Evaluating Scientific Evidence for Hair and Drug Testing

UTLaw CLE

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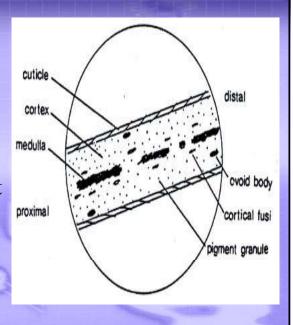
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Overview

- The Science of Hair & Hair Testing
- Major Issues with Hair Testing
- Cocaine and Bias Case Study

Hair Morphology

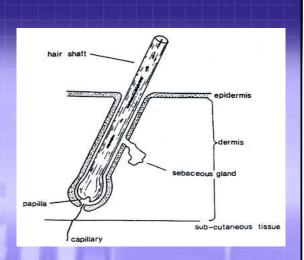
- The most basic components of hair are keratin, a very strong protein that is resistant to decomposition, and melanin, a pigment.
- The keratins form groups that interact and interconnect to form very stable fibrils. It is this property of hair that makes it such a prime example of physical evidence.



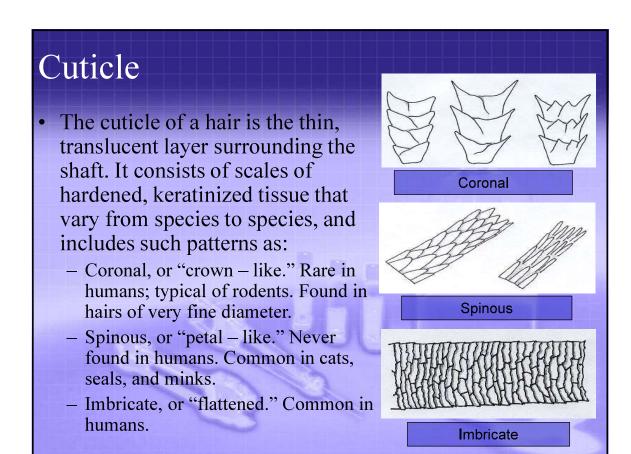
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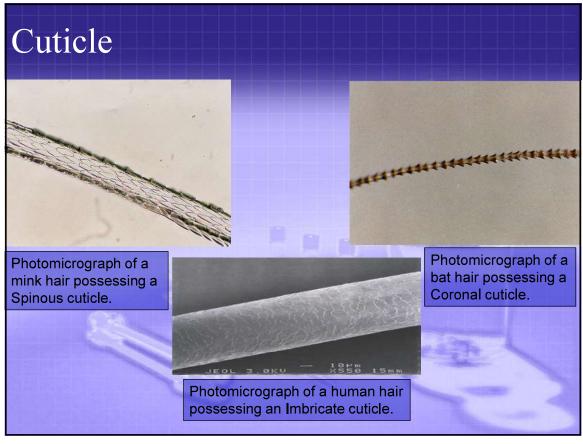
Hair Morphology

 Hairs are dead, cornified cells. The portion existing above the epidermis is called the shaft; below the epidermis, the root is embedded in the hair follicle.



- The hair shaft is composed of three layers:
 - Outer cuticle
 - Cortex
 - Central medulla









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<u>Evaluating Scientific Evidence for Hair and Drug Testing</u>

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