

**Topic of the Speech:**

The In-situ Coloration of Silk through Coupling Reaction with Primary Aromatic Amine Dyes

Professor Weiguo Chen

Zhejiang Institute of Sci-Tech University
China



Professor Weiguo Chen graduated from Donghua University and Xi'an Polytechnic University majoring in Textile Chemistry and Dyeing and Finishing. He is now a Professor and PhD supervisor in College of Textiles and Materials, Zhejiang Sci-Tech University.

Dr. Chen has been working in research and development of textile and dyeing and finishing for around 30 years. More than 80 papers have been published on Journal of Molecular Structure、Coloration Technology、Textile Research Journal、Fibers and Polymers and Journal of Textile Research, etc.

He has been awarded about 30 Chinese invention patents. His research areas are related with digital technology for textile dyeing and printing, new type dyes and functional textile chemicals, and modification and functional processing of protein fibres, etc. He has been undertaken and completed projects from National Natural Science Foundation of China, Ministry of Science and Technology of China and the government of Zhejiang province. Some of the achievements are awarded by provincial government and have been applied in industry.

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The In-situ Coloration of Silk through Coupling Reaction with Primary Aromatic Amine Dyes

Jin-Fang Cai¹, Wei-Guo Chen^{1,2*}, Zhi-Hua Cui^{1,2}, Hua Jiang²

¹ Key Laboratory of Advanced Textile Materials and Manufacturing Technology, Ministry of Education of China, Zhejiang Sci-Tech University, No.2 Street of Xiasha, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, 310018, China

² Engineering Research Center for Eco-Dyeing & Finishing of Textiles, Ministry of Education of China, Zhejiang Sci-Tech University, No.2 Street of Xiasha, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, 310018, China

*Presenter's email: wgchen_62@126.com

ABSTRACT (NO MORE THAN 500 WORDS:)

Silk with the properties of soft handle, elegant style and comfortable wearing is regarded as a luxurious clothing and decoration materials. Nowadays, acid dyes and reactive dyes have been considered as the mainly suitable synthetic dyes for silk in spite of some problems still existing. Reactive dyes are considered to be comparatively ideal dyes for silk due to the formation of covalent bond between dyes and silk macromolecules, which offers the dyed silk relatively better wet fastness than acid dyes. However, the covalent bond formed between dyes and silk could be readily hydrolyzed in acidic or alkaline solution. Additionally, the hydrolysis of the reactive groups during dyeing processes results in a part of dyes unfixed on the fibres and leading to the effluent more polluted.

There is a relatively high tyrosine residue content in silk fibroin (~6 mol%), and these residues might be potential reactive sites for dyeing. In particular, the p-methylenephenol side group of the tyrosine residue could undergo coupling reactions with diazo compounds to form azo chromophores linked to the protein by C-C covalent bond, which is very stable under acidic or basic solution. This type of reaction is quite similar to the commercial process for ice azoic dyeing of cotton. The novel coloration method provides excellent wet fastness and solvent-resistance due to fixed C-C linkage between azo chromophore and macrochain of silk protein.

In our work, the dyestuffs with varying chromophores containing primary aromatic amino groups were synthesized and applied as dyeing agents for the coloration of silk. The dyeing process was optimized to adapt the structure of dyestuffs. With the increase of π -conjugation, a structure-based bathochromic effect was observed from the colour spectrum of the coloured silk fabric compared with that of dyestuff itself. The azo bond between fibroin and the dyestuff containing primary aromatic amino groups promoted the wet colour fastness. This novel dyeing method will have great potential of application.