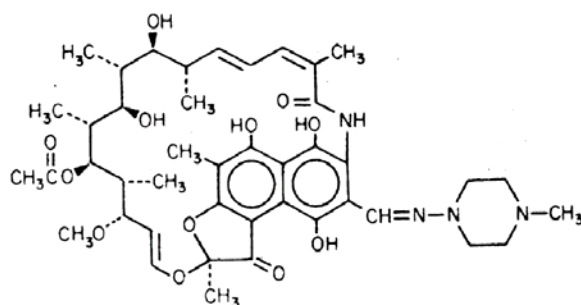


RIFAMPICIN

Discovery. In 1957, a *Streptomyces* strain, designated strain ME/83, later named *Streptomyces mediterranei* was isolated in the Lepetit Research Laboratories from soil sample collected at a pine arboretum near Saint Raphaël, France^{1,2}. From this strain several rifamycins, whose structure was elucidated by Oppolzer and collaborators³, were isolated. By reduction of one of these, rifamycin S and rifamycin SV were obtained. Rifamycin SV was only effective parenterally, as it was not absorbed to a significant degree when administered orally. Further chemical modification led to an orally active substance, rifampicine⁴.



For this part of the discovery the "Prix Galien for Pharmaceutica" was awarded by the French Journal Pharmacie Mondiale to CIBA and Lepetit for the research and development of rifampicin.

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