

Herbal Based Fingerprint Powder Formulation for Latent Fingerprint Visualization: Catechu (Kattha)

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Abstract : Latent fingerprints are commonly encountered evidence at the scene of the crime. It is very important to decipher these fingerprints in order to explore their identity and a lot of research has been made on the visualization of latent fingerprints on various substrates by numerous researchers. During the past few years large number of powder formulations has been evolved for the development of latent fingerprints on different surfaces. This paper reports a new and simple fingerprint powder which is non-toxic and has been employed on different substrates successfully for the development and visualization of latent fingerprints upto the time period of twelve days in varying temperature conditions. In this study, a less expensive, simple and easily available catechu (kattha) powder has been used to decipher the latent fingerprints on different substrates namely glass, plastic, metal, aluminium foil, white paper, wall tile and wooden sheet. It is observed that it gives very clear results on all the mentioned substrates and can be successfully used for the development and visualization of twelve days old latent fingerprints in varying temperature conditions on wall tiles.

Keywords : fingerprints, catechu, visualization, aged fingerprints

Conference Title : ICFSLE 2018 : International Conference on Forensic Sciences and Law Enforcement

Conference Location : Melbourne, Australia

Conference Dates : February 01-02, 2018