

Specimen Clearing & Staining

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Stage 1: Formalin fixed specimens are soaked in water for a few days to remove all traces of the preservative.



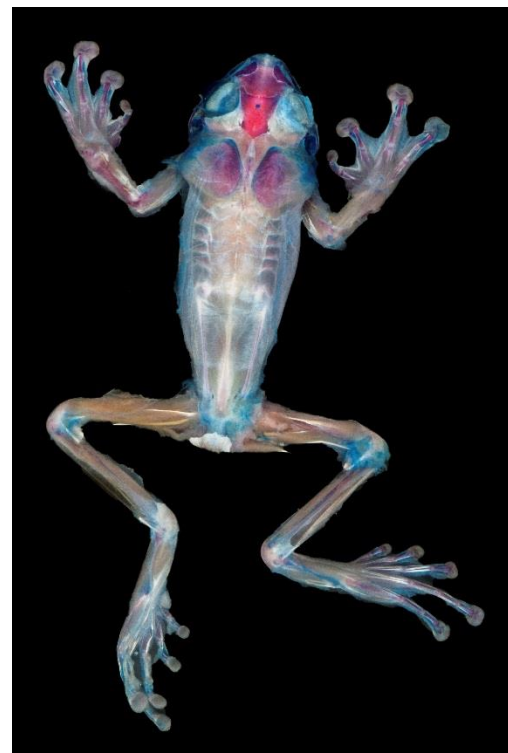
Stage 2: Specimens are removed of their excess tissue and skin to aid in the clearing process.



Stage 3: Specimens are soaked in a solution of glacial acetic acid and blue dye which stains the cartilage blue.



Stage 4: Specimens are soaked in a solution of the pancreatic enzyme trypsin and borax to break down the tissues.



Stage 5: Specimens are soaked in a solution of potassium hydroxide and red dye which stains the calcium in bones red.



Stage 6: Specimens are transferred through solutions of glycerin, potassium hydroxide, and hydrogen peroxide until they are completely clear.