

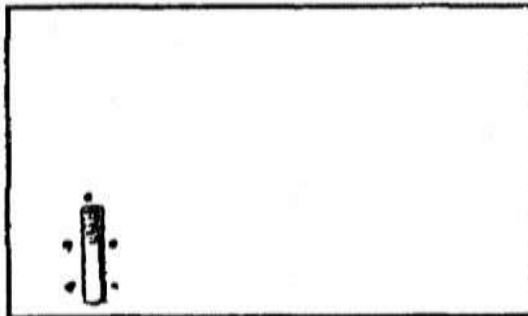
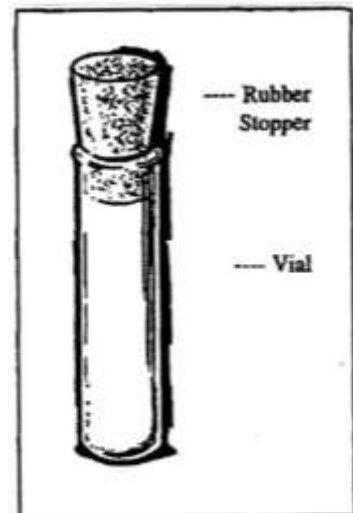


How to Preserve Immature and Soft-Bodied Adult Insects

All immature—larvae, nymphs—and soft-bodied adults are preserved in fluids, since they shrivel when preserved dry. The best preservative is a 70-80% solution of ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol).

Ideally, larvae (caterpillars) should be killed by hot water. A few seconds in hot water is long enough. After they are killed preserve (store) the specimens in alcohol. Rubber stoppers are better than cork ones. Bottles with screw caps are more available.

1. Use a proper-sized bottle with a rubber stopper or screw cap.
2. Place the insect in the vial.
3. Fill the vial completely with alcohol. There should be no air bubbles below the stopper/cap.
4. Labels with recorded data written in pencil may be placed in the vial. HINT: carbon pencil will not run like ink pens, or print labels on a computer.
5. Vials displayed in a collection box must be firmly secured. Place vials at the bottom of the display box to brace them. Secure the bottle with pins on either side.



Orders of insects that could be put in alcohol are:

Phthiraptera (sucking lice)

Collembola (springtails)

Ephemeroptera (mayflies)

Isoptera (termites)

Psocoptera (booklice, barklice, psocids)

Mallophaga (biting lice, bird lice)

Homoptera (aphids, scales)

Siphonaptera (fleas)

Thysanoptera (thrips)

Thysanura (silverfish)

Neuroptera (lacewing, antlions)

Odonata (damselflies)