

stout tape is glued immediately beneath the body groove and a thicker piece of cork fastened to the base of the board directly under this same groove. The height of the spreading board should be such that when the body of the insect lies in the groove and the base of the wings is level with the side pieces, the point of the pin should just enter the lower piece of cork and still leave one-quarter of its length projecting above the insect. To accommodate all sizes of insects the body grooves should vary in width from one-sixteenth to three-quarter inches. In spreading an insect care must be taken that the pin is perpendicular to the main axis of the body and that the insect's body is pressed just so far into the groove of the board as to allow the wings to lie perfectly flat on the wood. To draw the wings into the position shown in the illustration a spreading needle is necessary, which may easily be made by forcing the blunt end of a very fine insect pin (No. 00) into a match. Strips of tracing cloth or tough semi-transparent paper are used to keep the wings in the desired position; the inner strip should be narrow and be pinned as near the base of the wing as possible; the outer one should cover the remaining area of both wings. Before attempting to draw the wings into position the upper end of the narrow strip should be firmly pinned in place, then, holding the lower end in the fingers so that it presses the wings gently down on the spreading board, the spreading needle is inserted behind a vein and each wing drawn carefully to the desired height; by tightening the strip and pinning it firmly down it will be found that the wings remain in position. Specimens should be left a week or ten days on the spreading boards or in any case until thoroughly dry. After removal a small label (Fig. 4, E) bearing date of capture, locality and name of collector should be placed on the pin beneath each specimen. The importance of this labelling cannot be too greatly emphasized; a collection accurately labelled and containing such further data regarding food plants, etc., as is known to the collector, is of undoubted scientific value; an unlabelled collection is the bane of the scientific investigator.

*Insect Cases.*—Insect collections are generally contained in glass-topped cases about 18 by 20 by 2½ inches, the bottom being lined with sheet or compressed cork covered with white paper. As light will gradually fade the colours of the specimens, these cases should be kept in a dark cabinet. A less expensive method for beginners is the use of pasteboard or wooden boxes about 9 by 12 inches provided with tight-fitting lids. Unless, however, the lids fit securely specimens preserved in such boxes are frequently destroyed by museum pests such as clothes moths or carpet beetles; a little flake naphthalene in the corner of the box is a good preventive against such pests. For school or exhibition purposes the so-called Riker mount is much in demand. This consists of a shallow cardboard tray, lightly and evenly packed with white cotton; the specimen being placed on top of the cotton a tightly fitting glass cover is carefully pressed down and fastened into place with pins or gummed tape. Riker mounts may be obtained from all entomological dealers. Before placing pinned specimens in such mounts the projecting portions of the pin must be clipped off.

In arranging specimens in a collection the latest catalogue or list of the group in question should be followed; the name of the insect may be written or printed on a small label and pinned in the case either above or below the series of specimens. There are various popular books on insects from which the beginner may obtain the names of most of the commoner species. In case of doubt he should have recourse to some more advanced collector or, if possible, the curator of a museum. The Entomological Branch will be glad to assist in the determination of material as far as possible. Letters of inquiry and packages up to 12 ounces in weight may be sent free by mail if addressed

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