COBALT STAINING OF PUPAL EYE DISCS

N.B. Make 1% ammonium sulfide (in H₂O) fresh each time.

1) fix discs 5 minutes in 2% glutaraldehyde/PBS
2) wash 30 seconds in water
3) put discs in 2% Co(NO₃)₂ /H₂O for 5 minutes (while waiting, put down a fresh dot of diluted ammonium sulfide)
4) swirl discs 4 times in water
5) put discs in drop of ammonium sulfide ~10 seconds
6) wash in water
7) mount (we use gelmount -- it's water-soluble)

The quality of the stain is a little inconsistent; you may have to do it a few times to get a really good-looking disc to score. Also, beware that (in gelmount, at least) the cobalt diffuses away pretty rapidly; you only have about a day to evaluate your results. We take lots of pictures and score from prints.