

A NEW ASPIRATOR FOR COLLECTING LARGE NUMBERS OF LIVE MITES (ACARI: GALUMNIDAE)<sup>1</sup>—(Note). In recent experiments with the waterhyacinth mite, *Orthogalumna terebrantis* Wallwork (Del Fosse, E. S. 1976a. Temperature optima for development of *Neochetina eichhorniae* Warner and *Orthogalumna terebrantis* Wallwork. *In prep.*, and 1976b. Effect of *Orthogalumna terebrantis* Wallwork on *Neochetina eichhorniae* Warner eggs and oviposition. *In prep.*), over 2,000 live adult mites were needed per week. Using a camel's hair brush it took 3.5-4h to collect this number of mites, so a new, selective aspirator was developed which cut collecting time to 30-45 min.

The new aspirator was constructed from a 6-dram plastic vial, a 3-dram glass specimen vial, and scraps of glass and plastic tubing (Fig. 1). Total cost of materials was ca. \$0.38, and total time for construction was ca. 15 min. Commercially-available aspirators of less quality and suitability cost several times as much (e.g. \$4.00 from Wards 1976 catalog and \$3.50 from BioQuip Products 1976 catalog).

Another advantage of this aspirator is that in mixed species populations (e.g. galumnid, tetranychid and phytoseiid mites, which all occur together in small areas on waterhyacinth, *Eichhornia crassipes* (Mart.) Solms-Laubach), given numbers of a particular species or stage(s) can be collected without apparent harm in the removable collection vial. Ernest S. Del Fosse, Univ. of Fla., Dep. of Ent. and Nem., Gainesville, Fla. 32611. Present address: Res. Entomol., Lee Co. Hyacinth Contr. Distr., Rt. 1, Ft. Myers, Fla. 33905.

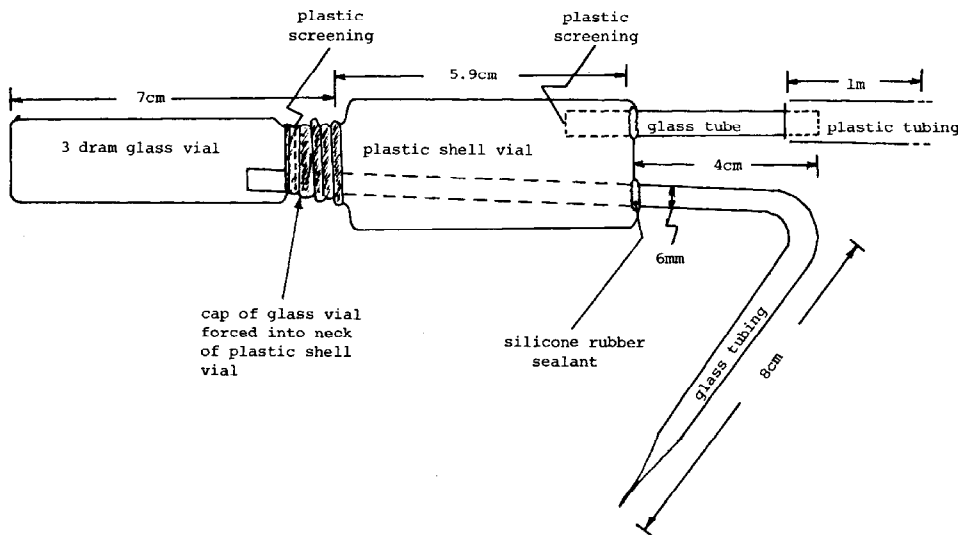


Fig. 1.—Schematic view of mite aspirator used to collect adult *Orthogalumna terebrantis* Wallwork from waterhyacinth in the field.

<sup>1</sup>Received for publication 5 November 1976. Part of Ph.D. dissertation, Univ. of FL, Gainesville.