

Safranin O, Reddish

Learn how to make safranin stain and use it to stain bacteria.

Materials

Safranin O, Reddish Salt (item #887039)
Distilled Water (item #858621)
Glass Bottle (item #716292)
Stir Bar
Magnetic Stir Plate (item #701023)
Erlenmeyer Flask, 100-mL (item #731028)
Graduated Cylinder (item #721744)
Label

Don't want to make it yourself?
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Item Numbers
886925, 886985, 886987

Procedure

Dissolve 1.0 g safranin O salt into 100 mL of distilled water.

Label Information

Safranin O, 1%

Date Prepared: _____
Initials of Preparer: _____
Health Risk: 1
Flammability: 0
Reactivity: 0

Applications

Safranin O is a biological stain used in histology and cytology. Safranin acts as a classic counterstain in some staining protocols, coloring all cell nuclei red. It can also be used for the detection of cartilage, mucin, and mast cell granules. To use safranin as a simple bacterial stain, perform a bacterial smear, then saturate the smear with safranin for 1 minute. Rinse the slide gently with water and carefully blot dry with bibulous paper.

Reference

Rosenberg, L. 1971. Chemical basis for the histological use of safranin O in the study of articular cartilage. *Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery* 53 (1):69–82. PMID 4250366.