

A sensitivity test was done using discs of broad-spectrum antibiotics and of sulfa drugs. Two drugs - dihydrostreptomycin and tetracycline - were found to have the best inhibitory effects on the bacterial growth.

For purposes of decontaminating the cultures, these two antibiotics were incorporated simultaneously into the regular fly media in the following proportions:

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| dihydrostreptomycin sulfate (Upjohn Co.) | 100 micrograms/ml. food |
| tetracycline hydrochloride (Tetracyn Pfizer) | 30 micrograms/ml. food |

The procedure for decontamination is as follows: contaminated flies are put onto antibiotic food in bottles or vials. After a good number of eggs has been laid, all the parents are removed. The eggs are allowed to mature on the antibiotic food. After hatching, these new flies are transferred again to plain food without antibiotics, preferably without etherizing. If it is necessary to select the flies, care should be taken to clean brushes, etherizers, plates, etc., with 70% ethanol to prevent recontamination. The plain food cultures are then incubated and observed to see if the discoloration appears again.

Because the action of the antibiotics used may have unknown and potentially undesirable genetic effects, the drugs probably should not be used for very special stocks. The treatment should be completed in one generation.

We have found this method very satisfactory for ridding most of our cultures of all contamination. The productivity of the cultures is much improved with this treatment.

Gallo, A. J. Governo do Estado de São Paulo, Brazil. An apparatus for filling vials.

We saw this apparatus in a bacteriological laboratory (Instituto Adolfo Lutz-São José do Rio Preto) and we are using it with success in our own laboratory. It is specially useful because we can fill all vials with a standard quantity

without dirtying the walls of the tubes. The vial is placed under the apparatus and gets filled when one presses the Mohr pinchcock. Only a wooden basis, a funnel, a piece of latex, a piece of glass tube and a Mohr pinchcock are required. According to the picture, it may be made in a proper size.

