method	food area (cm^2)	maximum daily egg production	total fecundity to 10 days	number of experiments
glass tube	10	85.7	739.2	4
plastic cage	9	83.2	721.0	4
plastic cage	4.5	84.6	726.6	5
mean		84.5 ± 2.02	728.8 ± 20.1	

Variance analysis shows that there are no significant differences between treatments. So it may be concluded that an area of 4.5 square cm is sufficient for egg deposition of 4 females.

It was also of interest to compare the frequencies of loss of flies with both methods. For this it was possible to pool a larger number of experiments. The data, concerning the proportion of flies still under test on the 10th day, are the following:

	female	male
glass tube	94.5% (n - 92)	87.8 (n = 115)
plastic cage (small area)	97.7% (n = 86)	99.0 (n = 105)

It appears that the new method affords greater safety by preventing the flies from escaping.

Because of its above mentioned advantages, the plastic cage technique (with small area of food) is now preferred. It is also worth emphasizing that this method allows new types of experiments, for example, food preference studies.

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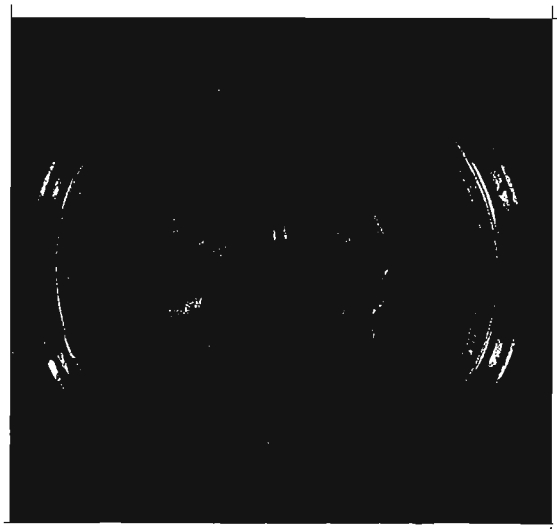
A device for holding alcohol preserved specimens during microscopic examination.

Scoring morphological traits, such as bristle numbers, on alcohol preserved Drosophila requires a means of holding and orienting the submerged specimens without damaging them. A simple device has been used successfully in our laboratory. A clean, dry Syracuse watch glass (50 mm ID) is filled with hot dental wax (SHUR Pink Base Plate Wax). When the wax has cooled, a concave depression 25mm in diameter and 7-10 mm deep is excavated. The brush and metal collar of a size 2 or 3 red sable watercolor brush (Grumbacher "Showerproof") is removed from the wooden shaft all but about 12 mm of the metal is removed. This brush is then inserted horizontally metal end first, in a hole, made with a hot wire, in the side wall of the depression and sealed in place (see photograph). The bristles should touch the bottom of the depression so that no animals will fall under the brush.



To use, the depression is filled with alcohol (or other preserving fluid). The specimens are oriented by gently entangling them in the brush hairs and are thus held firm for examination under the dissecting microscope.