Fig. 1. D.simulans tarsal claw. Acetone dehydration, attached with double-stick tape. Bar = 10 µm.

Fig. 2. D.simulans. Ethanol dehydration, attached with carbon paint.

I thank Dr. H.J. Arnott for the use of his laboratory and equipment, and Mark Grimson for technical assistance.

References: Hodgkin,N.M. & P.J.Bryant 1978, IN The Genetics and Biology of Drosophila, V2c (Ashburner & Wright, eds), Academic Press, New York, p337-358; Postek et al. 1980, Scanning Electron Microscopy, A Students Handbook, Ladd Research Industries, Inc, p.143-144.

Sparrow, J.C. and J.R.Warr. University of York, Heslington, Great Britain.

A new fungicide for Drosophila medium.

Heavy and persistent fungal infections which were resistant to the propdionic acid and Nipagin (Tegosept) which are routinely added as fungicides to the yeast-sucrose-agar medium we use (based on Carpenter 1950) led us to look for a more effective fungicide. Benzimidazole compounds are often used as fungicides in agriculture and horticulture. We now routinely add methyl benzimidazole carbamate as the fungicide for our Drosophila medium. This compound is insoluble in water and only sparingly soluble in ethanol. We make a solution of 200 µg/ml of MBZ in ethanol. (It is effective even though this may not all dissolve unless left for an extended period.) 10 ml of this solution is added to 500 ml of Carpenter's medium after autoclaving. This addition has no discernible effect on fertility, fecundity, development rate or viability of any of our stocks of D.melanogaster or D.hydei. We have not tested for any mutagenic effect and care should be taken if studying non-disjunction as these compounds inhibit microtubular function and effect non-disjunction in fungi. We have now used this fungicide for two years and had no problems with fungal infections during that time. Yeasts appear to grow on this medium. We obtain methyl benzimidazole carbamate from BASF (UK) Ltd., Lady Lane, Hadleight, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP7 6BQ, U.K.

Reference: Carpenter, J.M. 1950, DIS 24:96-97.