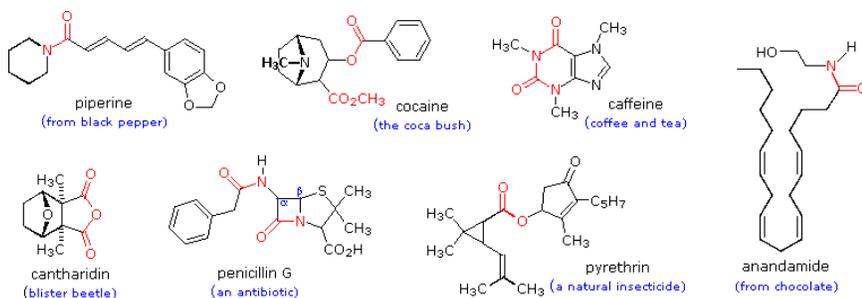


20.15: Interesting Esters and Amides

Functional groups of this kind are found in many kinds of natural products. Some examples are shown below with the functional group colored red. Most of the functions are amides or esters, cantharidin being a rare example of a natural anhydride. Cyclic esters are called **lactones**, and cyclic amides are referred to as **lactams**. Penicillin G has two amide functions, one of which is a β -lactam. The Greek letter locates the nitrogen relative to the carbonyl group of the amide.



Contributors

- William Reusch, Professor Emeritus ([Michigan State U.](https://www.libretexts.org/@go/page/30897)), Virtual Textbook of Organic Chemistry

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