

Ceric Ammonium Molybdate (CAM) Stain

Stain recipe:

- 50 g ammonium molybdate (SigmaAldrich, A1343)
- 2 g cerium sulfate (SigmaAldrich, 359009)
- 900 mL water
- 100 mL sulfuric acid (SigmaAldrich, 339741)

Ideally, the resulting solution should be clear, but some yellow color isn't usually a problem.

Procedure:

- using tongs, dip the TLC plate into the CAM stain
- dab off the excess using a paper towel
- with the silica facing the heat gun, heat plate until spots appear at desired intensity
- let plate cool before marking spots

After staining and leaving the plate out in the open, the stain is decently photosensitive so the color will fade after a few days in open light.