



Inhibitory Effect of Ink on Microbial Activity

Roobal¹, Venus Dillu², Jyoti Batra^{3*}, Rahul Saxena⁴, Suyash Saxena⁵

¹ Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Forensic Science, Sharda School of Allied Health Sciences, Sharda University, Greater Noida, U.P., India

² Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, Sharda School of Basic Science and Research, Member, Center for Cyber Security and Cryptology, Sharda University, Greater Noida, U.P., India

^{3*} Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Santosh Medical College & Hospital, Santosh University, Ghaziabad, UP, India

⁴ Professor, Department of Biochemistry, School of Allied Health Sciences, Sharda University, Greater Noida, U.P., India

⁵ Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry, School of Allied Health Sciences, Sharda University, Greater Noida, U.P., India

Corresponding author: Dr. Jyoti Batra

Professor, Department of Biochemistry,
Santosh Medical College & Hospital, Santosh University, Ghaziabad, UP, India

Abstract

Paper is a relatively brittle material that is vulnerable to microbial and fungal development. Thus, it is crucial to preserve and store them. In this context, antibacterial properties of methanol base ink have received much attention. In the present literature, an effort has been made to shed light on the inhibitory effect of ink on specific bacteria that are common on paper's cellulose. *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas*, *Staphylococcus*, *Providentia stuartii*, *Serratia odorifera*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Pseudomonas antimicrobic*, and *Aspergillus niger* were tested for antibiotic activity. Different concentrations of the ink dilutions were made, tested against various bacterial strains, and the amount of inhibition was calculated. The highest zone of inhibition against *Providentia stuartii* was demonstrated by blue and black gel pen inks. Additionally, *Serratia odorifera* and *Providentia stuartii* demonstrated the highest zone of inhibition when tested with blue ballpoint pen ink. Black ballpoint pen ink and red ballpoint pen ink both displayed the highest zones of inhibition for *Pseudomonas antimicrobic* and *Bacillus megaterium*, respectively. It has been noted that *Pseudomonas* exhibits the greatest ink degradation when samples are diluted by 10%, while *Staphylococcus* and *Pseudomonas* shows the highest ink deterioration in samples that have been diluted by 30%, whereas in samples that have been diluted by 40%, nearly all bacteria exhibit nearly equal ink degradation and in 50% dilution of the sample, and only *Staphylococcus* displays the mean positions deterioration. Therefore, it is crucial to utilise inks that show null or less during the creation of any crucial documents, sensitivity to microorganisms.

Keywords: Fragile document, decaying paper, preservation, isolation, microorganisms' inhibitory effect, inhibition zone.

Introduction

Despite various advancements in the technology and application of internet, papers still play a critical role, with nearly half of all disputes including contested documents. Any matter represented or represented on any media by letter, figure, or marking, or by over then one of the

ways, and which is meant to be used or may be utilized, as proof of such matter, is referred to as a document. Since a result, it's critical to figure out which ink was used in the document's creation, as this will aid in estimating the document's age. One of the oldest fields of forensics science is the assessment of writing

materials. In a court of law, the documentation is a vital piece of evidence for justice. It provides a detailed list of all information pertaining to the parties' interactions. Occasionally, the document's body writing is altered by adding or modifying it in a legitimate or fraudulent manner. Amongst the most difficult jobs completed during the ink analysis was determining the ink age⁽¹⁾. There seem to be a variety of ways for determining the paper age. It may be evaluated based on its state, watermarks, composition, and other factors. In some rare circumstances, using a pen may be useful in calculating the age of documents. The aging of the ink may be used to determine the age of the writing. Differences in ink colour caused by oxidation and chloride or sulphate diffusion can be used to estimate the age of a piece of writing⁽²⁾. One of the most useful approaches for determining the age of the handwriting was the bacterial effect on the ink. Ink analysis is also useful for determining if a piece of paper belongs to the period to which it is attempting to be assigned. As with all ink, certain inks contain qualities that make them resistant to specific microbes, such as the antimicrobial activity of surgical markers, and many more inks have been developed with antimicrobial activity. Microbes are the primary cause of the paper's rapid deterioration and document destruction⁽³⁾. The polymer cellulose is commonly found throughout the planet. Celluloses are a class of fibrolytic enzymes that break down plant cell walls into glucose, cellobiose, or monosaccharides. Cellobiohydrolase, endoglucanase or carboxymethyl cellulase (CMCase), and -glucosidases are three kinds of cellulase enzymes involved in the cellulose hydrolysis process. Cellulases are enzymes

that catalyse cellulolysis and are generated mostly by microbial sources, ranging from prokaryotic species such as microbes and protozoans to eukaryotic species. Fungi are the most prevalent producers. *Aspergillus niger*, *Cladosporium niger*, *Fusarium niger*, *Geotrichum niger*, *Myrothecium niger*, *Paecilomyces niger*, *Penicillium niger*, *Trichoderma niger*⁽⁴⁾. Because of culture restrictions, misidentifications in culture collections, and undiscovered areas, only around 5% of the fungal species concerned have been correctly documented. The two primary types of writing instruments are ballpoint pens, which use oil-based inks, and non-ballpoint pens, which use water-based inks. Ballpoint pens are made comprised of dyes, vehicles, resins, and additives. The pigments that give ink its colour are called dyes. The majority of transactions in the world of business and literacy take place through papers. In today's culture, papers play a critical role, with nearly half of all disputes including contested documents. A documentation is anything that is written, drawn, marked, or depicted on a surfaces in one or more of these methods and is meant to be or has the potential to be used as evidence of the subject matter. Since a result, it's critical to figure out which ink was used in the document's creation, as this will aid in estimating the document's age. The age of paper may be determined in a variety of ways. It may be assessed based on its condition, watermarks, composition, and other aspects. In some rare circumstances, the use of a pen may be useful in determining the age of documents. In order to determine the age of inks, two methods can be used: indirect dating and direct dating. The chemical analysis of an ink is used to determine indirect dating, which is

then compared to known samples in a reference collection. Info concerning the inks, including market release dates, should be included in the gathering. This method may allow for the detection of an anachronism. The second notion is focused on determining the constituents of ink that vary over time. The age of the ink may be used to estimate the age of the writing. Solvent analysis in ballpoint inks might be a valuable metric for assessing ink on paper age. The scientists previously established that thermally desorbed ink straight from paper, subjected to chemical analysis using gas-chromatography-mass-spectrometry, is a viable method for characterising ink-binder polymers and solvents in a prior work. Changes in ink colour caused by oxidation and chloride or sulphate diffusion can be used to estimate the age of a piece of writing. One of the most useful approaches for determining the ages of the writing was the bacterial effect on the ink ⁽⁵⁾.

Ink analysis is also useful for determining if a piece of paper belongs to the period to which it is attempting to be assigned. Like all ink, certain inks contain qualities that make them resistant to specific microbes, such as the antimicrobial activity of surgical markers, and many more inks have been developed with antimicrobial activity. Microbes are the primary cause of the paper's rapid deterioration and document destruction. White ink, which contains titanium oxide, and metallic gold ink are examples of pigment-based inks (which, surprisingly, uses a copper-zinc alloy.) Black ballpoint pen ink is made using the pigment carbon black, which is based on coal and oil. Plant-derived glycerides, which include fatty acids and the alcohol glycerol, are used to help ink glide more easily across paper. Chemicals

like triethanolamine, which regulate the pH of ink, protect it from being too acidic. The ink of a typical ballpoint pen is made up of dye or pigment particles suspended in an oil or water solvent — carbon black for black pens, eosin for red, or a rumoured cocktail of Prussian blue, crystal violet, and phthalocyanine blue for the iconic blue pen. Benzyl alcohol or phenoxyethanol are the most popular oils, which combine with pigments or dye to form a smooth, bright ink that dry rapidly. However, ink is made up of more than just these two components. Carbon ink - Lampblack or soot, together with a thickening agent like gum arabic or animal glue, were used to make carbon inks. Carbon particles are kept in suspension and attached to paper by the binding agent. Even when bleached or exposed to sunshine, carbon particles do not fade over time. Carbon ink has the advantage of not harming paper. The ink is chemically stable over time, thus it poses no harm to the paper's strength. Despite these advantages, carbon ink is not suitable for long-term storage and preservation. In humid situations, carbon ink smudges and can be wiped off surfaces. The easiest way to keep a paper written in carbon ink safe is to keep it in a dry place. Iron gall ink - Iron gall inks became popular in the early 12th century, and they have been widely considered to be the greatest sort of ink for generations. Iron gall ink, on the other hand, is corrosive and degrades paper throughout time. Victoria blue (VB), rhodamine B and 6G, the methyl violet group of dyes (pararosaniline with four, five, or six methyl groups), crystal violet (CV), methyl violet (MV), tetramethyl-pararosaniline (TPR), and copper phthalocyanine.

As a precise alternative to traditional culture procedures, the enzymes that catalyse the hydrolysis of cellulose and celooligosaccharide derivatives are known as cellulases. The microbes play a significant part in natural degradation processes which includes fungus, bacteria, actinomycetes, and protozoa breakdown plant lignocellulosic substances. Therefore, we can readily determine the age of a document using natural degradation, which may be useful in forensic investigation of any questioned document such as old notes, property records, or any other documentation whose legitimacy is in dispute. They are used to make fermentable sugars, ethanol, organic

acids, detergents, and certain other compounds in the chemical sector.

As a result, the microbes that colonise historic items are a restricted set of oligotrophs that can thrive there. The sinking strains have already evolved to live on and killing a certain set of items. What organic compounds do microbes detect on historical artefacts? The most frequent of these is cellulose, which is the major component of wood and is utilized as a construction element in historic structures as well as a material in interior décor (polychromed wooden walls, paintings on wood, paneling, staircases, benches, altars, religious boxes, and so on).

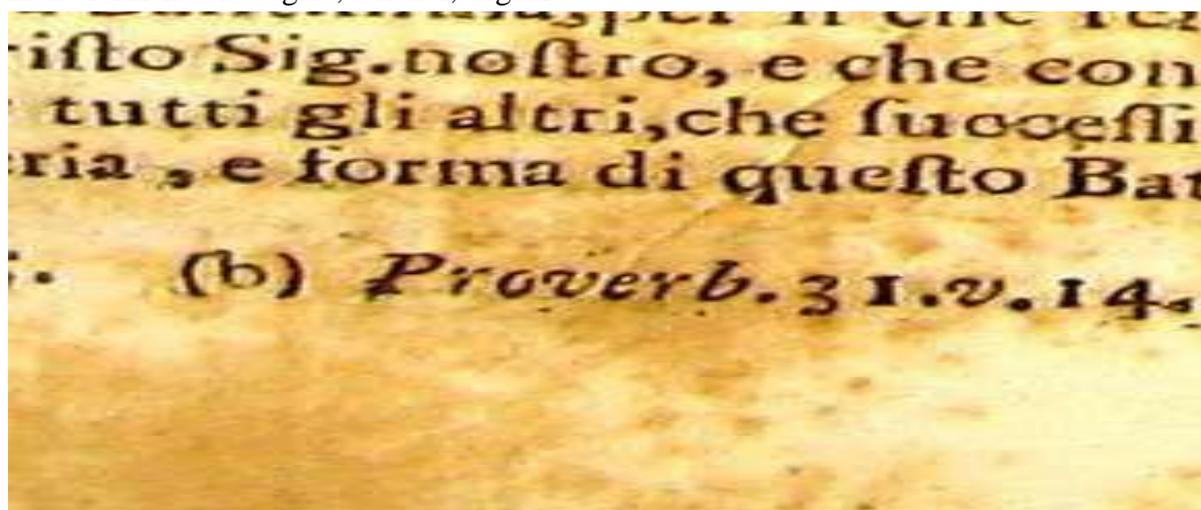


Figure 1. An example of ancient paper discoloration due to fungal attack.

Fungi & actinomycetes that grow on historic items under high humid not only harm the substratum, but they may also sporulate a lot. This result in a smear of variously colored stains that obscure the contour of representative detail, rendering the entire item unintelligible. When microorganisms establish colored sporulating colonies on ancient photograph, portrait, and religious artefacts, colonizing in particular light-colored locations (including skin hues), the

deformed photographs lose their cultural significance. Differently colored stains can aid document examiners in determining age since the stain changes colour with time owing to bacterial activity and can be easily studied with an analysis of microbial changes and development in color stain with time⁽⁶⁾. A large portion of humanity's history is preserved in the form of records or works on paper. The conservation of this material is critical to ensuring the transmission of this heritage

to future generations. Paper, like all other materials, deteriorates with age. However, independent variable such as acidity, metal ions, lignin, or paper decomposition products, as well as external variables such as warmth, moisture, radiation (light, UV), oxygen, contaminants, or biodeteriogens, can promote this deterioration. The most prevalent biodeteriogens harming paper-based resources are fungi, which cause significant information and material losses. Paper's organic nature, which provides a plentiful carbon supply for heterotrophic microbes like fungus, along with its hydrophilic nature makes it a very susceptible medium to microbial degradation. Paper was generally sealed with polysaccharides, proteins, or resins, such as starch flour, gelatin, or rosin, and eventually alkaline synthetic substances, to decrease ink spreading in such an absorbent material and to strengthen the bonding between fibers⁽⁷⁾. There are four phases of fungal biodeterioration that have been identified: Contamination, germination, development, and material degeneration. Paper degradation happens mostly during the growth of hyphae and substrate colonization. Early fungus development on paper is not apparent to the human eye, and by the time fungal colonization is recognized on paper materials, damage has already started. "Foxing" is a sort of stain characterized by microscopic rusty red-brownish patches that can be caused by microbes, as well as chemical causes such as oxidization inside the paper matrix. The easiest and safest technique to control fungal development is to restrict water availability by reducing water activity on the substrate. As a result, it's essential to utilise papers that have no or low sensitivity to microorganisms. If there is

moisture in the paper, fungal and microbial development begins, albeit the water requirement for spore germination and mycelium growth vary depending on the microbial communities species involve⁽⁸⁾.

History

Between 197 and 159 BC, Asia is attributed with the development of parchment. Papermaking began in Spain around 1150 and quickly expanded to Italy, France, and Germany and England. Modern paper is described as a flattened sheet of vegetable fibres that has been suspended in water and laid down on a thin screen. Most plants contain cellulose fibres, which are a primary component of paper. Papyrus is a type of writing medium that dates back to 3500 BC. In ancient Egypt, a plant known as "Reddy Plant" or "Papyrus Plant" thrived in abundance.

In the 23rd century B.C., the Chinese discovered ink and created plant, animal, and mineral inks for use in paintings on silk and paper. They make them from of pine sap that is around 100 years old; they also make ink made from a combination of hide glue, carbon black, lampblack, and pigments of bone black. Around the fourth century B.C., ink was invented in India. found and dubbed it "Masi," a name derived from the burning bones, tar, and pitch. The Greeks used soot to make ink, glue and water⁽⁹⁾.

Egyptian papyruses were made from enormous stalks that were cut into 2-foot-long sections and split along the middle. Then it was coated with wheat flour and water and used as a writing surface. Modern paper is described as a flattened sheet of vegetable fibers that has been suspended in water and laid down on a thin screen. Most plants contain cellulose fibers, which are a central aspect of paper. The development of microorganisms on

ink occurred as a result of the usage of organic paper, allowing us to simply determine the time ink is penetrated on paper using microbial activity.

Sampling Process

The processes for sampling rare books and papers made of paper are difficult to standardize, however an ethical protocol for handling some precious materials should be proposed. The following are some essential guidelines for good practice:

- a. Traditional culture, sample procedures, and creative methodologies must be individually tailored to the specific circumstances that materials found in documents provide.
- b. A destructive approach should never be considered if a nondestructive option that achieves the same research goals is available. The procedure to be used will require the lowest sample size feasible.
- c. A destructive procedure is permitted only on pieces that cannot be conserved or rejoined (e.g. page margin fragment, bore dusts formed by insects, sections that will undoubtedly be deleted after restoration, such as binding).
- d. No pieces should be removed if doing so may result in further harm to the object or loss of information for future investigation, such as in written portions of the document.
- e. When collecting microbiological components such as fungal fruiting bodies and mycelium found on illuminations, the smallest feasible sample must be eliminated, unless significant items must not be studied at all.
- g. The sampling technique should be supported by images of the objects before and after material removal, as well as a description of the sampling method employed, including the precise section of

the object from which the sample was collected.

Furthermore, each strain can generate different types of deterioration, and different qualities of paper might interact differently with microbial agents' structures and colours. Wood (cellulose), lipids, and synthetic chemicals are all appropriate substrates for bacterial and fungal development in the paper producing sector. Pages and writings are damaged and discolored as a result of the combined impacts of environmental variables including heat, light, dampness, and dust, as well as biological factors like bacteria, fungus, and insects. The hydrolyzing action of fungal pathogens has a role in degradation. Due to variations in climatic conditions, the composition and concentration of fungus fluctuates from season to season. Fungi thrive at a temperature range of 15 to 35 degrees Celsius. The use of molecular genetics tools on cultural heritage contexts has shown the involvement of novel deteriorating taxa and previously unknown microbial consortia in the discoloration and biodeterioration of papers. Unicellular fungi colonise a variety of organic and inorganic substrates, and they play a significant role in biodegradation. This will be useful in determining the age of paper and increasing the probability of an accurate result, which will be useful in the field of forensic document analysis.

The fungus and bacterial colonies that can emerge on a book are comparable to decomposer communities, which change minerals trapped in decaying, making them accessible to plants in natural habitats. Because only cellulase organisms can use the majority of the substrate, colonization and microbial degradation of paper held in a confined environment is dependent on

species identification and content. In both natural and artificial contexts, resources partition and facilitative (or unfavorable) interactions among species have an impact on substrate utilization. The preservation of books and papers has resulted in the creation of three new man-made ecosystems for microbiological species such as fungus and bacteria to thrive in⁽¹⁰⁾.

Paper

Paper is subjected to a variety of biodeterioration reactions, which result in the loss of original qualities and, in certain cases, the permanent disintegration of valuable documents. Paper biodeterioration involves a large number of microbial strains, and it is well known that environmental variables (e.g. temp, moisture, lighting) impact the procedure and its speed. Even when using biomolecular approaches like polymerase chain reaction and the generation of library cloning were applied for the investigation of microbial consortia inhabiting any document, the numerous methods for collecting and detecting fungal agents are difficult in general, but appear to be struggling to explain and justify the existence of specific fungal species⁽¹¹⁾. As the microbes play a significant part in natural degradation processes which includes fungus, bacteria, actinomycetes, and protozoa breakdown plant lignocellulosic substances. Paper is made out of a variety of biological elements (papyrus, parchments, leather, woods, and so on), each having its own set of environmental reactions. The paper is particularly sensitive to a variety of external and internal influences. Pulp, which is manufactured from wood and other cellulosic resources, is used to make paper. It is mostly made up of cellulose, which is easily destroyed by

microorganisms. Because of its organic origin, the paper may suffer from biodeterioration.

Therefore, we can readily determine the age of a document using natural degradation, which may be useful in forensic investigation of any questioned document such as old notes, property records, or any other documentation whose legitimacy is in dispute. Although these species are undoubtedly cellulolytic, their role in biodegrading papers is uncertain. These fungi cause white rotting in a variety of trees whose wood is used to make pulp and paper. Although various attempts have been made in the past to characterize ancient texts using FTIR spectroscopy, the multi-component structure of paper results in a huge overlapping of bands, allowing only the most basic interpretations of the acquired data. Because certain papers are preserved for a long time by forefathers, this can be useful in determining the estimated age of that document, which will be useful for the forensic document examiner⁽¹²⁾.

Biodeterioration

Biodeterioration of written or printed paper having historical or economic importance for human can be accelerated by a wide range of fungus and bacteria. Although fungi are the most common microbiological species, they can withstand moisture loss, salt levels, and heavy metals compound found in inks, making them common residents on paper-based documents.

Occasionally, the document's body writing is altered by adding or modifying it in a legitimate or fraudulent manner. Amongst the most difficult jobs completed during the ink analysis was calculating ink age. Fungi that grow on paper at high humidity not only aggressively hydrolyze the

cellulose but also responsible for changing the aesthetics of the document, either by discolouration by mild acids or the deposit of pigments that stain its support, a condition known as foxing. Fungal degradation of various paper materials is a well-known phenomenon. Certain inks contain qualities that make them resistant to specific microbes, such as the antimicrobial activity of surgical markers, and many more inks have been developed with antimicrobial activity⁽¹³⁾.

FTIR

When used to analyze writing inks, the FTIR approach necessitates time-consuming sample preparation. Furthermore, the existence of strong absorption bands induced by paper overlapping with ink absorption bands creates certain challenges. HPLC disadvantages lower efficiency of separation beginners will find it more challenging⁽¹⁴⁾. One of the most problematic aspects of FTIR analysis directly on foxing is the chemical makeup of microfungi, which is remarkably similar to that of ancient specimens (lipoproteins, protein, and cellulose components), making meaningful spectrum reduction

and valid band identification difficult. There is no exact or correct band present in this approach to identify between distinct fungus, making it difficult for the examiner to assess the questioned document because the findings may or may not be valid⁽¹⁵⁾.

Microbes

Microbes are the primary cause of the paper's rapid deterioration and document destruction. Fungi from the *Penicillium* and *Aspergillus* genera are regularly detected. Microbiological experiments show that absolute tonophilic fungus (xerophilic fungi) induces general foxing, which is referred to as "foxing-causing fungi." Also, they are believed to generate a variety of enzymes, with cellulases having a significant part in their deteriorative action. One of the oldest fields of forensic science is the assessment of writing materials. In a court of law, the documentation is a vital piece of evidence for justice. It provides a detailed list of all information pertaining to the parties' interactions. The mechanism of fungi-caused foxing also suggests that cellulose in paper fibres is not necessarily a necessary food for fungal development⁽¹⁶⁾.

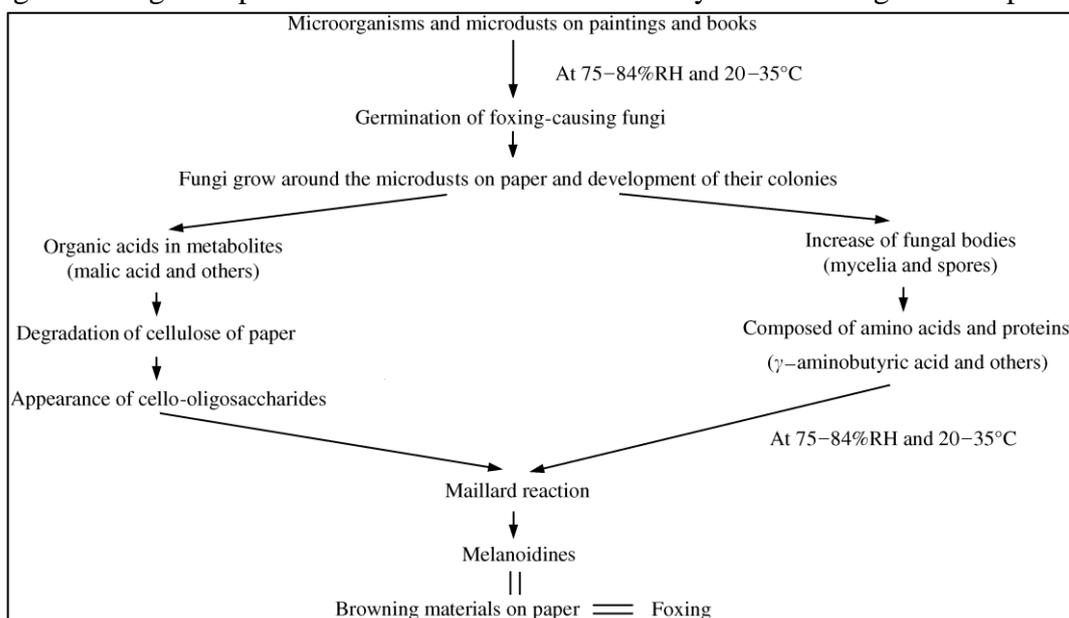


Figure 2: Formation mechanisms of foxing

The aboveflowchart shows that cellulose in paper fibers is not always required for fungal growth. According to this discovery, foxing generating fungus may grow on various non-cellulosic compounds in the presence of an ideal environment. Differently colored stains can aid document examiners in determining age since the stain changes colour with time owing to bacterial activity and can be easily studied with an analysis of microbial changes and development in colour stain with time⁽¹⁷⁾. According to a survey of the foxing, several fungal species have been discovered from cultures grown from fox spot samples. Because there are many distinct forms of fox spots, it is vital to specify the type of fungal spot under investigation before doing study. The spots were inspected visually, as well as through stereoscopic, light, and SEM, as well as electron densitometry X-ray analysis, to create a nomenclature for the individual spots and discover their source. The findings shown that it is feasible to create a nomenclature for various sorts of discolored patches on ancient paper using only visual and stereoscopic investigation. The surface appearance, colour, and form of the dots are used to classify them. There were two kinds of spots: those produced by fungus and those caused by particulate matter in the paper. Old fungal spots are rusty red and resemble fox fur, but modern fungal spots are the colour of their conidia (black, grey, or green). Logically, the word fox should only be applied to patches that have the rusty red colour of fox fur. Furthermore, the form of the spot indicates the manner of contamination. Airborne conidia or fungal fragments generate

circular fungal spots, while contact with infected surfaces causes uneven, diffuse-shaped patches. Particulate spots are created by metal bits or crystals of chemicals introduced into the paper during the manufacturing process, or by protein lumps from the surface applied size. Under ultraviolet (UV) light, foxed or colored fungal patches typically show a yellow glow. The words irregular fungal fox spot, circular fungal fox spot, circular modern fungal spot, rusted iron particulate spot, metal particulate spot, calcium particulate spot, and protein spot were proposed. "Irregular fungal fox spots" were the most common⁽¹⁸⁾.

Fungi

The fungi are common, airborne, global conidial fungus, primarily *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*, and *Fungi Imperfecti* (Deuteromycetes), which constitute the majority of surface fungi observed on papers. Fox patches are brought on by contaminated metal shards, crystal of chemicals added to the paper while paper manufacturing or protein lumps from the applied size to the surfaces. Because of their obvious affection for books, *Liposcelis bostrychophila* (Badonnel) is recognized as booklice. Since it only includes a tiny portion of the current microbiota, microbial research based on culture is unreliable. The biodeterioration and discoloration of artworks and monuments are brought on by novel degrading species and hitherto unidentified microbial consortia, according to research using molecular biology methods on environments related to cultural assets. The quick degradation and document destruction of paper are mostly caused by

microbes. Nearly half of all disagreements in today's society include challenged documents, demonstrating the importance of papers in today's culture. A document is anything meant to be used, or which may be used, as proof of a certain topic and is represented or described on any surfaces by letters, figures, or marks, or by more than one of these ways. Because of this, it's important to determine what ink was used to create the document, since this will help determine how old it is. One of the first areas of forensic science was the analysis of writing materials. One of the most difficult jobs accomplished throughout the ink investigation was determining the ink's age. There are several techniques to estimate the age of paper. Analyses of typical floristic patterns are challenging due to the small sampling from artistic and documentary artefacts. Biodeterioration is an important environmental phenomenon that recycles complex organic compounds and is a fundamental element of life. However, this method also destroys paper records that are mostly constituted of organic matter, particularly natural and synthetic polymers, leading to the loss of important documents preserved. Many enzyme break polymer bonds; for example, lipases and esterases degrade polyesters, proteases breakdown protein, amylases dissolve starch, and cellulases degrade cellulose and cellulose derivatives. It is well known that documents, particularly those made of paper or parchment; provide an ideal home for microscopic fungus in particular as well as microbial development in general. Ancient documents lose their meaning as microbes colonise certain light-hued areas (including skin tones) and produce colorful sporulating colonies there. Since stains change colour over time due to bacterial

activity and may be easily investigated with an investigation of microbiological alterations and development in colour stain over time, different colored stains can help document examiners determine age⁽¹⁹⁾.

Thus, there are numerous sorts of chemicals contained in ink, and diverse species of bacteria which react with the compounds found in ink, causing microbial effects over time, and we can determine the estimated period of writing. So, to determine the age of paper and ink, this approach will be useful in determining the inhibitory impact of microbial activity on ink. It is also a destructive procedure, but it needs minimal samples and may yield more precise results. With this study, we can also determine which type of ink has the least amount of microbial growth, which may be useful for government agencies to use because less paper deterioration will occur, allowing documents to be kept safe for longer periods of time. We can also figure out which kind of paper promote microbial development and which ones inhibit it, so we can use that sort of paper for things like wills and degrees⁽¹³⁾.

All of the blue inks were separated using the same chromatographic process, which ensured that the retention time indicated the approximate identification of the component being eluted from the pen ink studied. Not any other trend had seen in the region of dye separation while working with inks containing mixed colours on ordinary and somewhat porous paper, according to the capillary action of the fibers. TLC has been shown in research to be a highly useful method for evaluating inks. Its approach for separating ink mixtures into their constituent colours and pigments might be particularly beneficial in comparing ink specimen and linking

inks to chromatogram databases. Only inks with a pH of 8 showed signs of bacterial development.

TLC Drawbacks -

- The outcome of the test is difficult to duplicate.
- Only applies to soluble combination components.
- It's qualitative research, not quantitative research.
- This isn't a straightforward procedure.
- Destructive technique

Since TLC is an open system, temperature and relative humidity may have an impact on the outcomes. The separation process has a maximum length due to the constrained plate length.

SEM examinations reported the existence of fungal spores linked to fibres, but traditional culture procedures failed to isolate microbial contamination. DNA analysis is used in other recent investigations on paper staining to identify the fungus responsible for the staining processes. Only a tiny proportion of effectively colonizing microbes are discovered using classic culture-dependent approaches, and a comparatively substantial amount of sample is required which may harm the value of document⁽²⁰⁾.

As a sensitive alternative to traditional culture procedures, molecular techniques like as PCR, DGGE, and library cloning were applied which will be helpful in finding age of ink and paper in questioned document. The bacterial and fungal section were used for phylogeny identification of specific members of the microbial communities. DGGE was used to filter the resultant fungal and bacterial clones and can be helpful in determining age of documents like will, certificates and other

document which were undergone degradation process by time with the help of microbial or bacterial growth. The presence of fungus and bacteria on papers which could not be cultured using conventional techniques may be readily analysed by isolating microorganisms. It might be utilised to advance the forensic area.

This approach has the benefit of being quicker and requiring no further purification, resulting in a simple way to harvest fungal DNA from populations colonizing paper. In addition, only a minimal sample is needed. It can be helpful in determining age of documents like will, certificates and other document which were undergone degradation process by time with the help of microbial or bacterial growth. One of the primary difficulties discovered in the current investigation was the lack of sensitive and non-destructive methods for assessing early, microscopic microbial development on a paper matrix. The creation of such a method would be extremely beneficial for biodeterioration scientific study as well as for spotting early fungus growth on papers like wills and lease paper⁽²¹⁾.

Conclusion:

Thus, microorganism isolation makes it simple to analyze the presence of fungus and bacteria on papers that could not be cultivated using standard methods. It might be used to enhance forensic document examination field. The present literature also emphasizes that which sort of ink has the least amount of microbiological growth, which may be advantageous for government organizations to utilize because less paper deterioration occurs, allowing papers to be stored safely for longer periods of time.

The present literature also determines which types of paper support microbial development and which hinder it, allowing us to employ that type of paper for items like wills and degrees.

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