Forensic Science

Chapter 5 Introduction
Organic Chemistry

Elements and Compounds

- Matter is anything that has mass and occupies space.
- An Element is the simplest substance known and provides the building blocks from which all matter is composed!
- At present, 109 elements have been identified, of these 89 occur naturally on earth and the remainder have been created in the laboratory.
- These elements are arranged in the famous "Periodic Table of Elements."

From Atoms to Elements to Compounds.

- The smallest particle of an element that can exist and still retain its identity as that element is the ATOM!
- Compound is defined as a pure substance composed of two or more elements.
 - Subatomic Particles Atoms Elements –
 Compounds Macromolecules Cells –
 Tissues Organs Organ Systems –Organism!
 (Physics, Chemistry and Biology)

Physical States

- The 4 States of Matter!
- Solid: Both Shape and Volume.
- Liquid: Volume but no Shape!
- Gas: No definite Volume or Shape.
- Plasma: Ionized Charged Particles!

Increases in Kinetic Energy

- Solid Liquid Gas Plasma.
- Sublimation is defined as a physical change from the solid directly into the gaseous state.
- So What does this have to do with Forensics?
- Well...
- From a chemistry perspective. Not all attempts at mixing substances is productive.
- For Example: Oil and Water.
- When ever a situation exists in which a substance can be distinguished by a visible boundary, different phases exist!

Selecting An Analytical Technique.

- The proper selection of analytical techniques will allow the Forensic Scientist to identify or compare matter.
- These Analytical Groups are...
- Organics and In organics

Organics and In organics

- They contain the element Carbon, usually combined with at least on of the following elements:
- Hydrogen
- Oxygen
- Nitrogen
- Sulfur
- Phosphorous
- Chlorine
- Bromine
- Just to name a few[©]
- All other chemical substances fall into the Inorganic category.

Other reasons for selecting an analytical technique.

- Qualitative or Quantitative determinations.
- Qualitative relates just to the identification of materials under study.
- Quantitative relates to the percent composition of the components of a mixture.
- For Example
- A qualitative identification of a powder may reveal the presence of Heroin and Quinine, whereas qualitative may conclude the presence of 10% Heroin and 90% Quinine.
- Forensics ----- Quantitative then Qualitative.

Evaluation of Evidence @ the Crime Lab.

- Most evidence received at the crime lab required identification of its organic components.
- These compounds may include the following commonly abused drugs.

Alcohol

Marijuana

Heroin

Amphetamines

Barbiturates

Synthetic Fibers

Petroleum Products

Paint

High Order Explosives

Testing Tools

- The study of the absorption of light by chemical substances is known as Spectrophotometry.
- This serves as a basic tool for the identification and characterization of Organic Materials.
- However its optimum use requires that the materials be relatively pure.
- This almost never happens[®].
- So, Forensic Scientist use the analytical technique known as Chromatography.
- Chromatography is a means of separating and tentatively identifying the components of a mixture.

Thank you for your attention@

- Tomorrow
- Lecture Topic: Chromatography.
- Experiments on Wednesday and Thursday.
- Thanks for shopping...do come again.
- Try the veal and remember to tip your waitress on the way out!