

**Drug Chemistry Section**  
**Drug Chemistry Section Procedure Manual**  
**Effective Date: September 1, 1996**

**Name of Procedure:**

Polarized Light Microscopy  
Microscopic Examination of Hashish Using Chloroform

**Suggested Uses:**

Identification of plant particles from marijuana.

**Apparatus Needed To Perform Procedure Including Preparation of Reagent:**

Polarizing microscope  
Fume hood  
Gloves  
Eye protection  
Laboratory coat  
Spatula  
Microscope slides  
Weighing paper  
Graduated cylinder  
Glass stirring rod  
Glass beaker  
Reagent bottle  
Chloroform

**Formula for Preparing Reagent:**

Reagent grade chloroform is used.

**Expiration Date of Chemical Reagent:**

The reagent can be used until depletion provided it is stored in an airtight reagent bottle.

**Application of Procedure on Evidence:**

1. Place small sample of suspected material on a microscope slide.
2. Place a drop of the chloroform reagent on the suspected material.

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**Application of Procedure on Evidence (continued):**

3. Observe the mixture under a relatively low magnification (approximately 10X).
4. Record results.

**Safety Concerns:**

Always wear eye protection, gloves, and a laboratory coat when preparing this reagent.

Eye protection and a laboratory coat should be worn when using this reagent for the microcrystalline test.

Always dispose of used microscope slides in a broken glass container.

**Literature References:**

Tested and confirmed through use in the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation Drug Chemistry Laboratory, since 1973.