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Isocoumarins: Compounds having unique applications

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Isocoumarins are benzo derivatives of α -pyranone (2H-pyran-2-one), a six-membered oxygen heterocyclic compound. These isocoumarins and 3,4-dihydroisocoumarins are secondary metabolites found naturally in a wide variety of fungi, lichens, molds, insects and plants. This class of aromatic lactones has a wide range of industrial and pharmacological applications such as pharmaceutical, food, agriculture, cosmetics, nutraceutical, UV absorbers, fluorescent agents, sweeteners, healthcare products, antibacterial and antifungal agents etc. Isocoumarins and 3,4-dihydroisocoumarins are very stable compounds and the structure of these molecules can be modified according to the required properties. These molecules can be used for imparting different functional properties to textiles like UV absorbance, fluorescence, antifungal, antibacterial etc. This class of compounds can be effectively explored for new functional materials to be used in the field of textile.

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