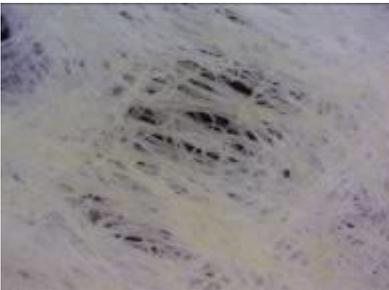


Some things at home



* White sugar has been refined and re-crystallised. It forms these crystals which have a distinctive shape.

A dried fennel seed used in cooking. Many seeds have a very distinctive shape and structure.



* Fabrics like J cloths absorb liquid because they consist of a mat of fine fibres which soak up the liquid by capillary action.

To learn more about microscopes, get links to useful websites and see great images visit www.quekett.org.

Presented by the Quekett Microscopical Club – Registered charity No 232476

Things to look at with magnifiers and microscopes



In nature

There are fascinating things to be seen In the garden or park. Carry a magnifier or a small portable microscope and explore.

All the images except those marked * are approximately 20mm across so easily seen with a magnifier. Those with the mark are approximately 2mm across; a small microscope will help in seeing the detail.



You may find a dead fly. It's easy to see the huge eyes and the structure in the wings.

Look at a wall or twig to see the lichen colonies. The round structures like little 'jam tarts', are the fruiting bodies.



Some of the sand from a beach in Cornwall. There are remnants of lots of different animals, often describes as microfossils.

In nature

With a microscope there is a lot more to see but never take something rare out of the environment to examine at home.

A feather showing the barbules which link together between the barbs of the feather to provide the compact surface of the wing.



Take the fruit from a rose and cut it open to show the seeds and the structures forming the 'skin' of the fruit.

Find a small shoot and look at the roots. In this cress root the growth tips show well.



The manufactured world

A little of 'How do they do that?'

Print colour - Colour printing on brochures and other coloured papers consists of a series of dots of different colours and shapes.



Preserve currency - £ notes have microwriting in the printed areas which is difficult to produce counterfeit notes.

Detect counterfeits -In this area on a real £1 coin there are three initials above the E which should show clearly. This could be a counterfeit coin.



Make Velcro stick –one part of the tape has 'hooks' which link into a mass of fibres on the other side of the tape.