

## Natural Color Changes of Silk Fabrics by Leaves of *Castanea crenata* and *Artemisia capillaris* with Mordants

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**Abstract:** *Castanea crenata*, known as Korean chestnut has been used as a cosmetic material due to its anti-wrinkle and anti-aging effects. *Artemisia capillaris* is well known as famous Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) for treating acute and chronic hepatitis in China. In this study, the leaves of *C. crenata* and *A. capillaris* were applied as natural dyes. In addition, the color patterns were compared by the pre-mordanting, that is onchrome to silk fabric. Silk fabric was shown colors close to white by *A. capillaris* without any mordant and with sodium tartrate plus citric acid. Interestingly, iron (II) sulfate and potassium dichromate induced green as compared with other mordants inducing yellow or white. The composition of iron could induce very different color changes. This study would be useful to obtain color changes by the leaves of *C. crenata* and *A. capillaris* for some materials, e.g., cotton. Further study will be processed to evaluate them as a biological usage.

**Key words:** *Castanea crenata*, *Artemisia capillaris*, silk fabric, mordant, color change, leaves

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### INTRODUCTION

*Castanea crenata*, known as Korean chestnut (Falk, 2003) is a small to medium-sized deciduous tree growing to 10-15 m tall and its leaves are 8-19 cm long and 3-5 cm broad. The chestnut tree has a lot of biological effects of which it has been used as a cosmetic material due to its anti-wrinkle and anti-aging effects (Noh *et al.*, 2010). Even if it has a lot of biological roles, the chestnut and its tree has no report to be applied for staining as dye.

*Artemisia* (Sunset Books, 1995) is a large, diverse genus of plants with between 200 and 400 species belonging to the daisy family Asteraceae. *A. capillaris* is well known as famous Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) for treating acute and chronic hepatitis in China (Geng *et al.*, 2018). However, it has not been reported that *A. capillaris* would be applied for staining dye for fabrics or other biological tissues.

The term, natural dye, covers all the dyes derived from natural resources such as plants, insects and animals (Sharma and Grover, 2011). The natural dyes are vegetable dyes from plant sources-roots, fruits, coats, leaves and wood. Mordant is used to help natural dyeing (Jung, 2018; Park and Jung, 2014). Mordants include tannic acid, alum, chrome alum and certain salts of aluminium, chromium, copper, iron, potassium, etc. Moreover, the mordants can change and obtain other colors (Jung, 2018;

Park and Jung, 2014). For example, copper acetate induced very different colors of khaki to silk fiber (Jung and Park, 2014).

In this study, the leaves of *C. crenata* and *A. capillaris* were applied as natural dyes. In addition, the color patterns were compared by the pre-mordanting that is onchrome to silk fabric.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Preparation of natural dyes from the leaves of *C. crenata* and *A. capillaris*:** The leaves of were purchased from a traditional market and washed three times with Distilled Water (DW). The 700 g of each material was completely dried on air for the next extraction of dye. Briefly, the dried each material was dissolved into 7 L of DW by boiling with strong flame. For the leaves of *C. crenata*, pH 4.0 was continuously maintained and boiling to completely extract the natural dye was performed for 40 min. For *A. capillaris*, pH 4.0 was continuously maintained and other steps are done like the leaves of *C. crenata*. They were filtered to obtain the pure dye for all natural staining.

**Staining of silk fabric by the leaves of *C. crenata* and *A. capillaris*:** Our research targeted the staining of silk fabric using the leaves of *C. crenata* and *A. capillaris* and changes of silk colors using a variety of mordants. Mordants of copper acetate, aluminum potassium sulfate,

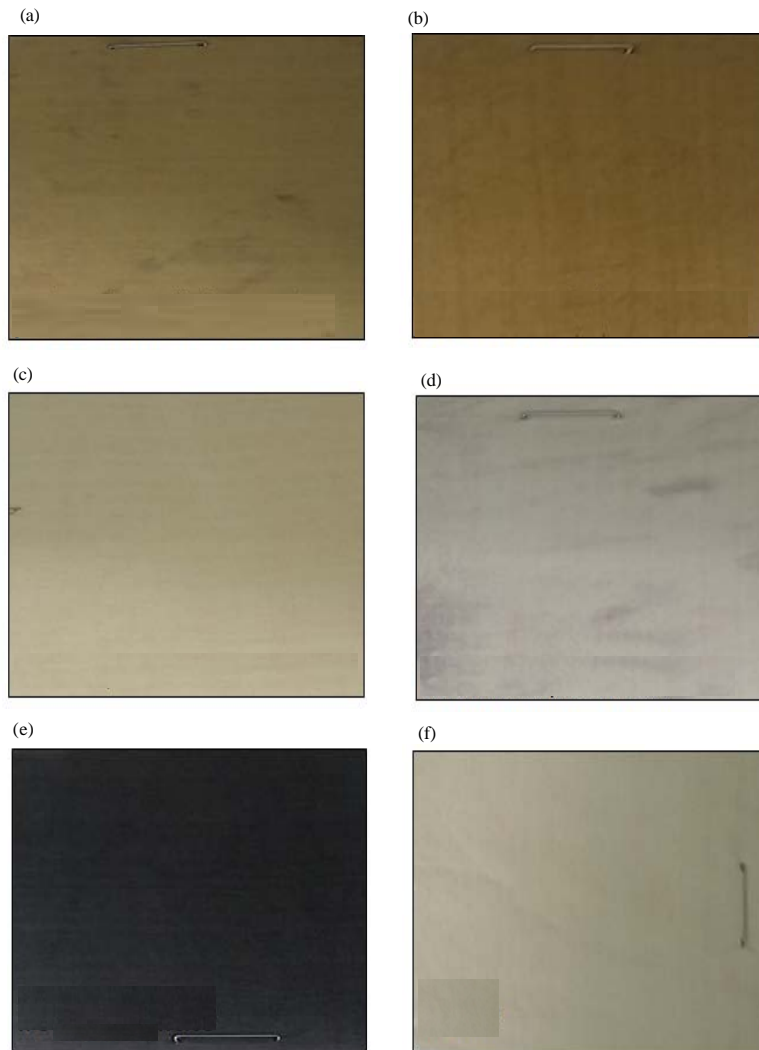
sodium tartrate plus citric acid, iron (II) sulfate or potassium dichromate were pre-mordanted with the fabric silk as shown in Table 1 and then, the dye was added. The dyeing time was about 40 min. After the dyeing was finished, the silk fabric was washed with water and dried without squeezing.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Staining of silk fabric by the leaves of *C. crenata*:** The plants of *C. crenata*-leaves and *A. capillaris* have no common point but with regards of natural staining, they all show clear green. Here, the staining colors were analyzed by the dyes and mordants. The dye extracted from the *C. crenata* leaves induced yellowish color to the silk fabric. If the dyeing time was long, it would have become more yellowish (data not shown). Except for aluminum potassium sulfate inducing color close to white, copper acetate, sodium tartrate plus citric acid, iron (II) sulfate and potassium dichromate induced colors close to yellow but it was found to only have lightness or darkness (Fig. 1).

**Table 1: Treatment of mordants to silk fabric**

Mordants	Volume of mordants (g)	Volume of distilled water (mL)	Treatment time (min)
Copper acetate	10	600	15
Aluminum potassium sulfate	10	600	15
Sodium tartrate plus citric acid	30+90	600	15
Iron (II) sulfate	20	600	5
Potassium dichromate	10	600	15



**Fig. 1: Natural staining of silk fabric by the treatment of mordants followed by the leaves of *Castanea crenata*: a) Potassium dichromate; b) Copper acetate; c) Aluminum potassium sulfate; d) Sodium tartrate plus citric acid; e) Iron (II) sulfate and f) None**

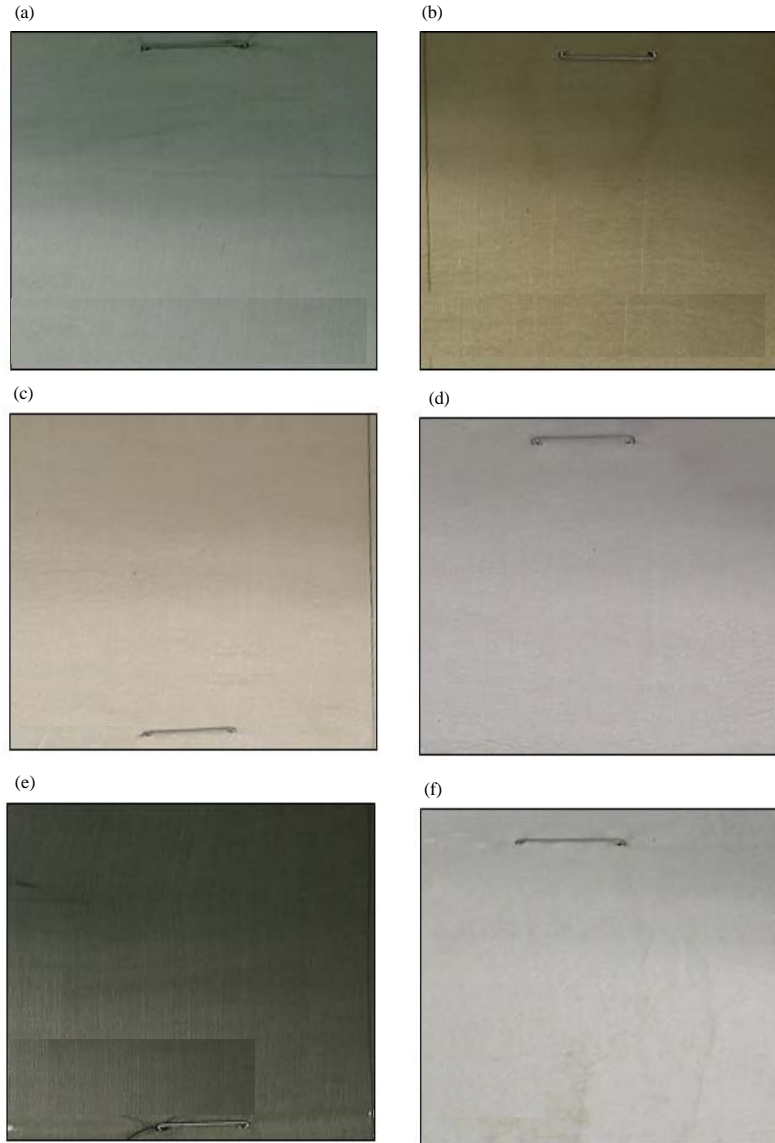


Fig. 2: Natural staining of silk fabric by the treatment of mordants followed by *Artemisia capillaris*: a) Potassium dichromate; b) Copper acetate; c) Aluminum potassium sulfate; d) Sodium tartrate plus citric acid; e) Iron (II) sulfate and f) None

**Staining of silk fabric by the leaves of *A. capillaris*:** As shown in Fig. 1, the leaves of *C. crenata* were associated with inducing yellowish color as a natural dye. Here, to understand the use of *A. capillaris* as a natural dye, silk fabric was applied for the staining with the mordants as mentioned at materials and methods. Silk fabric was shown colors close to white by *A. capillaris* without any mordant and with sodium tartrate plus citric acid (Fig. 2). Copper acetate and aluminum potassium sulfate induced yellowish color but copper acetate did darker yellow (Fig. 2). Interestingly, iron (II)

sulfate and potassium dichromate induced green as compared with other mordants inducing yellow or white (Fig. 2).

It is well known that natural dyes are not harmful to the environment and specifically are good to human body. Due to the eco-friendly advantages, the demand for natural dyes is increasing day by day (Ali *et al.*, 2009; Guinot *et al.*, 2008). These properties would be emphasized nowadays which may prevent allergy and other diseases. Therefore, natural dyes must be good materials alternative to synthetic chemical dyes. This

Table 2: Percent of relative comparison of color change as compared with original color stained by *Castanea crenata*\* and *Artemisia capillaris*\*\*

Without mordant	Copper acetate	Aluminum potassium sulfate	Sodium tartrate plus citric acid	Iron (II) sulfate	Potassium dichromate
100*	80*	90*	50*	10*	80*
100**	60**	70**	90**	20**	50**

study provided information about the application of the leaves of *C. crenata* and *A. capillaris* as natural dyes and also color changes by the pre-mordanting method.

**Percent of relative comparison of color change as compared with original color stained by *C. crenata* and *A. capillaris*:** The staining of the silk fabric by the leaves of *C. crenata* and *A. capillaris* was performed with pH 4.0 in the staining solution. In addition to gross findings on Fig. 1 and 2, the analysis of color changes was done by numerical percentage values in Table 2. Iron (II) sulfate induced the most different color changes as compared with original color of no mordant. On the other hand, copper acetate and aluminum potassium sulfate induced very similar color changes. Taken together, it implied that the composition of iron could induce very different color changes.

### CONCLUSION

Even though the leaves of *C. crenata* and *A. capillaris* did not have many common characteristics, they induced very similar color changes by the extracted dyes and mordants. Very interestingly, iron (II) sulfate could induce very dark color changes of green or brown. Overall, it implied that the leaves of *C. crenata* and *A. capillaris* would be useful to get yellow and green, respectively. As mentioned in introduction, Haematoxylin is widely used to stain tissues with a counterpart of eosin as an eco-friendly component (Mirjalili *et al.*, 2011). Haematoxylin is also a dye extracted from a natural product for biological usage. This study would be useful to obtain color changes by the leaves of *C. crenata* and *A. capillaris* for some materials, e.g., cotton. Further study will be processed to evaluate them as a biological usage.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Our study would be useful to comparatively analyze the staining changes by the leaves of *C. crenata* and *A. capillaris*. Further study will be processed to evaluate them as a biological usage and other applications of natural staining.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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