FLAME AND BEAD TESTS

Flame Colorations

Violet

Potassium compounds. Purple red through blue glass. Easily obscured by sodium flame. Bluish-green through green glass. Rubidium and cesium compounds impart same flame as potassium compounds.

Blues

Azure — Copper chloride. Copper bromide gives azure blue followed by green. Other copper compounds give same coloration when moistened with hydrochloric acid.

Light blue — Lead, arsenic, selenium.

Greens

Emerald — Copper compounds except the halides, and when not moistened with hydrochloric acid.

Pure green — Compounds of thallium and tellurium.

Yellowish — Barium compounds. Some molybdenum compounds. Borates, especially when treated with sulfuric acid or when burned with alcohol.

Bluish — Phosphates with sulfuric acid.

Feeble — Antimony compounds. Ammonium compounds.

Whitish — Zinc.

Reds

Carmine — Lithium compounds. Violet through blue glass. Invisible through green glass. Masked by barium flame.

Scarlet — Strontium compounds. Violet through blue glass. Yellowish through green glass. Masked by barium flame.

Yellowish — Calcium compounds. Greenish through blue glass. Green through green glass. Masked by barium flame.

Yellow

Yellow — All sodium compounds. Invisible with blue glass.

Bead Tests

Abbreviations employed: s = saturated; ss = supersaturated; ns = not saturated; h = hot; c = cold

Borax Beads

Substance	Oxidizing flame	Reducing flame
Aluminum	Colorless (h, c, ns); opaque (ss)	Colorless; opaque (s)
Antimony	Colorless; yellow or brownish (h, ss)	Gray and opaque
Barium	Colorless (ns)	
Bismuth	Colorless; yellow or brownish (h, ss)	Gray and opaque
Cadmium	Colorless	Gray and opaque
Calcium	Colorless (ns)	
Cerium	Red (h)	Colorless (h, c)
Chromium	Green (c)	Green
Cobalt	Blue (h, c)	Blue (h, c)
Copper	Green (h); blue (c)	Red (c); opaque (ss); colorless (h)
Iron	Yellow or brownish red (h, ns)	Green (ss)
Lead	Colorless; yellow or brownish (h, ss)	Gray and opaque
Magnesium	Colorless (ns)	
Manganese	Violet (h, c)	Colorless (h, c)
Molybdenum	Colorless	Yellow or brown (h)
Nickel	Brown; red (c)	Gray and opaque
Silicon	Colorless (h, c); opaque (ss)	Colorless; opaque (s)
Silver	Colorless (ns)	Gray and opaque
Strontium	Colorless (ns)	
Tin	Colorless (h, c); opaque (ss)	Colorless; opaque (s)
Titanium	Colorless	Yellow (h); violet (c)
Tungsten	Colorless	Brown
Uranium	Yellow or brownish (h, ns)	Green
Vanadium	Colorless	Green

Beads of Microcosmic Salt
$NaNH_4HPO_4$

Substance	Oxidizing flame	Reducing flame
Aluminum	Colorless; opaque (s)	Colorless; not clear (ss)
Antimony	Colorless (ns)	Gray and opaque
Barium	Colorless; opaque (s)	Colorless; not clear (ss)
Bismuth	Colorless (ns)	Gray and opaque
Cadmium	Colorless (ns)	Gray and opaque
Calcium	Colorless; opaque (s)	Colorless; not clear (ss)

Beads of Microcosmic Salt
$NaNH_4HPO_4$

Substance	Oxidizing flame	Reducing flame
Cerium	Yellow or brownish red (h, s)	Colorless
Chromium	Red (h, s); green (c)	Green (c)
Cobalt	Blue (h, c)	Blue (h, c)
Copper	Blue (c); green (h)	Red and opaque (c)
Iron	Yellow or brown (h, s)	Colorless; yellow or brownish (h)
Lead	Colorless (ns)	Gray and opaque
Magnesium	Colorless; opaque (s)	Colorless; not clear (ss)
Manganese	Violet (h, c)	Colorless
Molybdenum	Colorless; green (h)	Green (h)
Nickel	Yellow (c); red (h, s)	Yellow (c); red (h); gray and opaque
Silver		Gray and opaque
Strontium	Colorless; opaque (s)	Colorless; not clear (ss)
Tin	Colorless; opaque (s)	Colorless
Titanium	Colorless (ns)	Violet (c); yellow or brownish (h)
Uranium	Green; yellow or brownish	Green (h) (h, s)
Vanadium	Yellow	Green
Zinc	Colorless (ns)	Gray and opaque

Sodium Carbonate Bead

Substance	Oxidizing flame	Reducing flame
Manganese	Green	Colorless