

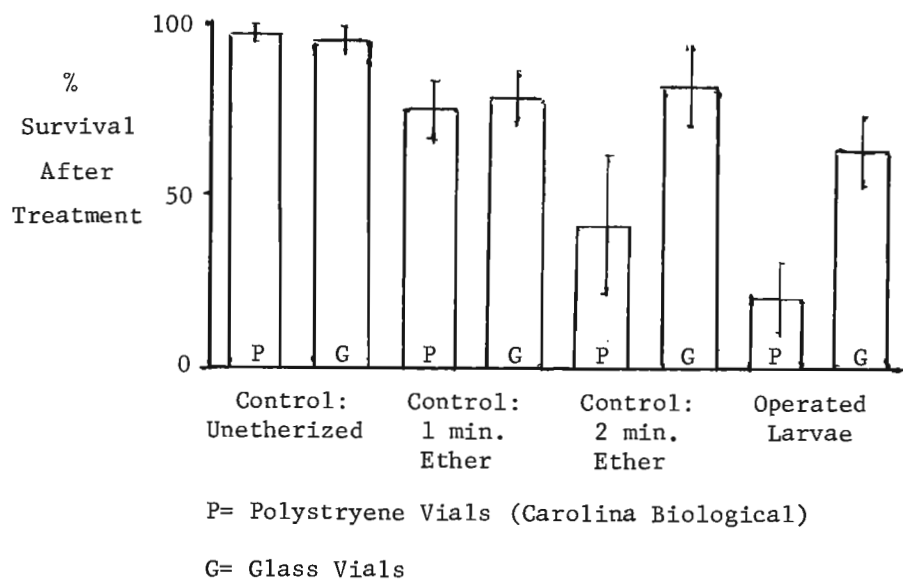
The length of the wandering stage may be quite variable in different cultures; however, this variability can be substantially reduced by keeping the number of individuals per culture constant and by incubating cultures in a high humidity atmosphere. The presence of bromophenol blue in the medium has no detectable effect on development time and it does not interfere with the assays for such enzymes as alcohol dehydrogenase, alpha glycerophosphate dehydrogenase, aldehyde oxidase or with protein assays.

References: Maroni & Stamey 1983, DIS this issue; Maroni et al. 1982, Genetics 101:431-446.

McCrady, E. University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina. Possible detrimental interaction between etherized larvae and polystyrene culture vials.

larval cuticle retaining ether molecules with the surfaces of polystyrene culture vials (Carolina Biological) in which the operated larvae were isolated. Dead larvae were frequently found stuck to the walls of such vials, while the few surviving animals appeared to have remained in the food until pupariation. To test this possibility, the control series summarized in the graph was carried out, comparing the survival of operated and control animals in glass and polystyrene vials after differing amounts of etherization.

Survival of larval hosts injected with disc parts reached an unacceptably low level in a recent series of experiments. After reducing the period of etherization to its lowest practical length, the possibility arose that the high mortality might be due to interaction of



Data on control etherizations are averages of four wild-type stocks, including the one routinely used in our experimental work. No significant differences were found in the survival of the different stocks. The results indicate strongly that if etherization of larvae exceeds one minute, the use of polystyrene vials for subsequent culture should be avoided. Experimental operations performed since change over to glass vials have routinely averaged over 60% survival, and we have adopted one minute, 25 seconds as the optimal length of etherization for larvae in a saturated chamber.

McRobert, S.P. & L. Tompkins. Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Stalking the wild *Drosophila*.

picnic supplies are sold, which is hung by a loop of red yarn. We bait these traps with mashed banana topped with active dry yeast. Flies are collected by being shaken into a plastic sandwich bag which has been quickly placed over the open end of the cup. The flies are

We have developed a simple and efficient procedure for collecting *Drosophila* in the field. Instead of a paper cup suspended from a branch with string (e.g., Spencer 1950), our trap is a clear plastic cup, available wherever disposable