

color variation with toluidine blue?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.techniques.microscopy/2008-07/msg00040.html>

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 - *Date:* Wed, 16 Jul 2008 15:51:38 -0500
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Hi all, I have a question I have not been able to resolve through an exhaustive search and thought I would give it a try here.

I am working with histological sections for entomology, heating them and applying Toluidine Blue .5%, and my sections come out nicely stained, but all blue. Meanwhile, I have older slides from someone else to look at which exhibit a fairly wide and striking color range, from green through blue to violet-pink, apparently also stained with T Blue.

Apparently this is known as 'metachromasy' (?) and has something to do with pH of the stain or fixation, but I cannot find any particulars. Anyone know how I can achieve this effect, or a source I can consult?

Thanks in advance! =)

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