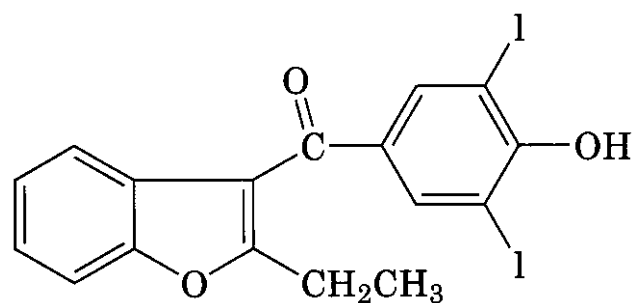


Sodium cromoglycate entered clinical trials in 1967 and emerged to become a first-line prophylactic treatment for bronchial asthma.

The coronary dilator properties of **khellin** have not been ignored and at least one successful program was initiated to prepare analogs for testing as potential antiangina drugs (187, 188). Benziodarone (144) was the first useful compound to emerge from the Labaz laboratories in Belgium based on the **benzofuran** ring system. However, the compound caused hepatotoxicity in man and was soon superseded by amiodarone (145), a more potent coronary dilator for treating angina. In 1970 the first report of antiarrhythmic activity in the clinic was published (189) and amiodarone became established for prophylactic



(144) benziodarone

control of supraventricular and ventricular arrhythmias during the 1980s (188).

## 7.2 Ephedrine, Isoprenaline, and Salbutamol

The Chinese have been using a plant extract known as ma huang to treat asthma and hay