Synthesis of new coumarin derivatives with suspected anticoagulant activity

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: To synthesize three series of new coumarin derivatives and to screen their anticoagulant activity in rabbits in order to define in more exact terms the structural features that responsible for the anticoagulant activity of coumarins.

Methods: the first series was synthesized by esterification the 7-hydroxycoumarin with benzoic acid, salicylic acid and 5-amino salicylic acid to give derivatives I-III; the second series was synthesized by the formation of amide linkage between 6-aminocoumarin and benzoic acid, salicylic acid and 5-amino salicylic acid to give derivatives IV-VI while the third series was synthesized by esterification the coumarin-6-carboxylic acid with phenol, resorcinol and *m*-chlorophenol to give derivatives VII-IX.

The anticoagulant activity of these derivatives (I-IX) was investigated in rabbits via Quick's one-stage method; the initial effect of each derivative on the prothrombine time for five rabbits before and after oral administration was measured.

Results: The chemical structure of these derivatives was characterized by physical and spectroscopic techniques as FTIR, UV and ¹³C-NMR spectra. Depending on prothrombin time measurements, derivatives II and VIII showed a significant anticoagulant activity through increasing the prothrombine time while the other derivatives showed an insignificant anticoagulant activity.

Conclusion: This study proposed that the coumarin derivatives contained an ester linkage at position 6 or 7 separated from a hydroxyl group by short carbon side chain may show anticoagulant activity.

Key words: Synthesis, coumarin, prothrombine time.

الخلاصة

الأهداف: تصنيع ثلاثة سلاسل جديدة من مشتقات الكيومارين وفحص فعاليتها المضادة للتخثر في الأرانب وذلك للتعرف على الخصائص المسئولة في الشكل الكيميائي للكيومارين عن هذه الفعالية.

طرق العمل: تم تحضير السلسلة الأولى بتكوين أصرة الاستر بين 7 هايدر وكسي كيومارين وحامض البنزويك، حامض السالسيليك و ٥-أمينو حامض السالسيليك. السلسلة الثانية حضرت بتكوين أصرة الأمايد بين ٢-أمينوكيومارين وحامض البنزويك، حامض السالسيليك و ٥-أمينو حامض السالسيليك بينما تم تحضير السلسلة الثالثة بتكوين أصرة الاستر بين كيومارين-٦-كار بوكسيلك أسد والفينول، الرسرسينول و الميتا كلوروفينول. تم التحقق من الفعالية المضادة للتخثر في الأرانب بقياس وقت التخثر قبل وبعد إعطاء هذه المشتقات عن طريق الفم باستخدام طريقة كوبك ذات المرحلة ألو احدة.

النتائج: تم تشخيص الشكل الكيميائي للمشتقات الجديدة باستخدام الوسائل الفيزيائية والطيفية كطيفي الأشعة تحت الحمراء وفوق البنفسجية والرنين النووي المغناطيسي للكربون. بالاعتماد على قياسات وقت التخثر، فان المشتقين II و IIIV أبديا فعالية مضادة للتخثر وذلك من خلال زيادة وقت التخثر بينما المشتقات الأخرى لم تبد مثل هذه الفعالية.

الاستنتاج: تفترض هذه الدراسة أن مشتقات الكيومارين التي تحتوي على أصرة الاستر في الموقع ٦ أو ٧ مفصولة عن مجموعة الهيدروكسيل بسلسلة كربونية قصيرة قد تبدي فعالية مضادة للتخثر.

Y oumarins owe their class name to 'Coumarou', the vernacular name of the Tonka bean, from which coumarin itself was isolated in 1820. Coumarin is classified as a member of the benzopyrone family of compounds, all of which consist of a benzene ring joined to a pyrone ring¹. The coumarin chemistry has become more and more important over the vears. which is documented by thousands of papers and patents. This is mainly because of the discovery of their varied biochemical properties².

Coumarin derivatives have been reported to possess a wide range of pharmacological activities such as anticoagulant,³ anti-inflammatory,⁴ antimicrobial,⁵ antitubercular,⁶ antioxidant⁷, analgesic⁸, and cytotoxic activities⁹.

The coumarin-type anticoagulants have been used for the prophylaxis and treatment of thromboembolic disorders for more than 50 years.¹⁰ Coumarins are vitamin K antagonists and inhibit the hepatic synthesis of blood clotting factors II (prothrombin), VII, IX and X as well as of anticoagulant proteins C and S from their precursor proteins. These precursors are activated by vitamin K, which is initially reduced to its hydroguinone form and is then reversibly converted to its 2,3-epoxide form. Coumarins block the enzymatic regeneration of the hydroquinone form, reducing the amount of biologically active vitamin K and causing an accumulation of inactive precursors of the blood clotting factors¹¹. In addition, coumarins inhibit a variety of other vitamin K-dependent carboxylation reactions in the kidneys, placenta and bones¹²

Prothrombin time (PT) has been used to monitor oral anticoagulant therapy since the introduction of warfarin in 1941¹³. This test measures the clotting time of plasma in the presence of an optimal amount of tissue extract (thromboplastin) and depends on the reactions with factors V, VII, X and on the fibrinogen concentration in the plasma indicating the overall efficiency of extrinsic clotting pathway¹⁴.

The PT assay is performed by the addition of calcium and thromboplastin to citrated plasma. Thromboplastin is a phospholipid-protein extract of tissue (usually lung, brain, or placenta) that contains both the tissue factor and phospholipids necessary to promote the activation of factor X by factor VII¹⁵.

The focus of the presented study was to synthesize three series of new coumarins; each series consists of three derivatives and to quantify their anticoagulant activity in rabbits depending on PT measurements before and after oral administration.

Experimental

The parent coumarins with 99% purity were obtained from Aldrich Chemical Company. The other chemicals and solvents used in this study were of analytical grade purity.

The melting points were measured using an electro-thermal CIA 9300 apparatus and were reported uncorrected. The IR spectra were recorded on a Buck 500 scientific FTIR spectrophotometer using KBr disc.

Ultraviolet-visible spectra were obtained via Carrywinn U.V. Varian U.V. - visible spectrophotometer.

The ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on 300 MHz JOEL NMR AL300 using TMS as a standard and $CDCl_3$ as a solvent; the chemical shifts were given in part per million (ppm). These spectra were measured in Sweden. The chemical structures were drawn by Chemdraw Office 2001 software. Iraq J Pharm ·

The follow up of reaction and the purity of each products were carried out on precoated TLC plates (silica $60F_{254}$, Merck); the solvent system was chloroform: acetone (4:1); the spots were visualized in ultraviolet light. The reagent (thromboplastin-calcium chloride) for determination of PT was purchased from Biolab SA Company (France).

Synthesis of series 1 derivatives¹⁶

Intimate mixture of benzoic acid derivative (0.025 mol), 7-hydroxy

coumarin (4.05 g , 0.025 mol), benzene (80 ml) and catalytic amount of concentrated sulfuric acid was refluxed for 4 hr. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 15-20°C; the crude product was crystallized out, filtered off and treated with diluted NaHCO₃ solution.

The crystals washed thoroughly with cold water, dried and recrystallized from ethanol. The synthetic pathway of these derivatives is summarized in Scheme 1 while their physicochemical properties are listed in Table 1.



Scheme 1. Synthetic pathway of series 1 derivatives

Synthesis of series 2 derivatives¹⁷

The mixture of benzoic acid derivative (0.025 mol), 6-aminocoumarin (4.025 g, 0.025 mol), thionyl chloride (2.2 ml, 0.03 mol) and benzene (30 ml) were refluxed for 2 hr. Then the mixture was poured into a conical flask contained 500 ml of an ice water.

The precipitate was filtered off, dissolved in 25 ml of 2N sodium hydroxide solution and filtered again. The solution was acidified with 2N hydrochloric acid, filtered by suction, washed with cold water, dried and recrystallized from ethanol. The synthetic pathway of these derivatives is summarized in Scheme 2 while their physicochemical properties are listed in Table 1.

Synthesis of series 3 derivatives¹⁸

In a water bath, coumarin-6-carboxylic acid (10.15 gm, 0.035 mol) and an

excess of thionyl chloride were refluxed for 1.5 hr. The excess amount of thionyl chloride was removed under vacuum to give coumarin-6-carbonyl chloride.

From a dropping funnel, benzene (25 ml) was added dropwise to a mixture of coumarin-6-carbonyl chloride (7.725 gm, 0.025 mol) and phenolic derivative (0.025 mol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min, refluxed for 2 hr and then neutralized with ice cold diluted HC1.

The precipitate was filtered off, washed with cold water, dried and recrystallized from ethanol. The synthetic pathway of these derivatives is summarized in Scheme 3 while their physicochemical properties are listed in Table 1.







Scheme 3. Synthetic pathway of series 3 derivatives

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Derivative number	m.p. (°C)	% yield	R _f	λ_{max} (ethanol) nm
Ι	156-158	51.03	0.60	372
II	191-193	46.87	0.55	316
III	259-261	44.37	0.42	323
IV	341-343	73.22	0.59	346
V	311-313	77.15	0.52	381
VI	325-327	65.56	0.48	392
VII	212-214	78.81	0.49	335
VIII	236-238	73.98	0.58	329
IX	199-201	71.02	0.50	375

Anticoagulant activity

The anticoagulant activity of the new coumarins was tested by determining the PT via the one-stage method of Quick as followed¹⁹.

A (0.9 ml) of rabbit blood was mixed with 0.1 ml of 0.1M sodium citrate solution. The resulted mixture was then centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 15 min. The separated plasma was transferred to a test tube kept in a water bath at $37 \pm 0.5^{\circ}$ C.

In another test tube, (0.2 ml) of thromboplastin-calcium chloride mixture was allowed to warm in the same water bath for 15 min and then (0.1 ml) of warmed plasma was added. Simultaneously, the stop-watch was worked and the test tube was kept in a water bath for 10 seconds with gentle shaking. Then the test tube removed from the water bath, holed in front of bright light and tilted slightly until a solid gel clot would appear. The time from addition of plasma to the thromboplastin-calcium chloride mixture until the clot would appear represents the PT. This assay was carried out for each of plasma sample in duplicate^{20, 21}.

Results and discussion

Coumarin and coumarin-related compounds have proved for many years to have a significant therapeutic potential²². They come from a wide variety of natural sources and new coumarin derivatives are being

discovered or synthesized on a regular basis.²³ During the continuous effort to detect the structural characteristics of coumarin nucleus that are responsible for anticoagulant activity, we thought it worthwhile to synthesize new coumarin derivatives and to screen their anticoagulant activity by using Quick's one-stage method.

Synthesis of series 1 derivatives

The derivatives of series 1 were synthesized by the formation of an ester linkage between 7hydroxycoumarin (Umbelliferone) and benzoic acid derivatives in a strong acidic medium. Strong liquid mineral acids as H₂SO₄ are effective esterifying agents and their role in an esterification are the subjects of extensive studies. For instance, it has been well documented that when using this type of catalyst, the slow step of the reaction is the nucleophilic attack of the phenol on the protonated carbonyl group of the carboxylic acid²⁴.

This mechanistic route first involves protonation of the carboxylic acid, which activates it for reaction with non protonated phenol to yield a tetrahedral intermediate that, by decomposition, produces the products of reaction; ester and water.²⁵

The general structure of series 1 derivatives is shown in Figure 1, the ¹³C NMR spectra of these derivatives are summarized in Table 2 while their IR spectra are listed in Table 3.



Figure 1. The general structure of series 1 derivatives

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Derivative	The carbon chemical shift ($CDCl_3$, δ , ppm)						
number	Position	Position	Position	Position	Position	Position	Aliphatic
	2	3	4	7	2'	5'	carbonyl
Ι	167.76	129.12	141.11	148.98	128.65	126.12	159.55
II	169.12	126.67	144.57	150.34	156.87	121.80	163.81
III	170.22	125.88	143.76	150.77	149.12	139.77	164.09

Table 2. The data obtained from ¹³C NMR spectra of series 1 derivatives

Table 3. The data obtained from IR spectra of series 1 derivatives

Derivative number	The stretching absorption band (KBr, v, cm ⁻¹)					
	C=O of	C=O of	С-Н	C=C of	O-H	N-H of
		α-	aromatic	α-	intermolecular	primary
	Aliphatic	pyrone		pyrone	hydrogen	amine
	ester				bonded	
Ι	1731.12	1723.65	3045.08	1662.23		
	(s)	(s)	(w)	(s)		
II	1729.76	1719.87	3052.43	1665.01	3371.29	
	(s)	(s)	(w)	(s)	(br)	
III	1732.83	1724.66	3051.17	1670.12	3378.66	3423.84
	(s)	(s)	(w)	(s)	(br)	(m)

s= strong, w= weak, br= broad, m= medium.

Synthesis of series 2 derivatives

The derivatives of series 2 were synthesized by treating the benzoic acid derivatives with thionyl chloride to yield corresponding acid chloride derivatives which were directly reacted with 6-aminocoumarin to give amide derivatives.

Thionyl chloride is the most popular reagent for preparation of acid chlorides with many advantages as it is a volatile substance and the excess amount of it can be distilled off at the end of reaction.²⁶ Only gaseous byproducts are given out and no tedious workup is required for purification of acid chlorides²⁷. It reacts also with sterically hindered carboxylic acids and works well in the variety of conditions²⁸.

The general structure of series 2 derivatives is shown in Figure 2, the ¹³C NMR spectra of these derivatives are summarized in Table 4 while their IR spectra are listed in Table 5.



Figure 2. The general structure of series 2 derivatives

Table 4. The data obtained from ¹³ C	C NMR spectra of series 2 derivatives
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Derivative	The carbon chemical shift ($CDCl_3$, δ , ppm)						
number	Position	Position	Position	Position	Position	Position	Aliphatic
	2	3	4	6	2'	5'	carbonyl
IV	166.06	125.09	142.67	134.52	128.65	126.12	161.25
V	170.33	126.01	144.12	133.01	156.87	121.80	158.38
VI	169.35	128.44	144.34	135.98	149.12	139.77	158.11

Table 5. The data obtained from IR spectra of series 2 derivatives

Derivative		The stretching absorption band (KBr, v, cm^{-1})					
number	C=O of	N-H of	C=O of	C-H	C=C of	O-H	N-H of
	α-	amide	amide	aromatic	α-	inter-	primary
	pyrone	(H-			pyrone	molecular	amine
		bonded)				H-	
						bonded	
IV	1734.1	3215.2	1648.5	3051.0	1660.3		
	(s)	(m)	(m)	(w)	(s)		
V	1731.1	3213.7	1649.8	3058.4	1662.0	3381.2	
	(s)	(m)	(m)	(w)	(s)	(br)	
VI	1730.9	3222.1	1651.0	3056.7	1667.6	3371.3	3441.3
	(s)	(m)	(m)	(w)	(s)	(br)	(m)

s= strong, w= weak, br= broad, m= medium.

Synthesis of series 3 derivatives

The derivatives of series 3 were synthesized by treating coumarin-6carboxylic acid with thionyl chloride to yield a corresponding acid chloride derivative which was directly reacted with phenolic derivatives to give the final ester products.

The preparation of esters from their corresponding carboxylic acids is an important and well-known transformation reaction in organic synthesis. This preparation requires an activation of the carboxyl group; which can be achieved by converting it to more reactive functional group as acyl halide^{29, 30}.

The general structure of series 3 derivatives is shown in Figure 3, the ¹³C NMR spectra of these derivatives are summarized in Table 6 while their IR spectra are listed in Table 7.



Figure 3. The general structure of series 3 derivatives

Table 6. The data obtained from ¹³C NMR spectra of series 3 derivatives.

Derivative	The carbon chemical shift ($CDCl_3$, δ , ppm)						
number	Position	Position	Position	Position	Position	Position	Aliphatic
	2	3	4	6	1'	3'	carbonyl
VII	168.16	127.19	138.67	128.34	155.42	138.18	167.15
VIII	169.26	128.88	140.45	126.05	156.22	160.74	165.91
XI	169.22	125.01	137.06	126.67	156.10	128.16	162.02

Table 7. The data obtained from IR spectra of series 3 derivatives.

Derivative number	Derivative The stretching absorption band (KBr, v , cm ⁻¹) number					
	C=O of	C=O of	С-Н	C=C of	Free O-H	C-Cl
	aliphatic	α- pyrone	aromatic	α- pyrone		
	ester					
VII	1733.33	1720.87	3067.62	1672.01		
	(s)	(s)	(w)	(s)		
VIII	1734.45	1722.08	3069.61	1666.14	3592.22	
	(s)	(s)	(w)	(s)	(s)	
XI	1735.01	1724.00	3066.28	1672.62		1091.2
	(s)	(s)	(w)	(s)		(s)

s= strong, w= weak.

Anticoagulant activity

After specifying the normal PT, the 45 rabbits were divided into groups of five members. The rabbits of a specific group were given single doses (40 mg/day) by mouth through a small rubber catheter passing a mouth-gag of selected coumarin derivative that dissolved in 2 ml of corn oil for three consequence days. The treated rabbits were observed for the first three hours after treatment for the occurrence of poisoning signs.

After 72 hours from the first oral dose, the PT was determined again. It seems appropriate to wait this period of time because of the clearance time of some clotting factors, such as for factor X of about 40 hours and for factor II (prothrombin) of about 60 hours³¹. The PT data before and after oral administration of new coumarins are listed in Table 8.

Tuble 6. The data obtained from protinonionic time measurements							
Derivative	The mean of PT in seconds for	The mean of PT in seconds for					
number	five rabbits before treatment	five rabbits after treatment					
Ι	15.76	15.22					
II	14.56	19.83					
III	14.89	14.73					
VI	14.11	14.36					
V	13.98	14.13					
VI	14.57	14.36					
VII	13.86	14.23					
VIII	14.49	20.01					
XI	14.45	14.31					

Table 8. The data obtained from prothrombine time measurements

The determination of PT has gained a wide laboratory and clinical acceptance over the last 15 years as a standard of measurement on which clinical treatment with the coumarin derivatives is based³². PT measures the effect of a reduction in vitamin K-dependent coagulation factors II, V, VII and X and indicates the integrity of the extrinsic coagulation pathway³³.

The normal PT value ranges from 14-16 seconds ³⁴ and the change of more than two seconds in its controlled

value after oral administration may be considered as a significant change³⁵, according to that, derivatives II and VIII were found to exhibit a promising anticoagulant activity. Rabbit was used in the presented work as a model to screen the anticoagulant activity of new coumarins because of the similarity in coumarin metabolism in human and rabbit³⁶. both The variability in the PT before and after oral administration of derivatives II and VIII is explained in Figure 4.



Figure 4. The prothrombin time values of derivatives II and VIII before and after treatment

Conclusion

In the present work, three series of new coumarin derivatives were synthesized in moderate to high yield and their chemical structures were established by physical and spectroscopic techniques as FTIR, UV and ¹³C-NMR spectra. The anticoagulant activity of these derivatives was investigated by determining the PT in groups of rabbits according to Quick's one-stage method.

The results revealed that only derivatives II and VIII showed a promising anticoagulant activity through increasing the clotting time. Depending on the chemical structure of new coumarins, the presented work proposed that the coumarin derivative contained an ester linkage at position 6 or 7 separated from a hydroxyl group by short carbon side chain may show anticoagulant activity. It is believed that this work may represent a one stone in the building of structureactivity relationship of coumarins.

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