

A combination of an electric vacuum brush and an exhaustor as apparatus for catching small insects

by

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During excursions with students in limestone caves for the study of the hibernation of *Culex pipiens* L., large numbers of mosquitoes were caught. In the course of years the apparatus described below proved to be very useful.

The electric vacuum brush is generally used for removing dust from car upholstery, furniture, etc. Combined with an exhaustor it can be used for catching small insects by suction (fig. 1). The apparatus contains two flashlight batteries of 1.5 Volt (A) which power a small ventilator (B).

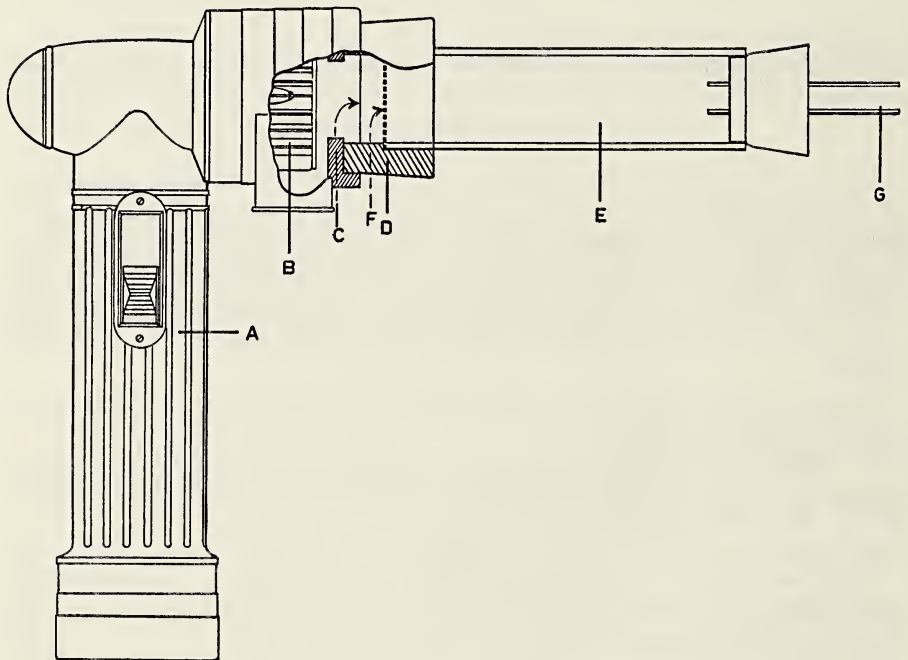


Fig. 1

The brushes of the apparatus originally present at (C), are removed. A rubber stop of 4 cm diameter at the base is firmly fixed in that place. The stop (D) has a central hole of 3 cm diameter, in which the perspex tube (E) of the exhaustor fits. This tube is closed with wire gauze (F). Insects are sucked in by (G) and gathered in the tube (E). The tubes can be replaced. Mosquitoes, aphids, psyllids, collembolids and presumably many other insects can be caught very easily with this apparatus.