

ENTOMOLOGISCHE BERICHTEN

MAANDBLAD UITGEGEVEN DOOR

DE NEDERLANDSE ENTOMOLOGISCHE VERENIGING

ISSN 0013-8827. Officiële afkorting (World List): Ent. Ber., Amst.

Deel 40

1 december 1980

no. 12

Adres van de Redactie:

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Genitalia vials from PVC tube

by

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ABSTRACT. — Clear PVC tube is proposed to produce genitalia microvials which can be closed with PVC stoppers or sealed directly.

In the New Zealand Entomologist Deitz recently brought to the fore the troubles that are subject to the use of glass genitalia microvials closed with cork stoppers. Having the same experiences some years ago, I looked for a better solution and found it by using clear flexible PVC tube of 2 and 3 mm internal diameter.

To produce the vials the tube is cut into pieces of about 3 cm after which one end is closed by heating it gently above a spirit burner and sealing it with a coarse forceps (fig. 1). The desired length of the vial may now be corrected by cutting the open end. For filling the vial with a drop of glycerine I use a syringe with a blunted needle. Care should be taken to use pure and undiluted glycerine to prevent the specimen from getting mouldy. To close the vials I use 2 and 3 mm $\varnothing$ clear PVC snare cut into pieces of about 7 mm (figs. 1, 2). To prevent the forming of pressure in the vial in closing it, it has to be pinched lightly before the stopper is plugged in. Another way of closing the vials is by simply sealing them off in the same way as the other end (fig. 3). In case of reexamining its contents, the sealed end can be simply cut off.

The advantages of using this material is obvious: through the clear PVC the contents of the vial can be easily examined, glycerine does not creep on PVC, nor through the stopper, and the vial is unbreakable and much lighter than a glass one. They are also less expensive. The closed vial can be pinned under the specimen through the flat sealed end which procedure is easier than pinning through the stopper, avoiding also the glycerine coming into contact with the pin. Otherwise, using stainless steel pins, any damage to the pin never occurs. During investigations, vials can be plugged temporarily, and sealed afterwards. A sealed vial is especially of advantage in the long term storage in the collection and need no further curatorial care.

Obtaining suitable tube and the fitting snare may be difficult. The 2 mm tube is commonly in use here with hearing-aids. The 3 mm version I found at first as a part of an infusion system used

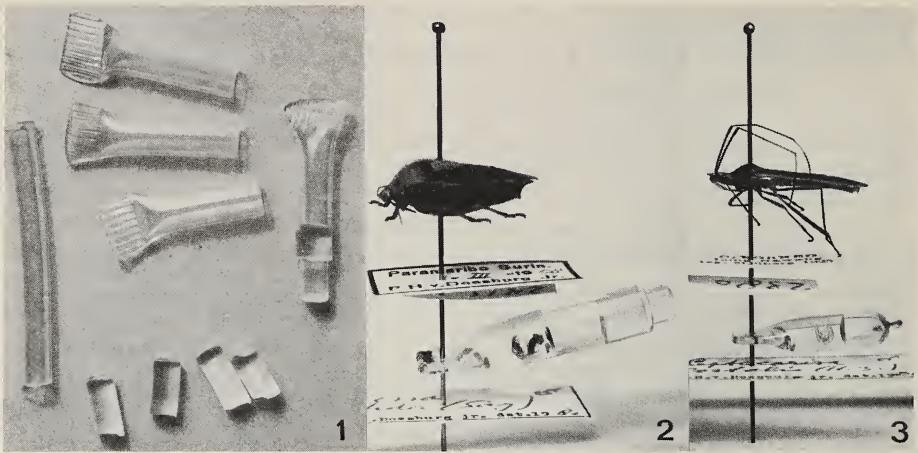


Fig. 1. A piece of 3 mm medical tube, self made vials and stoppers.

Fig. 2. Specimen with attached a 3 mm vial and stopper. Fig. 3. A sealed 2 mm vial.

in hospitals, nursing homes etc. where they are disposed in great numbers. The desired tube sections which usually contain only remnants of NaCl- or glucose solutions, have to be cut into pieces of 3 cm, thoroughly washed in distilled water and dried. This medical tube, I found later, is manufactured by Draka Plastics, Enkhuizen under the name of Medituub. The 2 and 3 mm $\varnothing$ PVC snare I use is made by Joh. Pützfeld, Amsterdam.

Acknowledgements. — I wish to express my gratitude to Mrs. E. F. Biere-Helmhout, Centraal Laboratorium van de Bloedtransfusiedienst, Amsterdam, for kindly providing me with a sample of medical tube, and to Mr. J. van Geffen, Draka Plastics, for his valuable informations.

LITERATURE

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De ondertitel luidt: Over ratten en muizen, faraomieren, spinnen... In eenvoudige en prettig leesbare taal bespreekt de schrijver de dieren die ons in de woning of op het lichaam last kunnen bezorgen. Een flink aantal door de auteur zelf vervaardigde tekeningen vergemakkelijkt het herkennen van de lastposten. Na een inleiding met o.a. een interessant historisch overzicht komen de diverse diersoorten aan bod, ingedeeld in korte hoofdstukjes al naar de plaats waar ze zijn aan te treffen of de groep waartoe ze behoren. Vanzelfsprekend komt ook de bestrijding ter sprake.

Een handig boekje voor leken om iets te weten te komen over deze „huisdieren” en ze te kunnen herkennen en voor dat doel zeer aanbevolen. — B. J. Lempke.

PERSONALIA

Op 24 september 1980 promoveerde ons lid J. Meijer aan de Vrije Universiteit van Amsterdam op een proefschrift getiteld: „Colonization of the Lauwerszeepolder by some elements of the arthropod fauna”. Promotor was prof. L. Vlijm, coreferent was prof. T. R. E. Southwood.