TANGLEFOOT[1,2] FOR COLLECTING HOMOPTERA ASSOCIATED WITH PALMS, AND PLASTIC TUBES FOR SPECIMEN STORAGE.[3]—(*Note*). A survey of phytophagous insects associated with palms in Florida is being conducted as a part of an interdisciplinary study of the lethal yellowing disease, the causal organisms of which are apparently transmitted by an insect vector.

The sampling technique utilizes the natural attraction of host plants to lure insects into an adhesive substance. The Tanglefoot® is applied to the surfaces of palm leaves with an ordinary grease gun by moving the gun nozzle over the leaf surface and simultaneously pumping the handle. With a little practice, the operator can apply streaks of uniform width and thickness. Application with a grease gun minimizes the contamination of instruments, clothing, etc., a criticism often associated with the use of Tanglefoot.

At the end of the sampling period, insect specimens are removed from the adhesive with a probe (a nail or small stick is best) and placed in glass screw-capped vials containing kerosene. Having been immersed in the kerosene solvent, specimens are usually free of the adhesive by the end of a day's field trip, and can be transferred to alcohol or dried on absorbent paper and pinned.

This method was developed for collecting Auchenorrhynchous Homoptera. Specimens of this family are in satisfactory condition for identification if collected within 2 weeks after application of the Tanglefoot, although they are often discolored or have broken parts. Longer sampling intervals result in poorer specimens, which nevertheless may be adequate for some studies.

During routine collections, a large number of specimens are stored dry for future examination in 2.5 cm tubes made by cutting plastic drinking straws into segments. Small wads of non-absorbent cotton are used as stoppers for both ends of each tube. Collecting data are written on the tube with indelible pencil. These small tubes are cheaper and occupy less storage space than glass vials. If desired, the dry specimens may be mounted on points when convenient.—F. W. Howard and G. A. Hutchinson, Agricultural Research Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314.

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[1]Tanglefoot Co., 314 Straight Avenue S.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504.

[2]Mention of a trademark name or a proprietary product does not constitute a guarantee or warranty of the product by the University of Florida and does not imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that may also be suitable.

[3]Florida Agricultural Experiment Station Journal Series No. 705.