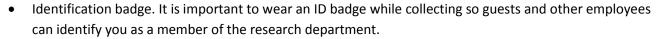
# **Protocols for Collecting Insect Specimens**

Prepared by Kristen Drew, 2016

#### **Collection Supplies:**

- Net
- Jars with lids that screw on
- Plastic "Ziploc" bags
- Glassine envelopes
- Notebook
- Pen
- A bag to carry supplies





Acceptable jars with screw on lids to store insects in. Jars used must have lids that screw on to prevent specimen desiccation while in freezer.

### 1. Collection

- Once outside, the net is the most useful tool for collecting insects. Be careful not to damage the plants or hit any guests.
- After the insect has been caught in the net, it works best to grab a handful
  of the net, trapping the insect toward the bottom. Very carefully, as to not
  let the insect escape, slide a jar into the net, capture the insect, and screw
  on the lid. (Occasionally, it can be easier to trap an insect in a jar or just
  grab it with your hands.)
- When catching butterflies, moths, or skippers (Lepidopterans), instead of
  placing the insect in ajar, a glassine envelope will be used so the wings do
  not get damaged. The glassine envelope is then placed in a plastic "Ziploc"
  bag.



Storage example of Lepidoptera in glassine envelope and plastic "Ziploc" bag.

## 2. Record Keeping

Upon collecting an insect it is important to record in a notebook the following information

- Collector number
- Garden where insect was collected
- Date
- Type of insect or distinguishing characteristic
- Host plant. If host plant is unknown, take a photograph to help identify later.
- Any notes regarding what the insect was doing (i.e. "On the wing", "Visiting blossoms", "chewing leaves", etc.)

### 3. After Collection

- Transfer the information recorded in the notebook to a tag for each insect. Place each tag in the associated insects' jar or plastic "Ziploc" bag.
- Place specimens in box labeled "DBGA Specimens" inside the small freezer in the lab and keep frozen for a minimum of 4 days.

Date
Collector
Collector Numbers
Garden
Host Plant

Tag to be filled out and place in jar or plastic "Ziploc" bag.