

AMMONIUM CAUSTICUM

(Am. caust.)

Chemical symbol : NH_4OH

Common names : Liquor ammonii fortis, Strong solution of ammonia; *French*: Eaud' ammoniaque; *German*: Ammoniak-Flussigkeit.

Description : A clear, colourless liquid; odour, strongly pungent and characteristic taste, very caustic and alkaline. Miscible with *water* in all proportions and with alcohol. Specific gravity is 0.900 to 0.915; upon exposure to air it loses *ammonia* rapidly. Contains not less than 27 percent w/w and not more than 30.0 percent w/w of NH_3 .

Identification : (i) When freely diluted with *water*, it is strongly alkaline.

(ii) Dense white fumes are produced, when a glass rod dipped in *hydrochloric acid* kept near the surface of the solution.

Non-volatile matter : When evaporated to dryness on a water bath leaves not more than 0.01 percent of residue.

Arsenic : Not more than 0.4 parts per million.

Assay : Weigh accurately about 2 g in a flask containing 50 ml of 1 N *sulphuric acid* and titrate the excess of acid with 1 N *sodium hydroxide*, using a solution of *methyl red* as indicator. Each ml of 1 N *sulphuric acid* is equivalent to 0.01703 g of NH_3 .

Storage : Preserve in a well-closed container in a cool place.

History and authority : Allen's Encyclop. Mat. Med. Vol. I, 283.

Preparation : (a) Mother Solution Drug strength 1/10

Ammonium Causticum 100 g

Purified Water in sufficient quantity so as to reduce the specific gravity to 0.959.

(b) Potencies: 2x and higher with *Dispensing Alcohol*.