. Compounds with 50 mg/kg as compared to 20mg/kg dose level reported greater anti-inflammatory potential.⁵⁶



XXIX

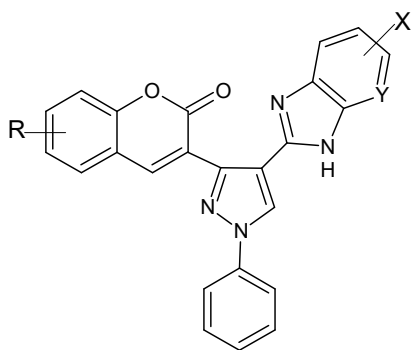
Sharma et al prepared 13 novel coumarin affiliates (XXX) and analyzed them by Infrared and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectroscopy. Anti-inflammatory and antibacterial activity was examined for the newly generated coumarin derivatives using carrageenan induced rat paw edema model and cup plate method for *S. aureus* and *E. coli*. Compound (XXX) showed in figure effectively reduced rat paw edema induced by carrageenan in 10mg/kg oral dose. Coumarin based Mannich bases have been found to be effective anti-inflammatory drugs in recent drugs. Some coumarin derivatives have shown comparable activity to standard NSAIDs.⁵⁷



XXX

PDE Inhibitors

Kumbar et al designed coumarins (XXXI) appended to benzimidazole through pyrazole and synthesized using microwave irradiation. In human spermatozoa, these substances were examined for their indirect inhibition of phosphodiesterase (PDE) through motility pattern. Coumarin derivatives have also been explored as phosphodiesterase (PDE) inhibitors, demonstrating potential in treating cardiovascular diseases and erectile dysfunction. Antioxidant studies reveal that hydroxycoumarins act as free radical scavengers, contributing to their protective role in oxidative stress-related disorders.⁵⁸

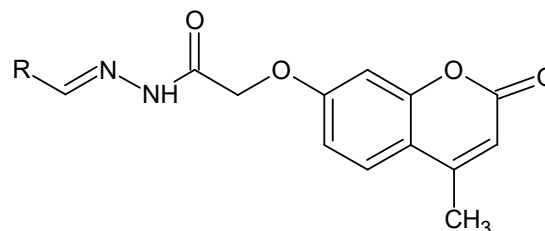


XXXI

Antioxidant Activity

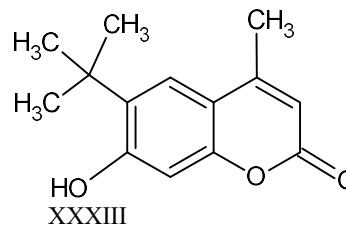
Taymaa et al synthesized new Schiff bases (XXXII) under conventional conditions with different aromatic amines and aromatic aldehydes by condensation and characterization done by using IR, ¹HNMR and Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectroscopy spectral methods. Synthesized compounds have been screened for the free radical scavenging activity (antioxidant activity)

by evaluating their binding with free radical DPPH and from results it was found that all prepared derivatives have demonstrated positive antioxidant activities.⁵¹



XXXII

Compound XXXIII, which demonstrated the highest scavenging action, was assessed for its primary antioxidant capacity by Popova and coworkers. Hydroxy and tert-butyl groups at positions 7 and 8 respectively were discovered to be essential for both primary and secondary antioxidant action in aqueous and lipid medium. DFT calculations were also done. Li and collaborators synthesised chitosan derivatives bearing coumarin nucleus and investigated that coumarin moiety enhances strongly antioxidant properties of chitosan derivatives by inhibition of lipid peroxidation.^{59,60}



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Advancements in computational drug design and QSAR modeling have enabled the discovery of novel coumarin affiliates with enhanced pharmacological properties. The integration of green chemistry principles in their synthesis further underscores their potential in sustainable drug development.⁶¹ In future, emphasis should be on clinical trials to establish their efficacy and safety in humans.

DISCUSSION

Coumarin compounds have been extensively explored for their role in pharmaceutical industry. Due to their therapeutic qualities, they have been shown to be extremely useful as antibacterial, antifungal, anticancer, antioxidant, antiinflammatory, analgesic, PDE inhibitor, antitumor etc. This review focused on how many researchers have synthesised and examined their physiochemical & structural characteristics using QSAR, IR, NMR, Mass spectral analysis and other methods.

CONCLUSION

Coumarin and its derivatives continue to be promising candidates in drug discovery because of their broad and great spectrum of pharmacological actions. Recent developments in synthetic strategies and mechanistic

studies have further solidified their therapeutic potential. Continued exploration of novel derivatives and their clinical applications will pave the way for new treatments in various diseases.

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AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

SK: Contribution to conceptualization, initial drafting. SY: Assisted in data validation. SM: Supervised the study design and finalized the manuscript. KA: Reviewed, edited and refined the work. NK:&SSA: finalized the manuscript. All authors approved the final version and agreed to accountability for the work.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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