PHLOROGLUCINOL – lignin staining

Phloroglucinol stain:
Prepare a saturated solution of Phloroglucinol (Sigma) in 20 % HCl. Filter the solution to remove crystals. The stain is light sensitive, protect with aluminum-foil.

20% HCl (100 ml):
- 37.5 ml distilled water
- 62.5 ml concentrated HCl (10.18 M, dens = 1.16 kg/l)

STAINING (Jensen, 1962):
Dewax and rehydrate sections (if using paraffin embedded material) with xylene and then ethanol series, apply phloroglucinol in 20% HCl, cover with cover slip and observe in staining solution in visible light. Lignin will appear red-violet, the preparation is not permanent.

Reference: