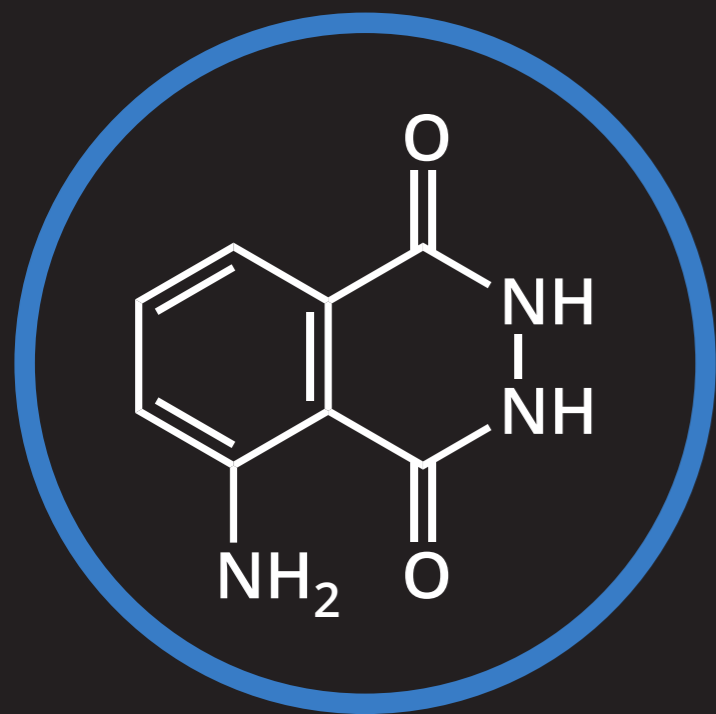


CRIME SCENE CHEMISTRY - LUMINOL

What triggers luminol's chemiluminescence?



BLOOD



BLEACH



FAECES



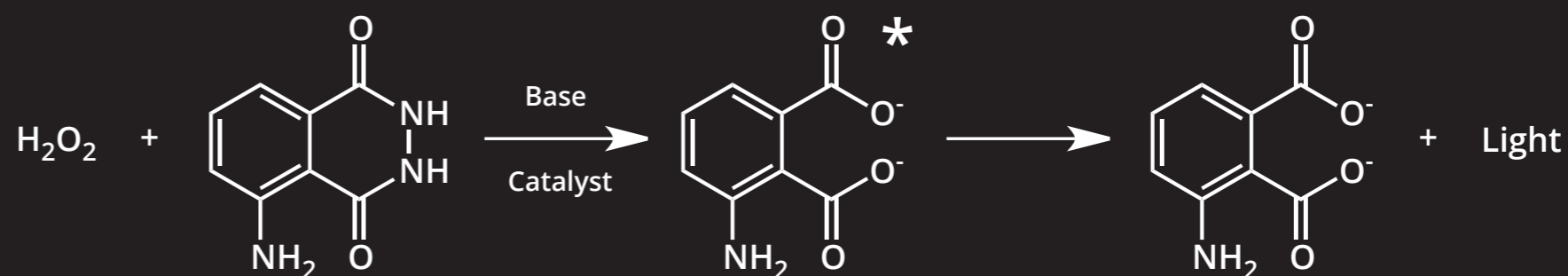
URINE



HORSERADISH

The reaction that triggers luminol's chemiluminescence has to be catalysed. The iron in blood can carry out this role, but luminol can also be oxidised by bleach to achieve the same effect. Enzymes in faeces and horseradish can also help trigger the reaction.

How luminol reacts to produce light



Luminol solution also contains an oxidising agent, such as hydrogen peroxide, and a base. In the presence of a catalyst, the reaction produces energy, promoting electrons in the product to higher energy levels, before they fall back down and release their excess energy as light.

