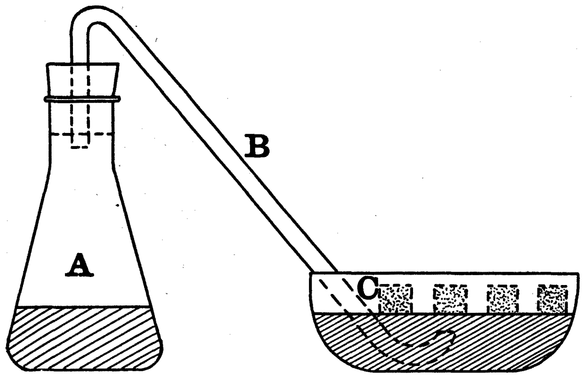


FIG. 1. Carbon tetrachloride recovery apparatus.

volatilized, it escapes through the tube. The distal end of tube (B) dips into and down to the bottom of a kidney-shaped enamel pan, which is filled to the depth of 1 or 2 inches with metallic mercury. On the surface of the mercury ice cubes (C) are placed in order to keep the mercury cool. The kidney-shaped pans are used so that they may encircle the electric heater when several extracts are volatilizing at the same time. Any suitable container for the mercury may be used.

When the electric heater is started, the volatilized carbon tetrachloride escapes through the distal end of tube (B) under the mercury. In its passage to the surface of the mercury it condenses and emerges as liquid carbon tetrachloride. The liquid carbon tetrachloride then can be readily poured off from the mercury and easily separated by use of a separatory funnel from the water which has resulted from the melting ice.

The advantages of this method are important from both the economic and health angle. Practically all the carbon tetrachloride can be recovered and the method is extremely simple. It does away with all escape of fumes into the room. Nine flasks have been used at one time, with no odor of carbon tetrachloride in the room. The distress complained of by laboratory assistants disappeared. Various other methods of recovery were tried, including removal by suction. None of them was capable of completely excluding the fumes. The method here reported has been used very successfully, is efficient and inexpensive.

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## A SIMPLE AGITATION DEVICE[1]

A SIMPLE device for the moderate agitation of solutions is shown in the accompanying diagrams. All one side, except a strip B about one inch wide and running lengthwise, is cut out of a gallon oil-can A.

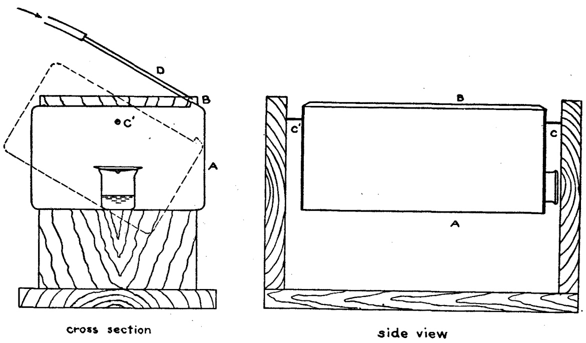


FIG. 1.

This strip is bent slightly upwards as indicated. The can is then mounted by means of nails between two upright boards. The holes in the can must be of such diameter that oscillation can occur freely. C and C′ indicate the positions of support.

When a stream of compressed air is passed through the glass tube D, striking the edge B, the can rocks back and forth on the nail supports. The amplitude may be controlled by regulating the air supply and the distance of the end of the glass tube from the edge of the can.

Vessels containing solutions to be shaken may be held in position by wires which are properly spaced and run lengthwise through the can. If beakers are used, watch glasses may be fastened on with rubber bands.

GRAHAM W. MARKS

[1] Contribution from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California, La Jolla, California.

## A METHOD OF INCREASING THE YIELD OF DROSOPHILA

DURING the course of experimentation with different types of food media for raising *Drosophila melanogaster* at the University of Texas, the author discovered that the yield could be greatly increased by the addition of dried brewers' yeast to the culture media. Accurate counts were made under controlled conditions, and the yield was found to be about ten times greater after the addition of the yeast than in plain banana food and almost twice as great as in banana food with autoclaved fresh bakers' yeast added. When added to corn-meal food the brewers' yeast increased the yield in the ratio of 5:2. Since the yeast is very reasonable in price and convenient to handle, it should prove a source of great saving in the study of Drosophila.

The amount of yeast to be added depends on the richness of the food desired, but for general use about two grams per 100 cc of media will be satisfactory. It may be added as soon as the agar has dissolved and