

Materials

Materials participant must provide:

- Oviposition cups (ideally, interior of cup should be black, red, or dark colored)
- Germination paper (brown or dark paper towel)
- Water
- Tape
- Permanent Marker

Procedure

1. With a permanent marker, label germination paper (paper towels) with location information, date, cup name (A or B) and water level
2. Take germination paper and place ends together as to make a large tube with the paper
3. Place the rolled paper in the oviposition cup
4. Label the cup "A" on the exterior and be sure the properly labeled paper is in the cup
5. Punch drainage holes in the cup at 2/3 of the way to prevent over filling with water during rain or when refilling. Then fill the cup 2/3 of the way with water.
6. Repeat steps 1-3 one more time for the second cup, but label the cup "B"
7. Place cup A in a very sunny location with full sun most of the day; (the location can be any place on dirt, cement, decks, etc.) and tape or weight it down to prevent it from being knocked over.
8. Place cup B in a permanently shady and protected location such as under a roof or in a bush.
9. Check on the cups' water levels once a day
 - a. **If the water has evaporated, refill to the 2/3 level**
 - b. The cup should not fill with water because of the drainage holes, but if it has, carefully dump the water so it returns to the 2/3 level (be careful of any eggs in the container)
10. Leave cups out for seven days
11. After seven days, take germination paper out of the cup and let it air dry with the eggs (this will prevent them from hatching). The paper should be slightly damp where the paper does not crinkle. Fold paper in thirds and place into a ziplock bag.
12. Take paper to class on scheduled day and count eggs and record datasheet to email to USDA

Safety

To avoid contact with the egg-laying mosquitoes, avoid going near oviposition cups when possible, except to add water. Participants should wear long sleeves, pants, and mosquito repellent when near the cups. For the safety of the participants and their collections, cups should be placed near the home. Teachers might also find a location near their classroom for additional cups. When observations and discussion have ended, send 3/4th of dried paper and eggs to a local collaborator (within the same city) who can do the identifications or the USDA in Manhattan, Kansas (USDA-ABADRU – Invasive Mosquito Project, 1515 College Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502). Please be careful when shipping eggs; do not send them to other locations because these are invasive species and can colonize locations quickly and easily.