



Muezart's Natural Dyeing Ingredients





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Muezart is working closely with farmers, Eri silk weavers and, most importantly, with nature itself. We believe in using natural dyes for the Eri silk yarns that we sell, dyes that we can get from the plant kingdom.

In Muezart our mantra is to revive traditions and open markets for weavers of the Eri silk, a heritage cottage industry. It was not surprising, therefore, that the team was determined that we stick to using natural dyes. That too, we had heard that many locals who weave know the art of natural dyeing. An artistic skill passed down generations.

We created a free PDF for you. We are curious to discover new ingredients from makers like you. But we all live in different parts of the world. What grows natively here, may not be available in your climate or terrain. However, we did not provide instructions in this PDF.



Ingredients



Fern Green



Waitlam Pyrthat
(Orizylum Indicum)



Turmeric



Iron Ore



Sohtung Leaf
(Terminalia Chebula)



Olive Green



Waitlam Pyrthat
(Orizylum Indicum)



Sohtung Leaf
(Terminalia Chebula)



Sla Nuli

M Stands for Mordant

Ingredients



Turtle Green



Guava Leaf



Sohtung Leaf
(Terminalia Chebula)

M



Iron Ore



Sunglow Yellow



Turmeric



Sla Sohku
(Baccaurea Ramiflora)

M



Diengrnong Bark

M

M Stands for Mordant

Ingredients



Purple Ash Gray



Gooseberry Tree bark



Sohtung Leaf
(Terminalia Chebula)

M



Iron Ore



Annatto Orange



Turmeric



Sla Sohku
(Baccaurea Ramiflora)

M



Annatto seeds

M Stands for Mordant

Ingredients



Maroon



Iron Ore



Lac



Sla Sohkh
(Baccaea Ramiflora)

M



Charcoal Gray



Waitlam Pyrthat
(Orixylum Indicum)



Gooseberry Tree bark



Iron Ore



Sohtung Leaf
(Terminalia Chebula)

M

M Stands for Mordant



Ingredients



Monarch Orange



Turmeric



Sla Sohku ^M
(Baccuarea Ramiflora)



Lac



Cherry Malt



Iron Ore



Lac

^M Stands for Mordant

Ingredients



Azalea Pink



Lemon



Lac



M

Sla Sohku
(Baccaea Ramiflora)



M

Tyrsong Saw
(Hibiscus acetosella)



Dip dyed Mulberry Blue



Mulberry



M

Salt

M Stands for Mordant



Ingredients



Sapphire Blue



Elderberries



Alum **M**



Fern Green Cocoon Cakes



Onion Skins



Alum **M**

M Stands for Mordant

Ingredients



Tea Brown Cocoon Cakes



Dried Tea leaves

Botanical Names

Sohkhu Leaf	Baccuarea Ramiflora
Sohtung Leaf	Terminalia Chebula
Gooseberry Tree	Phyllanthus Acidus
Annatto Seed	Bixa Orellana
Lac	Laccifer Lacca
Waitlam Pyrthat	Orixylum Indicum
Tyrsong saw	Hibiscus Acetosella
Tea leaf	Camellia Sinensis
Alum	Aluminum Potassium Sulfate
Dieng Rnong	(Not known)
Sla Nuli	(Not known)

Our Two favorite Natural Dyeing Ingredients

1. Lac

Our all-time favourite natural dye ingredient is Lac or Laha (local name) because we get different shades of colours from one particular ingredient. Lac has been used as a natural dye for hundreds of years. Lac Extract - is a red dye extract from the scale insect *Laccifer lacca* which is found throughout India, south-east Asia, Nepal, Burma, Bhutan and southern parts of China.



It is found both in the wild and cultivated. The female lac insects invade host trees (mainly fig and acacia), and the insect secretes a resin that contains the red dye. When harvested, the resin is taken off the branches and is known as stick lac. You will get reds from Lac, ranging from crimson to burgundy and from ruby pink to magenta.

One thing about Lac is that it is very sensitive to pH, an increase in alkalinity turns the colours plum purple, while acidity gives bright oranges. However, colours that have been modified by a change in pH can change back to red after rinsing. Lac is also a very strong natural dye. It has high light and wash fastness on silk and wool but lower fastness on cellulose.

Kong Tmung, our expert in natural dye, produces an amazing palette of deep to subtle pastel colours from Lac using her secret recipes. But she is willing to share some of her recipe with you all .



Different shades of colors dyed with Lac

2. Iron Ore

But, do you know how we extract the pigments from Iron ore ?

Iron ore is most often found in the forms of hematite and magnetite. Natural pigments are derived from several iron oxide minerals: Red pigments are derived from hematite. Yellow and brown pigments — ochres, sierras and umbers — are derived from limonite. Magnetite provides a black iron oxide pigment.

In some parts of Meghalaya Magnetite is available abundantly especially on the west side of our district where our artisans resided. This mineral is found right on the ground surface of the pineapples field.



Women picking up Iron Ore in Pineapple fruit garden

Dyeing with minerals such as iron ore is called Pigment dyeing. Pigment dyeing is not really “dyeing” in its truest form because the pigment sticks on the fibres with the help of a binder. The binder or a mordant that we use here is called Sla Sohtung, which is a local name. Pigments are insoluble in water even though it is finely powdered before dyeing.

One thing that we really love dyeing with Iron ore is because it has good color fastness and that’s an advantage in natural dyeing.

Fun fact: Scientists have discovered evidence of iron being smelted in Khasi hills about 2,000 years ago, making Meghalaya the first northeastern state to figure in the list of ancient Indian sites known for iron extraction. But, the one fact we don’t know and keep questioning ourselves is when did our forefathers start dyeing with Iron ore which produces this lovely neutral TIMELESS color.



Raw Iron Ore



Pounded Iron Ore