



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Data Quality Task Force

Issued: XX/YY/ZZ

First Edition: This edition replaces all previous editions of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

TITLE: Removal of ant infestations from experimental huts

INTRODUCTION:

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.

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Equipment & Materials

- Sugar or honey
- Boric acid
- Water
- Glass jar with lid
- Cotton wool balls
- Shallow plastic dishes
- Measuring cylinders (10 ml, 100 ml)

1. Making up the ant bait

- 1.1. Measure 5 ml boric acid, 100 ml sugar or honey and 500 ml of water and place them into the glass jar.
- 1.2. Place the lid onto the glass jar ensuring that it is fully sealed and then shake the jar until all of contents are fully dissolved/mixed.
- 1.3. Open the lid of the jar and drop in some cotton wool balls.

2. Using the ant bait

- 2.1. Remove the cotton wool balls soaked in the sugar/boric acid/water mixture and place them into 5 shallow plastic dishes (additional dishes containing ant bait can be placed in the case of severe ant infestations).
- 2.2. Place one dish into each of the corners of the main room of the hut and one dish in the centre of the room.
- 2.3. Leave the ant bait to work for 24 h and then inspect the hut for ants. If ants still remain inside the hut, make sure that the cotton wool remains moist (you can re-wet the cotton wool by pouring on a little water) and then leave the ant bait to work for a further 24 h.
- 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 huts remain inside the hut, these can be swept from the hut using a broom.



3. Precautions

- 3.1. Ensure that the moat/gutter around each experimental hut is kept filled with water, especially during especially hot weather when the water can evaporate quickly. This will prevent re-infestation of huts with ants before or during a trial.
- 3.2. Check each hut for and spiders and remove them before commencing a trial.