

conveniently be removed at desired intervals from the food surface and be transferred to appropriate containers. Straight-sided finger bowls containing about 130 cc of food and closed with cheese-cloth held on with a wide rubber band, can be satisfactorily used for growing up to 100 larvae. The food surface should be heavily seeded with fresh yeast.

Crow, F. A. E. Egg Counts.

For counting daily egg output of single females a modification of the spoon technique is used. Small slices of cornmeal agar food cut from suitable blocks are placed on the spoons with a seeding of yeast. These have the advantages of being easily examined, readily detached and possessing a rough surface.

Mickoy, George H. Collecting EGGS.

Our (Austin, Texas) routine method of getting eggs is to keep a single female and two or three males together for a few hours in a vial containing a spoon of food. About 4:30 or 5:00 P.M. the spoon is replaced with a fresh one in which the food has been poured and sprayed four or five hours earlier (in order to allow the yeast to start its growth) with a heavy suspension of fresh Fleischman's yeast containing a drop or two of glacial acetic acid. The food should be more fluid than that ordinarily used in food vials and is improved for the purpose of seeding the eggs by adding enough powdered lamp black to color it a dark gray. The flies lay better if they have not been etherized for at least 24 hours; they also lay more rapidly in the dark about 6 P.M. The vials should lie on their sides to give a horizontal laying surface.

The spoons are cardboard picnic spoons with the handles clipped off, the sides trimmed to fit the vials and the tips pointed in order to reduce the surface which may touch the bottom of the vial and crush the flies.

Schweitzer, Morton D. Collecting EGGS.

During the past year various techniques of collecting eggs have been tried. The following method has regularly yielded 100-600 eggs per culture per four hour period, with an average of 300. Not infrequently, on the first day of collection, the yield has been as high as 800-1300 in a four-hour egg-laying period. (*D. melanogaster*, *pseudo-obscura*, and to a small extent *affinis* and *miranda*)

The important precautions to be observed for optimum yield of eggs are:

- (a) The females should not be etherized at any time prior to use for this purpose.
- (b) The medium should be seeded with yeast at least 6 hours and not over 24 hours before use.
- (c) The surface of the medium should be slightly roughened just before being placed with the flies.