Nessler's reagent: 1) Alkaline solution of K2Hg I4 2) 0.09 mol/L solution of K2 Hg I4 &5 mol/L potassium KOH composition NH4+ + 2[Hg I4]2- + 40H - Hg O. Hg (NH3) I + 7I + 3H20 iodide of Millon's base The formula of brown precipitate is given as 3HgO. Hg(NH3)2 2 and NH3=Hg2I3. colour change: Ammonia Deep yellow Nessler NH4 salts colouration reagent in moderate (pale yellow) concn Ammonia or ammonium compound ammonium compounds Brown colouration Brown precipitate a) For qualitative detection of ammonia and ammonium Use: compounds.