

DETECTING PROTEINS

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TOOLBOX Page 45

Goal

Apply a technique to determine if a food or a solution contains proteins.

Materials

- 2 test tubes (15 mm × 125 mm)
- test-tube rack
- marker
- dropper bottle of distilled water
- dropper bottle of protein solution
- dropper bottle of Biuret reagent

Procedure



1. Number the test tubes 1 and 2 with the marker.
2. Add 20 drops of distilled water to test tube 1.
3. Add 20 drops of protein solution to test tube 2.
4. Add 7 drops of Biuret reagent to each test tube.
5. Observe the contents of the test tubes and record your observations.
6. Clean up and put away materials.

Results

Record your observations in the table below. Give the table a title.

Title:

Test tube	Substances in test tube	Observations



Name: _____ Group: _____ Date: _____

Reflecting on the lab technique

1. What indicator is used to detect proteins?

2. How is the presence of proteins in a food or a solution confirmed using this indicator?

3. Why is a test tube containing only distilled water and the indicator prepared?

4. Are the results you obtained conclusive? If not, what are the possible sources of error?
