Accepted Manuscript

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PII:	S0379-0738(18)30334-7
DOI:	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forsciint.2018.06.014
Reference:	FSI 9361
To appear in:	FSI
Received date:	5-4-2018
Revised date:	5-6-2018
Accepted date:	11-6-2018

Please cite this article as: Scott Chadwick, Sebastien Moret, Nilesh Jayashanka, Chris Lennard, Xanthe Spindler, Claude Roux, Investigation of some the factors influencing fingermark detection, Forensic Science International https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forsciint.2018.06.014

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Investigation of some the factors influencing fingermark detection

Scott Chadwick^{1*}, Sebastien Moret¹, Nilesh Jayashanka,^{1,2}, Chris Lennard³, Xanthe Spindler¹, Claude Roux¹

¹ University of Technology Sydney, Centre for Forensic Science, Broadway, 2007, Australia ² Temasek Polytechnic School of Applied Science, 21 Tempines Avenue 1, 529757, Singapore ³ School of Science and Health. Western Sydney University. Locked Bag 1797, Penrith

³ School of Science and Health, Western Sydney University, Locked Bag 1797, Penrith, NSW, 2751, Australia

*Corresponding Author: Scott.Chadwick@uts.edu.au

Highlights

- Over 14,000 fingermarks were developed and evaluated to investigate some of the factors that influence fingermark detection
- Fingermarks deposited on porous surfaces were more likely to be developed than fingermarks on non-porous surfaces
- Significant variability was observed between donors and within repeat depositions of the same donors fingermarks
- Reinforces the need for further research into the fundamentals of fingermark detection

ABSTRACT:

The primary aims of fingermark detection research are to improve the quality and increase the rate of detection of identifiable impressions. This is usually performed through the development of new methods and technologies to provide alternatives to or improve current procedures. While research of this nature is important to pursue, it fails to address the underlying question related to the factors that affect the detection of a latent fingermark. There has been significant research that has examined the differences between techniques, donors and fingermark age, as well as the composition of latent fingermarks. However, they tend not to focus on determining how these factors influence the quality of the developed mark.

This study involved the development and evaluation of over 14,000 natural fingermarks deposited on a variety of surfaces to examine the effect of substrate, age, donor variability

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