

## 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)

<b>MORDANT BATH (i.e., alum, iron, copper)</b>		<b>DYE BATH (with an optional additive, potash)</b>	
<p><b>Materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mordant</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Textiles</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Scale</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hot plate</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Glass beaker</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stirring stick</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Plate</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Strainer</li> </ul>	<p><b>Materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dyestuffs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Optional: potash</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mortar and pestle</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drawstring bag OR filter</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Textiles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Scale</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hot plate</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Glass beaker</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stirring stick</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Plate</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Strainer</li> </ul>
<p><b>Procedure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Measure out water into glass beaker</li> <li>● Add mordant and stir</li> <li>● Place beaker onto hot plate and turn on (typically, at medium-low)</li> <li>● Using the thermometer, note the temperature. Stir to dissolve mordant in the water</li> <li>● Pre-wet textiles with water and wring them out carefully to remove as much water as possible</li> <li>● When the mordant solution has reached 70 °C, add the textiles</li> <li>● Heat the textiles for 30 minutes at 80-90 °C, stirring occasionally to ensure homogenous absorption by the textiles</li> <li>● NOTE: monitor the temperature of the bath, adjusting the hot plate settings as necessary</li> <li>● After 30 minutes, remove the textiles from the bath by pouring them into the strainer, discarding the liquid</li> <li>● Being careful not to damage or felt the textiles, wash them with clean water to remove any mordant that has not bound to the textiles</li> <li>● Wring out excess water</li> </ul>		<p><b>Procedure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Using mortar and pestle, crush dyestuffs to a fine powder or into small pieces</li> <li>● Measure out water into glass beaker</li> <li>● To add dyestuffs to water:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If using a filter, add dyestuffs directly to the water (you will strain later)</li> <li>○ If using drawstring bag, add dyestuffs to the bag, close tightly, add bag to water</li> </ul> </li> <li>● If using the optional additive potash, measure out and add to solution</li> <li>● Place beaker onto hot plate, at medium-low</li> <li>● Heat the bath (without the textiles) at 80-90 °C for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally</li> <li>● NOTE: monitor the temperature of the bath, adjusting the hot plate settings as necessary</li> <li>● After 30 minutes, remove dyestuffs:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If using a filter, carefully strain the solution through filter into a clean beaker. Keep the liquid, not dyestuffs</li> <li>○ If using a drawstring bag, remove it (no need to strain). You can also leave it in</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Add textiles to the dye bath (it is usually best to pre-wet textiles with water before adding)</li> <li>● Heat textiles at 80-90 °C for 30 min, stirring occasionally to ensure homogenous dyeing</li> <li>● After 30 minutes, remove the textiles from the bath using the strainer</li> <li>● Being careful not to damage or felt the textile, wash textiles with clean water to remove any dye that has not bound to them</li> <li>● When the water runs clear over the textiles and no color comes off the textiles, wring out excess water</li> <li>● Lay out the textiles to dry</li> </ul>	