

Michael H. SMITH, Robert M. CHEW, and John B. GENTRY

NEW TECHNIQUE FOR BAITING SNAP TRAPS

NOWY SPOSÓW ZANĘCANIA PUŁAPEK ZABIJAJĄCYCH

Since mammalogists spend considerable time baiting traps, any technique that can speed up this process is of great value. Snap traps require a bait that sticks to the trigger; peanut butter or baits of similar viscosity fulfill this requirement. Peanut butter is also an effective bait for both insectivores and rodents (Gentry *et al.*, 1968). We have found that peanut butter can be dispensed handily from plastic squeeze bottles with a tapered tip, like those used for catsup and mustard in a restaurant (Verts, 1961). The tapered tip may be cut closer to its base to allow easier flow. Peanut butter can be mixed with rolled oats or other seeds, but this increases the viscosity too much for easy dispensing of the bait. Cold temperature has a similar effect. Peanut oil can be used to adjust the viscosity. As the squeeze bottle empties, it is desirable to carry it upside down so the bait flows to the dispensing end. A small chain or string attached to the bottom of the bottle on one end and to your belt or wrist on the other allows the bottle to hang upside down between uses. This frees both hands to handle the captured mammals and to write labels. Then bait can be dispensed with one hand and the trap held in the other. The heat from your hand helps to maintain a favorable viscosity during cold weather. We have found the use of this dispenser saves between 20 to 30% of the time required to run a large grid and allows greater uniformity in the amount of bait placed on the treadles.

REFERENCE

Gentry, J. B., F. B. Golley & M. H. Smith, 1968: An evaluation of the proposed International Biological Program census method for estimating small mammal populations. *Acta theriol.*, 13, 18: 313—327. Verts, B. J., 1961: A convenient method of carrying and dispensing baits. *J. Mamm.*, 42: 283.

Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, SROO, Box A, Aiken, South Carolina 29801, U.S.A.

Received, January 20, 1969.