

## A SMALL HABITAT, LARVAL MOSQUITO SAMPLER

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Collecting mosquitoes from many larval habitats is difficult or impossible with a standard pint dipper. The sites may be either too small to allow access or have insufficient water for a dipper to function properly. Meat basters are often used for collecting larvae in tight spots (Service 1976), but they can be awkward to handle and take in very small volumes of water. We created a simple, inexpensive suction sampler for use in sites with small openings or shallow water.

The sampler is made of a 3 ft. (91 cm) section of flexible plastic tubing feeding into a plastic, screw top drink bottle. Another 12-18 in. (30-46 cm) tube is attached to the bottle on the opposite, lower side. Both tubes are secured and sealed to the bottle with silicone caulk. The tubes and the bottle are fastened with strapping tape to a stick ca. 4 ft. (122 cm) long. Figure 1 illustrates the assembled device.

Applying suction to the upper tube by mouth draws water and larvae from the site into the plastic drink bottle. Larvae can then be transferred easily from the bottle to a collecting container. The bottle may be calibrated to provide information on the volume of the sample. We have found the device especially useful for collecting mosquitoes from the fissures in dredge spoil sites and from tire casings, but the sampler should prove useful in any area of limited access, such as tree holes, shallow puddles or bamboo nodes. Although costs for materials may vary, they never exceeded \$2.50/unit using local sources and suppliers.

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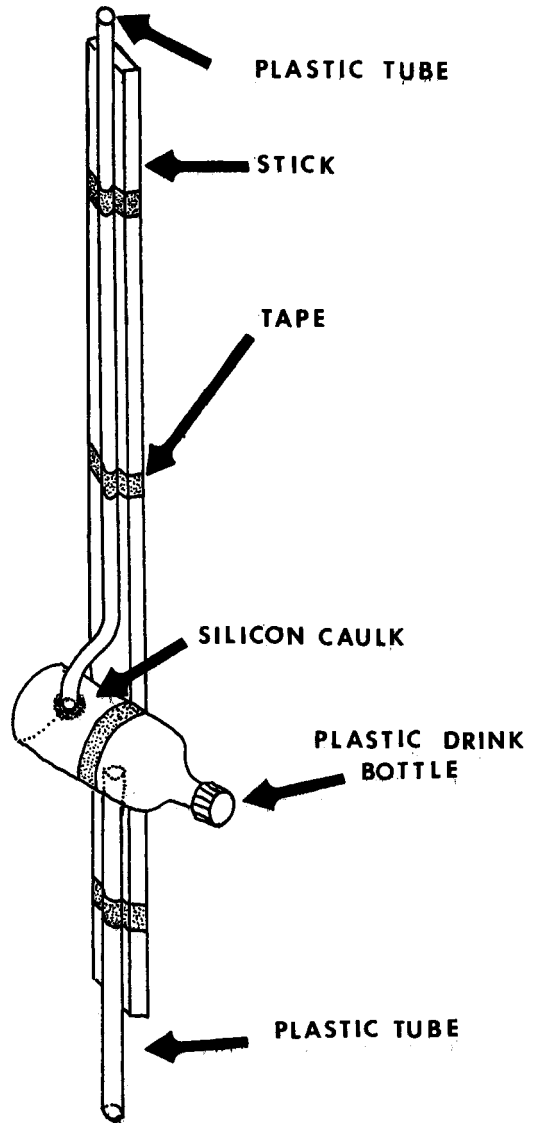


Fig. 1. Small habitat, larval mosquito sampler.

### REFERENCE CITED

Service, M. W. 1976. Mosquito ecology: Field sampling methods. Halsted Press, New York. 583 p.

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