

DYEING TEXTILES: GENERAL MORDANT AND DYE PROCESSES

Adapted from Jo Kirby et al, *Natural Colorants for Dyeing and Lake Pigments: Practical Recipes and their Historical Sources* (Archetype, London, 2014)

MORDANT BATH		DYE BATH	
Materials: <input type="checkbox"/> Mordant <input type="checkbox"/> Water <input type="checkbox"/> Textiles <input type="checkbox"/> Scale <input type="checkbox"/> Hot plate <input type="checkbox"/> Glass beaker	<input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer <input type="checkbox"/> Stirring stick <input type="checkbox"/> Plate <input type="checkbox"/> Strainer <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towels	Materials: <input type="checkbox"/> Dyestuffs <input type="checkbox"/> Mortar and pestle <input type="checkbox"/> Drawstring bag <input type="checkbox"/> Water <input type="checkbox"/> Textiles <input type="checkbox"/> Scale	<input type="checkbox"/> Hot plate <input type="checkbox"/> Glass beaker <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer <input type="checkbox"/> Stirring stick <input type="checkbox"/> Plate <input type="checkbox"/> Strainer <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towels
Procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure out water into glass beaker • Add mordant and stir • Place beaker onto hot plate and turn on to medium-low • Using the thermometer, note the temperature. Stir to dissolve mordant in the water • Pre-wet textiles with water and wring them out carefully to remove as much water as possible • When the mordant solution has reached 70 °C, add the textiles • Heat the textiles for 30 minutes at 80-90 °C, stirring occasionally to ensure homogenous absorption by the textiles • NOTE: monitor the temperature of the bath, adjusting the hot plate settings as necessary • After 30 minutes, remove the textiles from the bath using the strainer • Being careful not to damage or felt the textile, wash them with clean water to remove any mordant that has not bound to the textiles • Wring out excess water 		Procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using mortar and pestle, crush dyestuffs to a fine powder or into small pieces • Measure out crushed dyestuffs and, using a small utensil, add to the drawstring bag. Close the bag tightly • Measure out water into glass beaker, and add dyestuffs bag to the water and “stir” as if you are steeping tea • Place beaker onto hot plate, at medium-low • Heat the bath (without the textiles) at 80-90 °C for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally • NOTE: monitor the temperature of the bath, adjusting the hot plate settings as necessary • After 30 minutes, add the textiles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If using mordanted textiles, add the wet textiles ○ If using un-mordanted textiles, pre-wet with water and wring them out carefully ○ NOTE: it is common to remove the dyestuffs bag at this point, but you can also leave it in • Dye the textiles at 80-90 °C for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally to ensure homogenous dyeing • After 30 minutes, remove the textiles from the bath using the strainer • Being careful not to damage or felt the textile, wash them with clean water to remove any dye that has not bound to the textiles • When the water runs clear over the textiles and no color comes off the textiles, wring out excess water • Lay out the textiles on paper towels to dry 	