

Euparal Mounting Medium

Euparal medium is a solvent-based mounting medium used in making permanent mounts of specimens on microscope slides: Eucalyptol is the solvent. It has particular value as a mounting medium in Entomology and Histology applications. Permanent mounts are those intended to last for years without appreciable change in either the specimen or the viewability of the slide. Euparal medium's index of refraction (1.48-1.49) is important in limiting the distortion of AN observed image. In comparison, crown glass, the glass of which good-quality microscope slides and cover slips are made, has an index of refraction of 1.5. To mount a specimen using Euparal medium, these things are required:

- A prepared, preferably thin specimen,
- A clean microscope slide,
- A microscope slide cover slip, and
- Enough Euparal medium to encase the specimen completely.

After a specimen is prepared according to its type and intended purpose, including fixing, clearing, and staining, create a permanent mount by placing a quantity of Euparal medium, equal in diameter to at least one half of the diameter of the specimen, as measured along the long axis of the specimen, on the center of a microscope slide. Place the prepared specimen on top of the Euparal medium. Place a second portion of Euparal medium of approximately equal size to the first on top of the specimen. The goal is to apply enough Euparal medium so that the specimen will be completely covered above and below with medium when the glass coverslip is placed above the specimen. For larger specimens, use a concave slide with a depression large enough to accommodate the specimen.

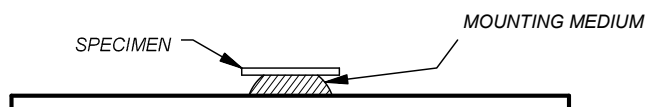


FIG. 1

While the Euparal medium is in a liquid state, place a glass cover slip over the specimen by gently lowering one edge of the cover slip into contact with the slide and then lowering the cover slip from that edge across the specimen to exclude air pockets from beneath the cover slip. Apply light pressure, avoiding cracking the cover slip, to the cover slip with a soft-surfaced instrument, such as the eraser end of a new pencil or a gloved finger, to maneuver the cover slip into a position parallel to surface of the glass slide and to distribute Euparal medium under the cover slip so the specimen is completely encased in the medium.

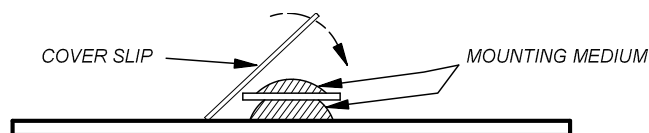


FIG. 2

The permanent mount is then dried in a slide warmer or air dried, a process that varies in length depending on:

- Ambient humidity,
- The amount of heat used, and
- The amount of residual solvent within the specimen from its preparation.

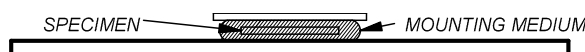


FIG. 3

Upon drying, the Euparal medium will set into a solid, light-amber-colored, transparent resin; encapsulating the specimen and protecting it from deterioration due to humidity, fungi or bacterial action, ambient ultraviolet light, and oxidation. Once the Euparal medium has dried, the specimen under the cover slip may be ring-sealed for added protection with an appropriate sealant, such as Hempstead Halide's KRYSTALIS® sealant in particular and water-based ACRYLIS® sealant as an alternative.

Hempstead Allied, Ltd, a subsidiary of Hempstead Halide, Inc, manufactures Euparal medium in Great Britain using a formulation similar to that originally described by Louvain University Professor Gilson in 1904. It is marketed in Europe under the trademark EUPAMOUNT®.

As to clearing – Euparal medium does not provide a noticeable clearing (macerating) effect, such as that provided by Hoyer's medium or Hays's Mounting Medium™.

For warnings, personal safety, toxicity, environmental, and disposal information, refer to the warning label on the containers or packaging of Euparal medium and to the Safety Data Sheet supplied with Euparal medium and available online at www.hempsteadhalide.com/sds/

If you should have any questions about Euparal medium or its uses, contact us and we will try to answer them: info@hempsteadhalide.com