

# Collecting Insects

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## Making a kill jar:

Use a glass wide-mouth jar that has a metal lid

Mix up some plaster of Paris to the base by mixing water with the dry powder until it reaches a creamy consistency and pour a 2cm layer into the base of the jar

Leave to set

Once set, add just enough ethyl acetate to darken the plaster (**Ensure you read SDS!**)

Re-charge kill jar every 5-6 insects or every time you go out

## Catching insects using the kill jar:

Loosen lid on jar

Approach insect on flower and open jar

Hold jar above insect and lid below

Close lid on jar with flower (and hopefully insect!) inside jar

Leave insect until completely dead – usually 2-5 minutes

Transfer insect to vial and give it a collection number<sup>\*</sup>

Record information such as plant ID, date, time, site, locality and insect behaviour

## Catching insects using a sweep net:

The trick here is to be sure the insect you catch was in fact the one on the flower!

Move the net close to the flower and then make a quick sweep to dislodge the insect

Flip the mouth of the net to close off the net entrance

With net entrance closed, locate insect

Place insect in piece of net carefully into kill jar and sit lid on loosely until insect is dead

Carefully shake insect to mouth of net, transfer to vial and give it a collection number<sup>\*</sup>

Record information such as plant ID, date, time, site, locality and insect behaviour

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<sup>\*</sup> Each insect you catch should have a unique ID number, usually your initials and a number starting at 1. Each new collection carries on from your last previous number so no two insects you collect in your lifetime should ever have the same number.