

A SIMPLE MOUNTING MEDIUM FOR MOSQUITO LARVAE

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Several methods of preparation of mounting media for mosquito larvae have been described by many authors. Most media have both advantages and disadvantages and the one presented here is expected to differ in this respect. At present it is chiefly interesting as being of indigenous material which is easily supplied and relatively inexpensive, especially in the northern and northeastern parts of Thailand. The methods of preparation are also very simple. Technicians or field assistants can make it in the laboratory or in the field using only ordinary equipment. The medium is clear and colorless, and its stability has not been observed to deteriorate when slides mounted for several months.

In the north and northeastern part of Thailand, there are *Dipterocarpus* trees growing freely everywhere in the forests, as well as in the villages. *Dipterocarpus tusifolius* and *Dipterocarpus tuberculus* are very common species of this genus. Where the bark is broken, the trees produce a resin which, newly excreted, is clear and colorless. Lumps of the resin become cloudy and very faintly lustrous with age in nature. This does not seem to be an obstacle in making permanent mounts of dissolved new resin. It is necessary only to pick out the small newly excreted lumps of resin which are clear and colorless, and dissolve them in xylene or eucalyptus oil to obtain the desired viscosity.

The proportion of the resin and two satisfactory solvents are as follows:

1. <i>Dipterocarpus</i> resin	10 gm.	} 2:1
Xylene	5 c.c.	
2. <i>Dipterocarpus</i> resin	10 gm.	} 1:1
Eucalyptus oil	10 c.c.	

Dissolve the resin in xylene or eucalyptus oil at room temperature in a small stoppered bottle. Frequent shaking is needed. Within 2-3 hours the resin is completely dissolved and ready for use.

In the field, it is advised that small quantities be made, so as to shorten the period of dissolving. From the practical point of view, the field workers need take with them only xylene or eucalyptus oil to the field. Newly excreted *Dipterocarpus* resin can be picked up and dissolved in the areas where larval specimens are to be mounted and studied. In the laboratory, a large amount of solution can be made in order to keep it for long use. If the solution is too viscous, more xylene or eucalyptus oil may be added.

The xylene-soluble medium begins to harden within 20 minutes, while the eucalyptus-oil-soluble medium takes 3 days for hardening. No ringing of the cover glass is necessary.

Standard techniques familiar to histologists constitute the preliminary steps of killing, dehydrating and clearing.

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