



SOP: Removal of ant infestations from experimental huts

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2			

Version Control¹

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Related documents

- I2I Best Practice SOP Library, 30 October 2020 (<https://innovationtoimpact.org/>)
- ‘Experimental hut preparation and running’ I2I-SOP-009
(<https://innovationtoimpact.org/>)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this SOP is to provide instructions on the removal of ant infestations from experimental huts. Ants must be excluded from huts as they will scavenge and carry off mosquitoes that have died during a trial and have fallen onto the hut floor.

2. Materials and equipment

- Sugar or honey
- Boric acid
- Water
- Glass jar with lid
- Cotton wool balls
- Shallow petri dishes

¹ Historical versions of SOPs can be found on the I2I website (<https://innovationtoimpact.org/>)

- Measuring cylinders – 10ml and 100ml

3. Procedure

3.1. Preparing the ant bait:

3.1.1. Measure 5ml of boric acid, 100ml sugar or honey and 500ml of water and place them into the glass jar.

3.1.2. Place the lid on the glass jar ensuring that it is fully sealed and then shake the jar until all of the contents are fully dissolved and mixed.

3.1.3. Open the lid of the jar and drop in some cotton wool balls.

3.2. Using the ant bait:

3.2.1. Remove the cotton wool balls soaked in the sugar/boric acid/water mixture and place them into five shallow plastic dishes (additional dishes with ant bait can be placed in the case of a severe ant infestation).

3.2.2. Place one dish in into each of the corners of the main room of the hut and one in the center of the room.

3.2.3. Leave the ant bait to work for 24hours and then inspect the hut for ants. If ants still remain inside the hut, make sure that the cotton wool remains moist and then leave the ant bait to work for a further 24hours.

3.2.4. Check for ants inside the hut again. If no ants remain inside the hut, remove all of the ant bait from the hut before commencing the trial. If only a small number of ants remain inside the hut, these can be swept from the hut using a broom.

3.3. Precautions:

3.3.1.Ensure that the moat/gutter around each experimental hut is kept filled with water, especially during hot weather when the water can evaporate quickly. This will prevent re-infestation of huts with ants before or during a trial.

3.3.2.Check each hut for spiders and remove them before commencing a trial.

4. Glossary of terms

I2I Innovation to Impact

SOP Standard operating procedure



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