**α-Asarone**  
**Item No. 11681**

**CAS Registry No.:** 2883-98-9  
**Formal Name:** 1,2,4-trimethoxy-5-(1E)-1-propen-1-yl-benzene  
**Synonym:** trans-Asarone  
**MF:** C₁₂H₁₆O₃  
**FW:** 208.3  
**Purity:** ≥98%  
**Stability:** ≥2 years at -20°C  
**Supplied as:** A crystalline solid  
**UV/Vis:** λ<sub>max</sub> 212, 258, 313 nm

**Laboratory Procedures**

For long term storage, we suggest that α-Asarone be stored as supplied at -20°C. It should be stable for at least two years.

α-Asarone is supplied as a crystalline solid. A stock solution may be made by dissolving the α-asarone in the solvent of choice. α-Asarone is soluble in organic solvents such as ethanol, DMSO, and dimethyl formamide (DMF), which should be purged with an inert gas. The solubility of α-asarone in these solvents is approximately 14, 11, and 16 mg/ml, respectively.

α-Asarone is sparingly soluble in aqueous buffers. For maximum solubility in aqueous buffers, α-asarone should first be dissolved in DMSO and then diluted with the aqueous buffer of choice. α-Asarone has a solubility of approximately 0.5 mg/ml in a 1:1 solution of DMF/PBS (pH 7.2) using this method. We do not recommend storing the aqueous solution for more than one day.

α-Asarone is a component of certain essential oils used in traditional Chinese herbal medicine. Although carcinogenic, α-asarone has been shown to be neuroprotective and radioprotective in mice when given at 50 mg/kg. It also lowers serum cholesterol in rats, specifically reducing LDL-cholesterol levels and cholesterol saturation index, by directly inhibiting HMG-CoA reductase (IC<sub>50</sub> = 3 mM).<sup>4,5</sup> α-Asarone also directly interacts with and inhibits certain isoforms of cytochrome P450 (IC<sub>50</sub> = 55.2 and 65.2 μg/ml for CYP2D6 and CYP3A4, respectively).<sup>6</sup>

**References**


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