

DeMarinis, Frank. An apparatus for facilitating direct facet-counting.

A simple and convenient apparatus can be easily constructed which will facilitate direct facet-counting or other somatic examination of *Drosophila*. A smooth steel ball, 2 cms. in diameter fitted on a metallic socket, 1 cm. high, 2 1/2 cms. external diameter and 1 1/2 cms. internal diameter is all that is required. By placing a very small amount of glue at the top of the ball the specimen can be made to stick conveniently for examination. With a simple rotation of the ball with the fingers the observation may be made at any point in the curvature of the eye or the body, as the case may be.

Dempster, E. R. Shipping flies in cold storage.

At the suggestion of Dr. W. L. Waterhouse of Sidney, Australis, we made two shipments of several stocks of *Drosophila melanogaster* to Australia in the summers of 1937 and 1938 in the chill room of Matson Line steamers, hoping thus to successfully evade the lethal equatorial temperatures. The Matson Co. has given us the following values as temperature limits; 38° F (3-1/3° C) to 40° F (4-4/9° C). The flies remained in the chill room approximately 4 weeks in each case. The shipment of 1937 was completely successful, that of 1938 a complete failure. In both cases flies were introduced into 1" x 6" test tubes containing approximately 1-1/2" of food and stoppered with extra-tight fitting gauze and cotton stoppers, well wrapped to prevent evaporation and with no holes thru the packages for ventilation. Our experience in general, especially for airplane transfers, has indicated that evaporation is a much more serious hazard than lack of ventilation. The flies were kept at 25° C for approximately 8 days before being placed in the chill room with the hope that some individuals in a relatively resistant stage of development would at least survive. In the 1938 (unsuccessful) shipment the standard cornmeal-molasses formula (Bridges, DIS-6:27), to which was added about .07% Moldex 4, was used. In the 1937 (successful) shipment the medium was approximately the same except that only 1% of agar was used and about .75% of cooked dried yeast added. Very likely the failure in 1938 was due to the use of too dry a medium; probably a very wet medium would be best for such low temperatures.

Sidky, A. R. New spoon for egg counting, and method for seeding.

While studying egg-laying in *Drosophila* a new spoon for egg counting was constructed and used instead of the ice cream paper spoon commonly used. It proved very satisfactory. The spoon is made of aluminium of about 0.5 mm. thick. Its shape and dimensions are shown in the illustration. The width of the spoon is so planned

