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A cheap, disposable population cage.

Population cages can be made cheaply and quickly enough to be disposed of at the end of experiments or even during experiments by making use of the new polyfoam plastic containers made for

picnic coolers, milk boxes, etc. The material is light, waterproof, cuts easily, and is extremely cheap. An example is given below of a cage suitable for most standard population experiments.

Materials

1	Polyfoam porch milk box, with cover, #40HA. Inside dimensions, 8-1/2" wide x 11-3/4" long x 11-1/2" deep. Wall thickness 1". Glo-Brite Products, 6415 N. California Ave., Chicago 15, Illinois.	Cost \$2.95
1	Piece of 40 gauge brass mesh 4" x 12"	Cost \$.50
1	Piece of broadcloth or muslin 16" x 20"	Cost \$.10
Total cost of disposable materials		\$3.55

In addition, non disposable materials transferable from cage to cage are:

1	sheet window glass, 13-3/4" x 10-1/2"	Cost \$.75
15	polyethylene cups, 1-1/2" diam. x 2-1/4" high @ \$.20 each, #1215: Dynalab Corp., Rochester, N. Y.	Cost \$3.00

Make the cage as follows:

1. Cut height of the box down to 8" (outside dimension).
2. Cut rim off the cover so that the remaining piece fits inside the box.
3. Cut 15 holes in the cut-down cover, each hole slightly larger than a food cup.
4. Put cut-down cover with holes on the floor of the box inside to serve as a rack for the food cups.
5. Cut a hole 4-1/4" x 3-1/2" in end of the box, 2" down from the top.
6. Sew muslin into a sleeve or tube shape 16" long and tape into hole at end of box. Use plastic covered storm window tape or other exterior plastic tape.
7. Cut a hole 3" x 10-1/2" in side of the box and tape wire mesh to inside of this hole.
8. Cover the box with the glass plate and tape around the edges with masking tape.

The whole construction takes about one hour, under primitive conditions.

This box is completely fly tight provided the cloth sleeve is carefully doubled and tied after it is used each time. It is much easier to change cups in the cage by reaching through the sleeve than by the usual method of inserting the cups in holes in the cage and the size of the cups in the cage is not critical since they are completely enclosed.

***** ANNOUNCEMENT *****

SEVENTH DROSOPHILA RESEARCH CONFERENCE: May 8 and 9, 1965

In accordance with the decision reached at the 6th (Madison, Wisconsin) Drosophila Conference, the next meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington. I have chosen May 8th and 9th as reasonable dates. However, there is still time to change, and I invite any suggestions and objections both as to date and as to the format of the meetings.

Any such suggestions may be sent to:

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