



Simple Bug Traps

Why More Traps?

Many participants expressed interest in handling the bugs their traps collect. However, handling bugs from your Quest bottles will lead to contamination and can affect the DNA analysis results. This document will describe 3 other options for traps you can prepare at your school or community site to run alongside your Malaise trap. Remember, samples collected from these other traps are for your observation and educational purposes only. Please **DO NOT** add bugs caught this way to your Quest bottles.

Pan Traps

Pan traps are shallow bowls of various colours –often Yellow, White and Blue– filled with soapy water and set to the height of surrounding vegetation.

Supplies: You will need shallow coloured bowls, these can be plastic disposable bowls. You will also need biodegradable scentless dish soap. Lastly, you will need a way to keep the bowl at a set height above the ground.

Prepare: To prepare your pan traps, first set up your bowl(s) so their top lip is at an equal height with the surrounding plants. An easy way to do this is to set 2 or 3 dowels or sticks in the ground and tack the upper lip of the bowl to the sticks.

Next, prepare your soap water. For this solution use roughly 1ml of dish soap for every liter of water. This will most easily be done in batches of one or two liters used to fill multiple traps or the same trap over the collection season. Be sure to mix slowly and avoid making bubbles.

Lastly, you fill your bowl with your solution about two thirds of the way and let it sit for one or two days. Then you can check back in and see what you've caught!

Pitfall Traps

Pitfall traps are containers placed in the ground to collect bugs that fall in.

Supplies: You will need a plastic cup or similar container that is taller than it is wide. You will also need a small disposable plate or large plastic bag to use as a rain cover, as well as way to prop your cover slightly above the ground. Lastly, you will need something to dig with.

Prepare: To prepare your pitfall traps, start by selecting a location where it is unlikely to be stepped on, then dig a hole big enough to fully fit your cup. Make sure the rim of your cup is level with the dirt or even a little below it.

Next, set up your rain cover over the trap by propping up your disposable plate or plastic bag over the opening of your trap. Be sure to leave room between the ground and your rain cover so insects can find their way into your trap. It's also important to ensure that your cover is secured and won't blow away. You may use sticks, rocks, or other materials to prop up and secure the cover.

Once your cup is in the ground and your cover is in place, leave your trap for a day or two before checking to see what you've caught.

Sticky Traps

Sticky traps come in many shapes but are usually yellow sheets with a sticky film covering one or both sides.

Supplies: You will need a sticky sheet and a way to either hang it or a small stick to prop it up.

Prepare: Find the sticky trap that will work best for your space. Large square sticky traps that can be put out on a peg are often easier to look at than the hanging spiral ones often seen around kitchens, but both will work.

Follow the instructions on your specific brand of sticky trap and leave it out for a few days to see what you catch. Note that trying to remove bugs from sticky traps can be difficult without damaging them, consider only using one side of the sticky trap and using magnifying glasses to examine the bugs while they remain on the sheet.