

Takamura, T. Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo, Japan. Multi-roomed, multi-purpose chamber for *Drosophila*.

A simple multi-roomed chamber for observation, or other purposes, was designed using lattice-like frames (Fig. 1). The chamber consists of

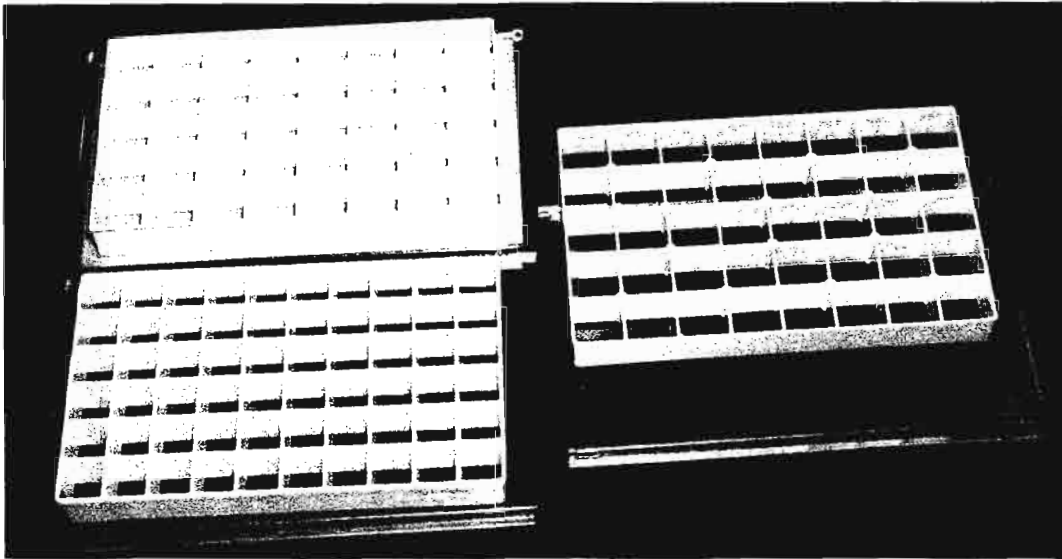


Fig. 1. Upper left: the larger lattice with medium; lower left: the smaller one without medium; right: three parts dissolved.

three parts. The bottom plexiglass tray is 5mm deep and can be filled with *Drosophila* medium if it is needed. On the tray (or on the medium) a lattice frame is placed. Plastic lattices of micro tube racks, FC-1 (18 mm x 18mm x 20 mm) and FC-2 (22.5mm x 22.5mm x 20mm) of Nichidenrika Glass Inc., Osaka, were used. The larger one is for an individual fly, a pair, or a small number of flies, and the larger one for mass assay. A thin transparent plastic cover is attached to the frame with adhesive tape. Flies can be blown into each room easily with a fly aspirator due to the spring-like function of a U-shaped slit on each room. The slit is made too narrow for flies to escape. In our laboratory this chamber is used as an oviposition chamber because it is easy to count silhouetted eggs with the help of light from under the bottom tray containing a thin layer of medium. If a proper mesh is attached to the bottom of the frame, it is easy to survey daily egg production only by replacing the bottom tray with fresh medium, without transferring the flies at all. It is also used for a mating chamber. With the small lattice, it is possible to observe 60 matings at a time. This chamber might be used for other purposes according to the experimental designs.

Valentin, J. University of Göteborg, Sweden. A reasonably priced automatic medium dispenser.

On setting up our new lab, we have tried to scan the market for different brands of dispensing machines and have obtained proposals from a number of manufacturers including several mentioned in earlier DIS issues. After

several trials we chose Jencon's Accuramatic Duo-Speed Mk 3, which was much cheaper than any other brand of similar capacity (\$1,200 retail price). This peristaltic pump is equipped to deliver medium fully automatically with an interval which can be set by the user between 1-5 seconds, or to deliver semi-automatically after manipulation of hand or foot contact. Dispensed volume can be altered instantly within a very wide range. We have now used this machine for more than one year and have not had any kind of problem with it.