

Preserving Immature Insects and Other Arthropods

Small vials or bottles and 70 percent alcohol can usually be obtained at your local drugstore. Vials or bottles (about 1/2- x 2 1/2-inches) with cork or screw cap may be used.

What to do:

Kill the specimen in hot water (180° F). It may take one to several minutes.

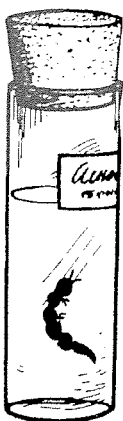
Fill the vial with 70 percent alcohol and drop the specimen in the vial.

With a soft lead pencil write on a piece of index card (that will fit inside the vial) where collected, date, host, name of insect and your name.

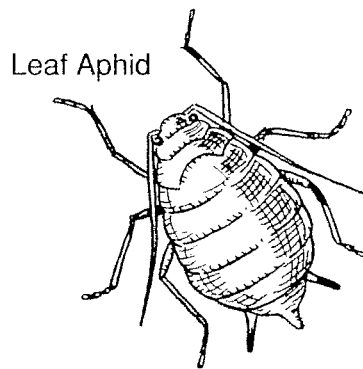
Place the label in the vial and cork or cap tightly.

Note: A mixture of one part ethyl acetate (acetic ether) and eight parts of 70 percent alcohol retains color in insects better than 70 percent alcohol used alone. Labels made with ink instead of lead pencil will fade and become hard to read through the vial. Labels placed on the outside of the vials may be lost, soiled or faded.

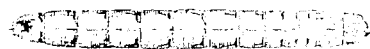
Some members may wish to use vials and alcohol to preserve other than immature insects that cannot be mounted on points. Such insects as aphids, thrips, lice, booklice, termites and snowfleas can be preserved in this manner. Other arthropods, such as centipedes, millipedes, spiders, mites and ticks also may be preserved this way.



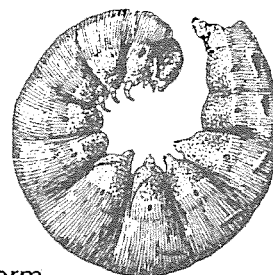
Alcohol Vial



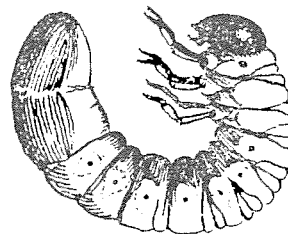
Leaf Aphid



Wireworm



Cutworm



White Grub