

are commercially available and comparatively inexpensive.

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A NEW TECHNIQUE FOR THE STUDY OF DROSOPHILA EGGS AND LARVAE

WHILE carrying on hybridization experiments on two subspecies of *Drosophila virilis* it was suggested to the writer by Dr. A. H. Sturtevant that egg counts be made. In attempting to improve on the present technique of egg collection it was discovered that a fly will readily deposit her eggs through cloth mesh onto the proper medium. To make use of this fact

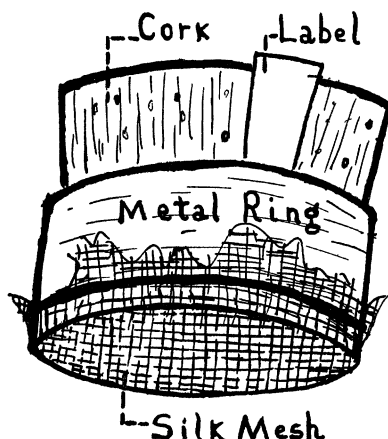


FIG. 1

the apparatus shown in the figure was devised. It is a tiny *Drosophila* cage, consisting of a metal gas-hole ferrule or ring $\frac{7}{8}$ inch in diameter and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch high. Over one end of this ring is stretched tightly a piece of black silk bobbinette, trade No. 400 for large species of *Drosophila* and No. 418 for small species. This silk net is held in place by a rubber band. Into the smaller end of the ring fits a cork of such a size that it projects part way into the ring. The label may be written on a small slip of library card which fits between cork and ring. This ensures a sufficient air supply.

In most experiments one female per cage is used. For securing eggs the cage is placed directly on the medium and the fly lays her eggs through the silk mesh. Few if any eggs stick to the mesh, and these may be seen against the black background. The medium of corn-meal molasses agar or banana agar with a little animal charcoal added for contrast is poured into a small waterproof paper plate of a size conveniently examined on the stage of the binocular. Yeasting is done by spraying a fine suspension from an atomizer onto the plate shortly before using. The medium should contain an extra supply of agar to ensure stiffness and to keep the silk from getting wet.

Several experimental cages may be placed on the same plate. To guard against contamination an inverted paper plate covers the apparatus and is held in place by paper clips or rubber bands. After a given time the cages are lifted off and transferred to a fresh agar plate. The egg output of each female is then counted. If the experiment calls for the rearing of larvae a piece of the medium containing a certain number of eggs is cut off and placed with food in a culture vial or bottle. The agar plate may then be covered, and from time to time egg hatching and early larval stages examined directly under the binocular.

This apparatus has advantages in the collection of large numbers of eggs and larvae, life history studies and various problems dealing with the rearing of *Drosophila*. Its use facilitates the introduction of quantitative methods.

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THE EAR-OSSEICLES IN CRANIA

IN removing crania, human, or other, from fossil areas, the ear-ossicles have not been looked for in the surrounding earth, or still within the cranium. But in handling the temporal bone the ossicles may fall out unless cotton at once be placed in the external auditory canal. By such care a stapes was recovered from the left temporal of Lake Pelican man, Otter Tail County, Minnesota. This is an appeal to excavators to place cotton in ear-hole at once, and to examine earth for specimens.

THOMAS HORACE EVANS

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- THOMAS, WILLIAM I. *Primitive Behavior*. Pp. ix + 847. 10 figures. McGraw-Hill. \$5.00.
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