occurred in this container previously, and that the *tarsalis* population might be a self-perpetuating one located within the building.

References Cited

Brennan, J. M. and R. F. Harwood. 1953. A preliminary report on the laboratory colonization of the mosquito, *Culex tarsalis* Coquillett. Mosq. News 13(2):153–157.

Horsfall, W. R. 1955. Mosquitoes. New York: The Ronald Press Co. 723 pp.

INSECT ASPIRATORS MADE FROM PLASTIC OR GLASS SEROLOGICAL PIPETTES

GEORGE J. BURTON [1]

When glass tubing of suitable diameter is unavailable for making an insect-collecting aspirator, 5 cc. or 10 cc. plastic or glass serological pipettes can be used, instead, because they are of approximately the right length and diameter.

The plastic pipettes used were those manufactured by Falcon Plastics of Los Angeles, California. The internal diameter of the 5 cc. pipette is 7/32-inch; that of the 10 cc. pipette is 9/32-inch. The straight portion is 12 inches long. The cone or taper at the tip is cut off with a small saw, but may also be broken after being scored with a triangular file or knife. A circular score can also be made with a knife or tubing cutter, pressure applied, and the break filed smooth or touched to a hot iron or other heated metal surface. The cut collecting end may also be flared after softening it in a flame. Where it is desirable to have a small collecting aperture, the original opening at the tapered tip of the pipette can be used, or else a cut can be made along the tapered tip wherever desired. The plastic did not cloud up or become discolored after extensive use.

The hole between the mouthpiece and the pipette proper is reamed out slightly with a reamer or a heated rod. The mouthpiece can be sawed off and inserted into the distal end of the rubber tubing, or else can be left attached in the original condition. A small piece of mosquito netting, or wide-meshed silk or bolting cloth, is fitted over the end of the pipette, and is held in place with a ¼-inch strip of tape. The rubber tubing may be 18, 20, or 24 inches in length, and should be about ¼-inch in internal diameter. One end is slipped over the mesh-covered pipette tip. The other end of the tubing may be left as is, or else the detached plastic mouthpiece may be inserted into it.

The usable portion of a 5 cc. or 10 cc. glass serological pipette may vary from 11¼ to 12 inches. The internal diameter of the 5 cc. pipette is 7/32-inch, and that of the 10 cc. pipette is 5/16-inch. The tapered tip is broken off after being scored with a triangular file or tubing cutter. The narrowed aperture at the mouthpiece end retards the suction somewhat, therefore the glass is scored at about ¼-inch anterior to the neck and the mouthpiece is broken off. This leaves the original glass pipette as a tube of even diameter. A piece of mosquito netting or bolting cloth is applied over the distal end, and a length of rubber tubing attached, as described above. The removed glass mouthpiece can be inserted into the free end of the rubber tubing. The latter with an internal diameter or hole of ¼-inch accommodates the 5 cc. pipette, but tubing with a slightly wider hole would be necessary to accommodate the 10 cc. pipette.

[1] National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bldg. 37, Room 1D21, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

A SIMPLE INEXPENSIVE STYROFOAM CHAMBER FOR LONG-TERM HOLDING OF ADULT MOSQUITOES

GEORGE J. BURTON [1]

If a temperature- and humidity-regulated insectary is not available, humidity chambers for keeping infected or uninfected mosquitoes alive for up to 1 to 2 months, depending on species, can be easily constructed from styrofoam insulated boxes. These come in many sizes and shapes. They are often used for keeping liquids or foods hot or cold, or as shipping boxes or packing boxes. An advantage is that they usually cost no more than $1 to $2. Round or rectangular boxes may be used, but the latter will accommodate small holding cages better.

The box is lined with thin layers of wet absorbent cotton held to the inside surfaces with rustless thumb tacks or pins. If available, the best pins to use are "push pins" having an elongated plastic or aluminum head measuring about 1/2-inch long by 3/16-inch in diameter.

After being wetted, the cotton is pinched only

[1] National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Building 37, Room 1D21, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.