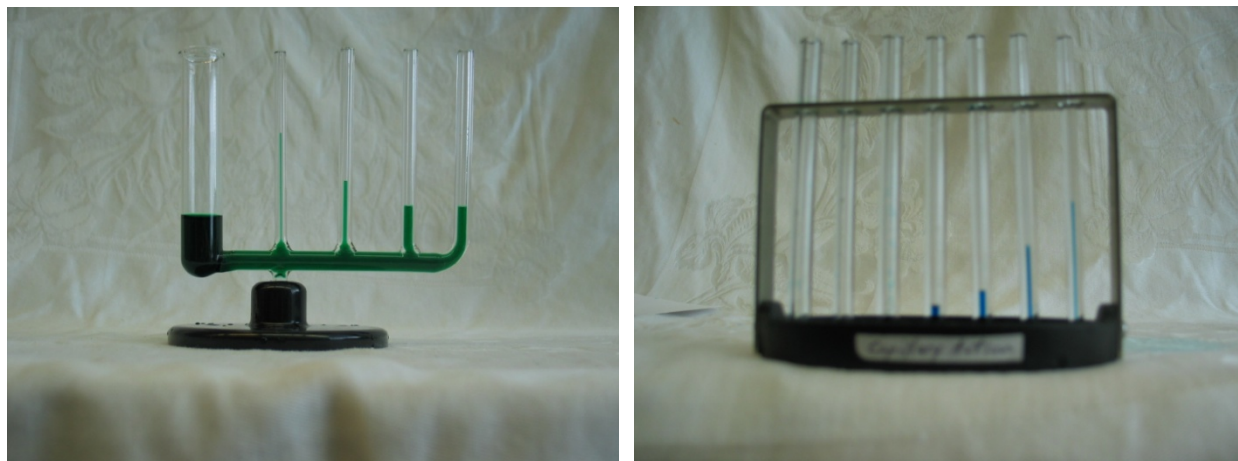


Capillary Action



Purpose: To demonstrate that surface tension can lift a liquid column up when the liquid wets the walls of a narrow capillary.

Location: room 136, shelf O4

Pour the jar of green liquid (water with food coloring) into the large diameter vertical tube (left photo) and students will see that the pull of surface tension on the inner walls of the tubes lifts the water higher than would occur just due to hydrostatic pressure. (The apparatus shown on the left is easier for students to see from their seats.) The apparatus on the right can also be used with the green water in the cuvettes if students can see it close up. Just pour the water into the base of the holder so it fills in around all the tubes.