

## **Spot Testing with Reagents**

Brodo (1984) used a drawnout micropipette (ca. 6 cm long, 1.3 mm inside diameter).

Spot tests should always be made on pieces removed from the thallus so they can be discarded and not contaminate the rest of the specimen.

The pieces can be placed on a microscope slide or piece of filter paper on top of a white background and viewed under a stereomicroscope.

Some tests should be made on sections of specimens, in order to see reactions occurring in tissues such as the inner cortex or inside parts of the apothecia.

Some reactions, e.g., the C+ changes found in some species, are best seen in thin sections under a compound microscope.

It is a good idea to leave a note giving the results of the spot tests, to avoid depletion of material by unnecessary repetition of the tests (Dahl & Krog, 1973).

Some reactions, especially with Pd, may take up to a half a minute or more (Dahl & Krog, 1973).

Tests should usually be carried out on young, fastgrowing parts of the thallus (Dahl & Krog, 1973).