

Preserving Moths and larvae (Lepidoptera)

Preserving moths or larvae following collection;

Adult moths, butterflies and other groups with scales are worthless if collected in alcohol regardless of the concentration

Special care of caterpillars/larvae

Larvae of most insects should be collected, boiled in water to "fix" their proteins and prevent them from turning black, and placed in alcohol.

Larvae should be left in hot water for 1-5 minutes, depending on the size of the specimens, and then transferred to 70% alcohol.

Adult moths has to be sent dry, fold paper in the triangular shape and place your specimen inside. Tightly closed, containers of metal, glass, or plastic should be avoided because mould/fungi may develop on specimens if even a small amount of moisture is entrapped.

Nothing can be done to restore mouldy specimen.

Packaging of moths



How to prepare 70% alcohol

- Depends on the volume you want to prepare.
- Always work in 100%.
- To make 70% Ethanol see simple calculations below:-
- *Ccalculations:*

1. 70% Ethanol in total volume of **100ml**

$$\frac{70}{100} \times 100\text{ml total volume} = 70 \text{ ml of Absolute ethanol} + 30\text{ml distilled water}$$

2. 70% Ethanol in total volume of **70ml**

$$\frac{70}{100} \times 70\text{ml total volume} = 49\text{ml Absolute ethanol} + 21\text{ml distilled water}$$