

Ethidium bromide SDS/MSDS (Safety Data Sheet)

1. PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

Product identifier

* Product Name: Ethidium bromide

* Catalog Number: S3689

* CAS Number: 1239-45-8

* IUPAC Name: Phenanthridinium, 3,8-diamino-5-ethyl-6-phenyl-, bromide (1:1)

Relevant identified uses and uses advised against

* Identified uses: For research and development use only; laboratory chemicals; manufacture of substances.

* Uses advised against: Not for pharmaceutical, household, or other unapproved uses.

Details of the supplier

* Company: Selleck Chemicals

* TollFree: +1 877 796-6397

* Tel: +1 832 582-8158

* Fax: +1 832 582-8590

Emergency telephone number

* Emergency phone #: +1 832 582-8158

2. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

2.1 GHS classification in accordance with 29 CFR 1910 (OSHA HCS):

Acute toxicity (oral): Category 4. H302

Acute toxicity (inhalation): Category 1. H330

Acute toxicity (inhalation): Category 3. H331

Germ cell mutagenicity: Category 2. H341

2.2 GHS Label elements, including precautionary statements

Hazard Pictogram(s)



Signal Word

Danger

Hazard statement(s)

H302: Harmful if swallowed

H330: Fatal if inhaled

H331: Toxic if inhaled

H341: Suspected of causing genetic defects

Precautionary statement(s)

None.

Prevention	P203: Obtain, read and follow all safety instructions before use. P260: Do not breathe dust/fume/gas/mist/vapors/spray. P261: Avoid breathing dust/fume/gas/mist/vapors/spray. P264: Wash hands thoroughly after handling. P270: Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product. P271: Use only outdoors or in a well-ventilated area. P280: Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection/hearing protection. P284: [In case of inadequate ventilation] Wear respiratory protection.
Response	P301+P317: IF SWALLOWED: Get medical help. P304+P340: IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing. P316: Get emergency medical help immediately. P318: if exposed or concerned, get medical advice. P320: Specific treatment is urgent. P321: Specific treatment (see information on this label and safety datasheet)). P330: Rinse mouth.
Storage	P403+P233: Store in a well-ventilated place. Keep container tightly closed. P405: Store locked up.
Disposal	P501: P501 Dispose of contents/ container to an approved waste disposal plant.

2.3 Other hazards

None.

3. COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

3.1 Substances

Product name: Ethidium bromide

CAS Number: 1239-45-8

PubChem CID: 14710

Molecular formula: C₂₁H₂₀BrN₃

Molecular weight: 394.3 g/mol

IUPAC name: 5-ethyl-6-phenylphenanthridin-5-ium-3,8-diamine bromide

3.2 Mixtures

Not applicable (pure substance).

4. FIRST-AID MEASURES

4.1 Description of first aid measures

Inhalation: Fresh air, rest.

Skin contact: Rinse and then wash skin with water and soap.

Eye contact: Rinse with plenty of water for several minutes (remove contact lenses if easily possible).

Ingestion: Rinse mouth.

4.2 Most important symptoms and effects, both acute and delayed

See Section 11 (Toxicological Information).

4.3 Indication of any immediate medical attention and special treatment needed

Treat symptomatically. Contact a poison control center or physician for severe exposure.

5. FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES

5.1 Extinguishing media

Suitable: Water spray, dry chemical, carbon dioxide (CO₂), alcohol-resistant foam.

Unsuitable: None known.

5.2 Specific hazards arising from the substance or mixture

Use water spray, powder, alcohol-resistant foam, carbon dioxide.

5.3 Advice for firefighters

Wear self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and full protective clothing.

Fight fire from upwind. Cool containers with water spray until fire is extinguished.

Flash point: >100 °C

6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

6.1 Personal precautions, protective equipment and emergency procedures

Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (see Section 8).

Avoid breathing dust/vapor. Ensure adequate ventilation.

Evacuate personnel to safe areas. Keep people away from and upwind of spill.

WARNING: Highly toxic — only trained personnel should handle spills.

6.2 Environmental precautions

Prevent product from entering drains, waterways, or soil.

Contain spill with inert absorbent material.

6.3 Methods and materials for containment and cleaning up

Sweep spilled substance into sealable containers. Then wash away with plenty of water.

Excess ethidium bromide and waste material containing this substance should be placed in an appropriate container, clearly labeled, and handled according to your institution's waste disposal guidelines. For more information on disposal procedures see Chapter 7 of this volume.

SRP: The most favorable course of action is to use an alternative chemical product with less inherent propensity for occupational exposure or environmental contamination. Recycle any unused portion of the material for its approved use or return it to the manufacturer or supplier. Ultimate disposal of the chemical must consider: the material's impact on air quality; potential migration in soil or water; effects on animal, aquatic, and plant life; and conformance with environmental and public health regulations.

7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

7.1 Precautions for safe handling

Fireproof. Separated from strong oxidants and food and feedstuffs.

Ethidium bromide should be handled in the laboratory using the "basic prudent practices" described in Chapter 5.C.

Because of its mutagenicity, stock solutions of this compound should be prepared in a fume hood, and protective

gloves should be worn at all times while handling this substance. Operations capable of generating ethidium bromide dust or aerosols of ethidium bromide solutions should be conducted in a fume hood to prevent exposure by inhalation.

7.2 Conditions for safe storage, including any incompatibilities

Fireproof. Separated from strong oxidants and food and feedstuffs.

Ethidium bromide should be handled in the laboratory using the "basic prudent practices" described in Chapter 5.C. Because of its mutagenicity, stock solutions of this compound should be prepared in a fume hood, and protective gloves should be worn at all times while handling this substance. Operations capable of generating ethidium bromide dust or aerosols of ethidium bromide solutions should be conducted in a fume hood to prevent exposure by inhalation.

Store away from incompatible materials (see Section 10).

[Note: Specific storage temperature not available in public databases. Refer to supplier Certificate of Analysis (COA) for exact storage conditions.]

8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION

8.1 Exposure controls

8.1.1 Occupational exposure limits (OEL)

carcinogen category: 3; germ cell mutagen group: 3B

8.1.2 Appropriate engineering controls

Use only in a chemical fume hood or with local exhaust ventilation.

Ensure adequate ventilation to keep airborne concentrations below exposure limits.

8.2 Individual protection measures

8.2.1 Eye/face protection

Wear safety glasses with side shields.

8.2.2 Skin protection

Wear protective gloves. Recommended material: Nitrile rubber.

Wear suitable protective clothing (lab coat).

8.2.3 Respiratory protection

Wear NIOSH-approved respirator with appropriate cartridges. SCBA for high concentrations.

8.2.4 Thermal hazards

Not applicable.

9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

9.1 Information on basic physical and chemical properties

a) Appearance: Dark red solid; [Merck Index] Red to brown solid; [ICSC] Dark red powder; [Sigma-Aldrich MSDS]

b) Odor: No data available

c) Odor threshold: No data available

d) pH: No data available

e) Melting point/freezing point: 260-262 °C (decomposes)

f) Initial boiling point and boiling range: No data available

g) Flash point: >100 °C

- h) Evaporation rate: No data available
- i) Flammability (solid, gas): No data available
- j) Upper/lower flammability or explosive limits: No data available
- k) Vapor pressure: 1.2X10⁻¹² mm Hg at 25 °C /Estimated/
- l) Vapor density: No data available
- m) Relative density: 0.34 g/cm³
- n) Water solubility: Solubility in 2-methoxyethanol is 20 mg/mL; ethanol, 2 mg/mL
- o) Partition coefficient: n-octanol/water: Log P: No data available
- p) Auto-ignition temperature: No data available
- q) Decomposition temperature: No data available
- r) Viscosity: No data available
- s) Explosive properties: No data available
- t) Oxidizing properties: No data available

9.2 Other information

Topological Polar Surface Area (TPSA): 55.9 Å²
Complexity: 419

10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

10.1 Reactivity

No specific reactivity hazards identified under normal handling conditions.

10.2 Chemical stability

Stable under recommended storage conditions.

10.3 Possibility of hazardous reactions

No hazardous reactions under normal conditions.

10.4 Conditions to avoid

Avoid heat, sparks, open flames, direct sunlight, and moisture.
Avoid strong oxidizing agents, strong acids, and strong bases.

10.5 Incompatible materials

Strong oxidizing agents, strong acids, strong bases.

10.6 Hazardous decomposition products

Thermal decomposition may produce: Carbon monoxide (CO), Carbon dioxide (CO₂), Nitrogen oxides (NO_x), Hydrogen bromide (HBr).
See also Section 5 (Fire-fighting measures) for combustion products.

11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

11.1 Information on toxicological effects

Acute toxicity:

No acute toxicity data available.

Skin corrosion/irritation:

No data available.

Serious eye damage/eye irritation:

No data available.

Respiratory or skin sensitization:

No data available.

Germ cell mutagenicity:

Suspected of causing genetic defects (H341).

Carcinogenicity:

No data available.

Reproductive toxicity:

No data available.

Specific target organ toxicity (single exposure):

No data available.

Specific target organ toxicity (repeated exposure):

No data available.

Aspiration hazard:

No data available.

11.2 Additional information

Exposure routes:

The substance can be absorbed into the body by inhalation and by ingestion.

Signs and symptoms of exposure:

Cough.

Redness.

Sore throat.

Data source: Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB) via PubChem.

12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

12.1 Toxicity

Environmental effects from the substance have not been investigated adequately.

12.2 Persistence and degradability

No data available.

12.3 Bioaccumulative potential

No data available.

12.4 Mobility in soil

No data available.

12.5 Results of PBT and vPvB assessment

PBT/vPvB assessment not available.

12.6 Other adverse effects

No other adverse ecological effects identified.

13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

13.1 Waste treatment methods

Waste Treatment Methods: Waste material must be disposed of in accordance with national and local regulations. Leave chemicals in original containers and do not mix with other waste. Handle uncleaned containers in the same manner as the product itself.

14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

14.1 UN number

Not regulated as dangerous goods (research quantities typically exempt).

14.2 UN proper shipping name

Not subject to transport regulations (small quantities for research use).

14.3 Transport hazard class(es)

Class 6.1

14.4 Packing group

Packing group I

14.5 Environmental hazards

Marine pollutant: No (not classified as environmentally hazardous per GHS).

14.6 Special precautions for user

Transport in original packaging. Ensure containers are tightly sealed.

For bulk or commercial quantities, consult applicable transport regulations (DOT, IATA, IMDG).

14.7 Transport in bulk according to Annex II of MARPOL 73/78 and the IBC Code

Not applicable.

15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

15.1 Safety, health and environmental regulations/legislation specific for the substance or mixture

US EPA / TSCA: Subject to EPA TSCA regulations

EU ECHA / REACH: Not available in public databases.

SARA 302 Components:

No chemicals in this material are subject to the reporting requirements of SARA Title III, Section 302.

SARA 313 Components:

This material does not contain any chemical components with known CAS numbers that exceed the threshold (De Minimis) reporting levels established by SARA Title III, Section 313.

SARA 311/312 Hazards:

Acute (short-term) health hazard

Chronic (long-term) health hazard

Massachusetts Right To Know Components:

This material contains components subject to the Massachusetts Right to Know Act. See Section 2 for hazard classification.

Pennsylvania Right To Know Components:

This material contains components subject to the Pennsylvania Right to Know Act. See Section 2 for hazard classification.

New Jersey Right To Know Components:

This material contains components subject to the New Jersey Right to Know Act. See Section 2 for hazard classification.

California Prop. 65 Components:

This product does not contain any chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects, or any other reproductive harm.

Other regulatory listings:

- The Australian Inventory of Industrial Chemicals: Chemical: Phenanthridinium, 3,8-diamino-5-ethyl-6-phenyl-, bromide

15.2 Chemical safety assessment

A chemical safety assessment has not been carried out for this substance.

For research-use-only compounds, no CSA is required under REACH Annex I.

16. OTHER INFORMATION

Revision Date: 2026/09/09

Further Information: The information provided is believed to be correct but is not exhaustive and should be used only as a guideline based on current knowledge. It does not represent a guarantee of the properties of the product.

Selleck Chemicals Corporation and its Affiliates shall not be held liable for any damage resulting from handling or contact with the product.