

Flame Tests

Chemistry

The colours, and why they occur.

Metal ion and flame colour.

Ion	Colour
Lithium	Crimson
Sodium	Yellow-orange
Potassium	Lilac
Calcium	Orange-red
Barium	Apple green
Copper(II)	Blue-green
Strontium	Red

Sodium's intense yellow masks everything else. Even trace contamination ruins a flame test, so the wire must be cleaned in acid.