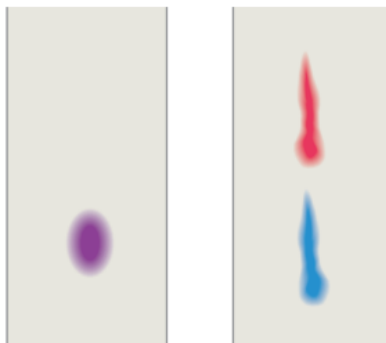


Exercise 1.91

Paper chromatography is a simple but reliable method for separating a mixture into its constituent substances. You have a mixture of two vegetable dyes, one red and one blue, that you are trying to separate. You try two different chromatography procedures and achieve the separations shown in the figure. Which procedure worked better? Can you suggest a method to quantify how good or poor the separation was?



Solution

The procedure for the one on the right worked better because the red and blue dyes are clearly separated. To quantify how good the separation is, measure the lengths of the dye trails.