



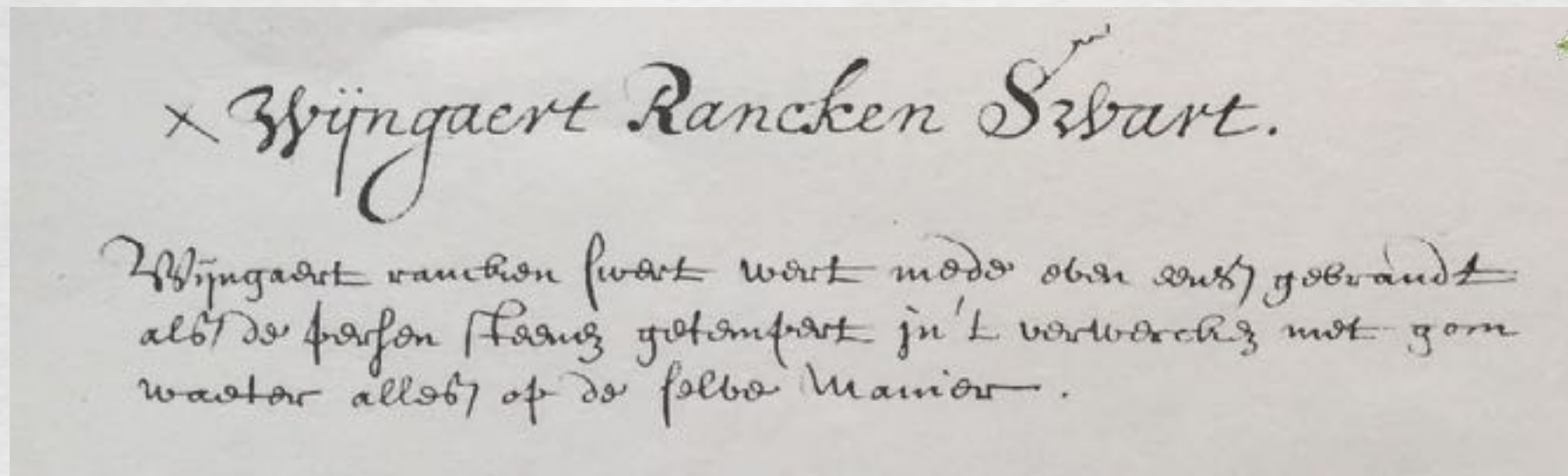
Vine tendril black

(char)

Reconstruction

Recipe by J. van Veen, c.1650-87

Recipe (17th cent.)



Diplomatic transcription (Dutch)

Wijngaert Rancken Swart.

Wijngaert rancken swart wort mede even eens gebrandt
als de persen steenen getempert in 't verwercken met gom
waeter alles op de selve manier.

Translation (English)

Vine-tendril black.

Vine-tendril black is also burned as peach stones [and] tempered with gum water,
all in the same manner.

Handout instructions

Source

Veen, Jacoba van, c. 1650-1687, *'De wetenschap en [de] manieren om alderhande couleuren van Saij of Saijetten te verwen etc. Oock om te leeren het fundament der Verlichterij Konst'*, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Den Haag, sign. 135 K 44, p. 120.

Ingredients & equipment

Vine tendrils

Fire

Cast iron crucible

Grinding slab, muller, water

Gum Arabic solution

Preparation steps

- (1) Collect vine tendrils
- (2) Light a fire
- (3) Put tendrils in a crucible
- (4) Put the crucible on the fire and let it there for about 2 hours
- (5) Grind on a stone slab using a muller and water
- (6) Add gum Arabic
- (7) Transfer into a sweet water shell and apply on paper with a brush

Date & Place

"Burgundian Black" Summerschool ROOTS: Research on the origins of historical techniques, University of Antwerp, 1-5 July 2019; Ellingshausen (Germany), August 2020 and Amsterdam, January 2021.

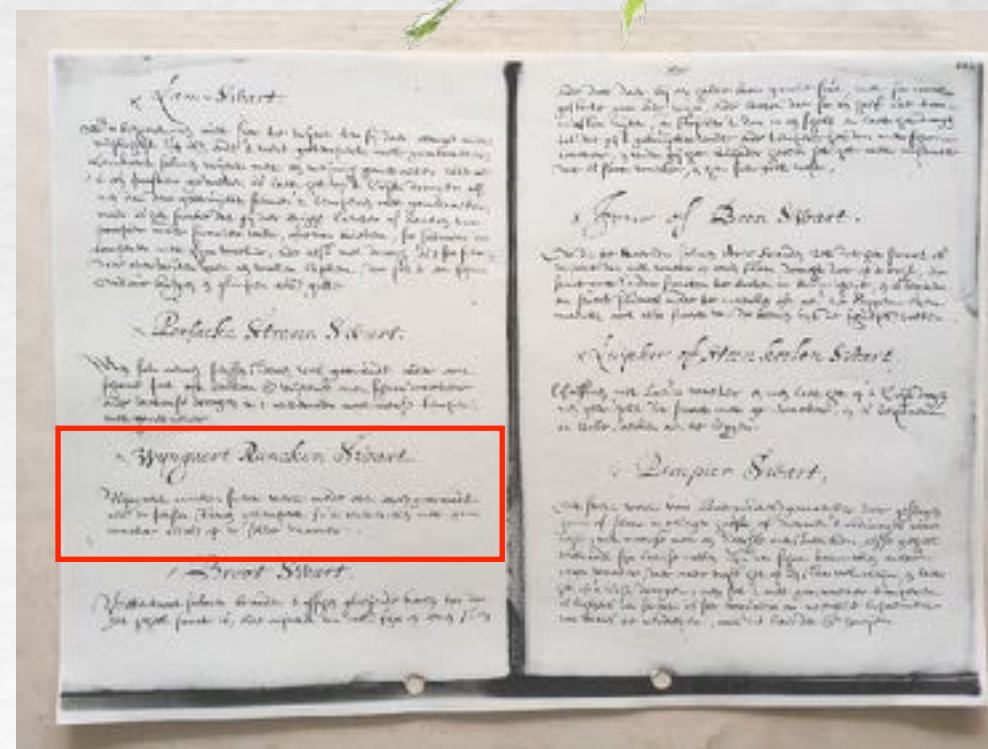


Photo report: step-by-step reconstruction

1. Collect and char vine tendrils



Vine tendrils were charred in a cast iron crucible on a wood- and charcoal fire for about 2 hours.

The charred vine branches show locally blue coloured areas.

Photo report: step-by-step reconstruction

2. Grind on a stone with a muller



Charred vine tendrils are soft and can easily be crushed to powder. The particles retain the shape of wooden splinters. The powder is hydrophobic and floats on the surface of water.

For making pigment powder, the particles are thoroughly ground in water and then dried on a chalk stone.

For preparing a water colour, gum Arabic is added as binding medium, as the 17th century recipe by Jacoba van Veen prescribes. Gum Arabic acts as dispersion agent and allows for a homogeneous distribution of the pigment.



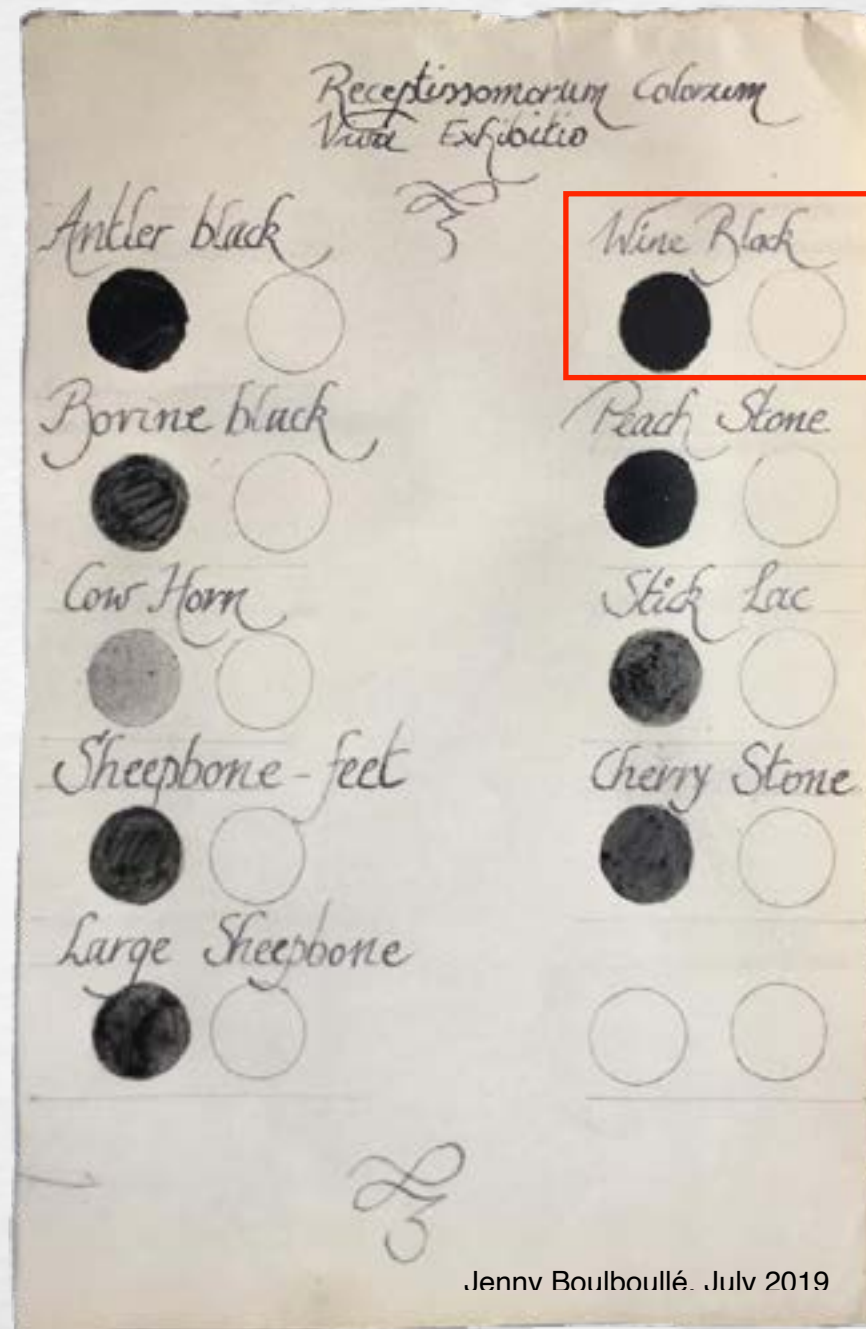
with water



with gum Arabic

Photo report: step-by-step reconstruction

3. Transfer into a shell and apply on paper



What did we learn during the reconstruction?

It is possible to char vine tendrils in a crucible. The resulting vine charcoal sticks are quite soft and can be easily crushed. The sticks show some dark-blue coloured areas.

The crushed particles retain the shape of wooden splinters. It is necessary to grind them.

Vine tendril pigment powder is hydrophobic and floats on the surface of water.

For preparation of a water colour it is necessary to add some drops of gum Arabic as already mentioned in the recipe in Jacoba van Veen's treatise.





Enjoy your own reconstructions !

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Heritage on paper and related materials

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