

INTRODUCTION

Ammonia is a colorless alkaline gas, it is lighter than air and has a distinct pungent odour.

Ammonia was first prepared in the 16th century by distilling animal substances such as hoofs and horns in the form of a solution. It was first isolated by Pristly in 1774, and collected over mercury. In 1785, it was shown by Berthollet to be a compound containing Nitrogen and Hydrogen.

Traces of ammonia and ammonium compounds can be found in the atmosphere and in natural water and also in the soil in the form of ammonium compounds.