

Commentary on: Thonglon T, Chaikum N. Magnetic fingerprint powder from a mineral indigenous to Thailand. *J Forensic Sci* 2010;55(5):1343–6.

Sir,

I read the recent publication by Thonglon and Chaikum (1) on a new local-made magnetic fingerprint powder with great interest. Thonglon and Chaikum (1) mentioned the success in use of local natural magnetite (Fe_3O_4) from Thailand. Thonglon and Chaikum (1) concluded that “Using an automated fingerprint identification system, the number of minutiae detected in fingerprints developed by using the prepared powder on nonporous surfaces was found to be comparable to those detected in fingerprints developed by using a commercial black magnetic powder” and “The cost is lowered by more than 60%.” I have some ideas on this work. The QC is

an important issue to be discussed. Whether the production of local-made powder conforms to the standards or not is still questionable. In addition, the composition of the magnetite from different sources in Thailand might have some difference in geologic properties. These factors need consideration.

Reference

1. Thonglon T, Chaikum N. Magnetic fingerprint powder from a mineral indigenous to Thailand. *J Forensic Sci* 2010;55(5):1343–6.

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