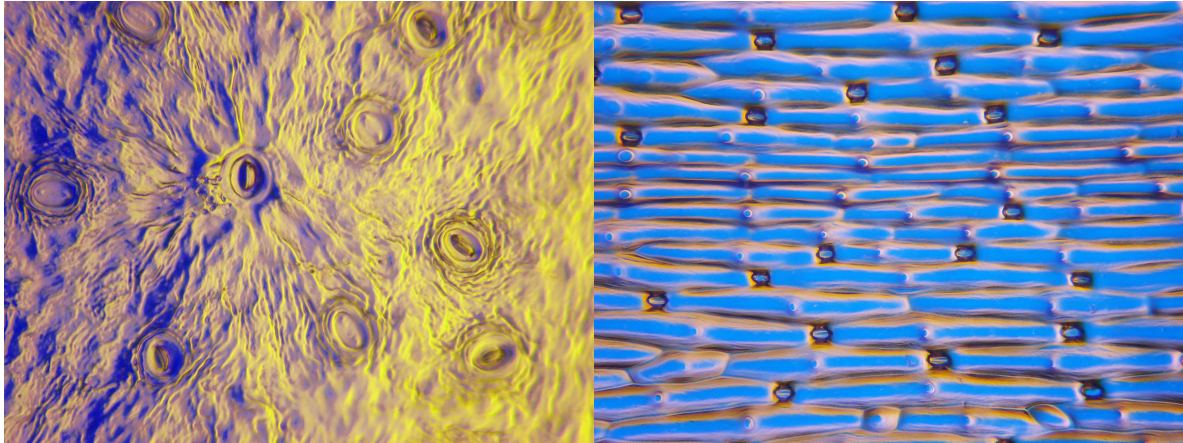


MAKING LEAF IMPRESSIONS

Acetate peels from clear nail varnish

Description: The surface features of dry specimens, such as the epidermis of a leaf, can be examined easily by making impressions using, clear, quick-drying nail varnish



Equipment :

- Leaf samples
- Clear Nail Varnish (e.g. Rimmel 60 seconds)
- Sellotape
- Glass microscope slide.

Procedure:

- First paint over a small area of a leaf with the nail varnish and allow this to dry.
- Then, after about 10 minutes or more, apply a small strip of sellotape to the area of the peel and lift this off the leaf surface – both acetate peel and Sellotape should come away without difficulty.
- Finally stick the Sellotape with the peel attached onto a microscope slide, pressing firmly to remove any trapped air and examine using the low power objective (eg x10) of a microscope.

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