



VKR TEX - Tutorials

Manufacture of All Kinds of Auto loom Fabrics and Natural Dye Fabrics.

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Crimson

- **Crimson** is a strong, bright, deep red color combined with some blue, resulting in a tiny degree of purple. It is originally the color of the dye produced from a scale insect, *Kermes vermilio*, but the name is now also used for slightly bluish-red colors in general that are between red and rose.

History

Crimson was produced using the dried bodies of the kermes insect, which were gathered commercially in Mediterranean countries, where they live on the Kermes oak, and sold throughout Europe. Kermes dyes have been found in burial wrappings in Anglo-Scandinavian York. They fell out of use with the introduction of cochineal, because although the dyes were comparable in quality and color intensity it needed ten to twelve times as much kermes to produce the same effect as cochineal.

Carmine is the name given to the dye made from the dried bodies of the female cochineal, although the name **crimson** is sometimes applied to these dyes too. Cochineal appears to have been discovered during the conquest of Mexico by the Spaniard Hernán Cortés, and the name 'carmine' is derived from the Spanish word for crimson. It was first described by Mathioli in 1549. The pigment is also called **cochineal** after the insect from which it is made.

Alizarin is a pigment that was first synthesized in 1868 by the German chemists Carl Gräbe and Carl Liebermann and replaced the natural pigment madder lake. Alizarin crimson is a dye bonded onto alum which is then used as a pigment and mixed with ochre, sienna and umber. It is not totally colorfast.

Etymology

The word *crimson* has been recorded in English since 1400^[1], and its earlier forms include *cremesin*, *crymysyn* and *cramoysin* (cf. *cramoisy*, a crimson cloth). These were adapted via Old Spanish from the Medieval Latin *cremesinus* (also *kermesinus* or *carmesinus*), the dye produced from Kermes scale insects, and can be traced back to the Arabic and Persian قرمز, *qirmiz* (cognate with Latin *vermis* and English *worm*), which in turn stems from the Sanskrit *krmi-ja*, a compound meaning "produced by a worm" from *krmih* "worm" + *-ja* "produced" (from the Proto-Indo-European **gene-*).

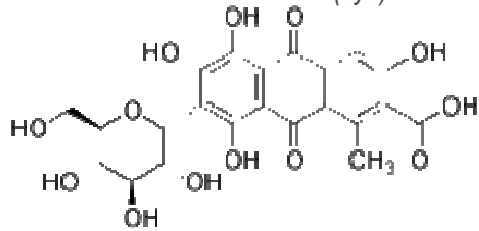
A shortened form of *carmesinus* also gave the Latin *carminus*, from which comes carmine.

Other cognates include the Old Church Slavic *čruminu* and the Russian *čermnyj* "red". Cf. also vermilion.

Dyes

Main article: carmine

Main article: Kermes (dye)



Carminic acid

Carmine dyes, which give crimson and related red and purple colors, are based on an aluminium and calcium salt of carminic acid. **Carmine lake** is an aluminium or aluminium-tin lake of cochineal extract, and **Crimson lake** is prepared by striking down an infusion of cochineal with a 5 percent solution of alum and cream of tartar. **Purple lake** is prepared like carmine lake with the addition of lime to produce the deep purple tone. Carmine dyes tend to fade quickly.

Carmine dyes were once widely prized in both the Americas and in Europe. They were used in paints by Michelangelo and for the crimson fabrics of the Hussars, the Turks, the British Redcoats, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Nowadays carmine dyes are used for coloring foodstuffs, medicines and cosmetics. As a food additive, carmine dyes are designated E120, and are also called **cochineal** and **Natural Red 4**. Carmine dyes are also used in some oil paints and watercolors used by artists.