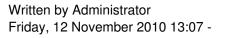
Fly keeping and mite hygiene



These are very bad news for our cultures, so let's just run through mite hygiene again:

- mites are small white cream-coloured discs with legs underneath. They're just visible with the naked eye, but should be easily seen under a microscope.
- if you find mites, keep the stock tray quarantined (on your bench, away from the fly room), and seek advice on how to clear the stocks (usually by transferring clean eggs: more detail at http://www.fruitflies.net/mites.htm).
- -treat all incoming stocks and absolutely those from Vienna as potentially infected, and quarantine on your bench, preferably with a 'moat' of paraffin oil, for at least 6 weeks, until you are absolutely happy there are no mites.
- mites thrive on sick flies in old cultures. Be scrupulous about throwing out old vials, and if you see any, have a word with the owner. If you see vials for whom the owner can't be identified, throw them away!
- when you do use the pads in the flyroom, wipe down the pads and the bench area where you were working with alcohol after use. Not just for quarantined stocks every time. That's what the alcohol wash-bottles are for.

Julian, 11/11/2007