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Scanning electron microscopy: A modern imaging technique

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Researchers in various areas of their domain either Life Sciences or Metallurgical sciences are ever eager to discover the finest details of the structures in which they are working. Electron Microscopes whether Transmission Electron Microscope(TEM) or Scanning Electron Microscope(SEM) form a powerful tool to study the finer structural details and its application in basic and applied research. In SEM, a powerful beam of electrons is focused on the object and back scattered electrons are detected by the detector and an image is formed. Various experimental SEM's were constructed in late but first commercial SEM was constructed by Cambridge Instrument Company in 1964. Since then a lot of improvements have happened that has made it a formidable and powerful tool in hands of scientific community. Scanning Electron Microscope makes it possible to examine the surface of any object with wide range of magnification. The specimen preparation is easy and also not time consuming. The micrographs are easy to interpret with application of software a three dimensional image of the scanned object is created. Preparation of Biological specimen includes collection, washing, fixation and dehydration of tissues which is almost similar to light microscopy with slight modifications.

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