

The history of formalin dates back to the Age of Enlightenment when medieval alchemy, steeped in magic and astrology, slowly gave birth to chemistry, its modern offspring. Ancient lore was evolved into scientific understanding by scientists like German-Swedish chemist Carl Wilhelm Scheele who discovered a number of elements and compounds. Its synthesis was described later in the 18th century by the French scientists Antoine François Fourcroy and Louis Nicolas Vauquelin, who isolated it in the course of their experimental research on sulfuric acid. It should be remembered that a little of the fluid must remain at the bottom of the jar, so the preparations are constantly under the influence of at least a minimal amount of formal vapor. After a further 8–14 days preparations can be removed and stored in a glass jar with a glass stopper. On the second or third day after this, the contaminated fluid is changed once. In 1777, he discovered the substance that came to be known as acetaldehyde [2].