

WANTED

Bugs - dead or dying !!

We have started an exciting new project, to develop ways of controlling pests such as cocoa capsids. Like humans, insects can die from natural diseases: but their diseases are completely different from ours - and can be used to control pests rather than spraying toxic chemicals.

WE NEED YOUR HELP: We are looking for sick bugs - cocoa mirids (*akate*), cotton stainers, vegetable green bugs, rice bugs, bed bugs, *etc.*



By participating, you are helping to develop Ghana's agricultural development, but we may also be prepared to buy specimens - but ONLY interesting ones, that show the following signs...

What to look for - DEAD INSECTS

- Groups of dead insects in the field may indicate the presence of disease.
- Look for insects hanging from plants, under trees and bushes
- Infected insects MAY be unusually coloured: *e.g.* unusual reddening of skin

You may see live insects behaving abnormally; these are signs that disease may be present:

- not feeding,
- poor coordination, jerky movements, or loss of direction.
- insects that spend all their time cleaning themselves.
- insects may also behave strangely in other ways: *e.g.* climbing up high on plants, or hiding.

Collection

Collect dead insects (cadavers) in clean glass or plastic containers with screw tops, paper bags or envelopes.

- Leave the containers open for three to four (3-4) days so that the cadavers dry out.
- DO NOT dry the cadavers artificially.
- DO NOT leave cadavers in the sun.

Storage

- These air dried specimens can be stored at room temperature for a few weeks.
- For longer periods, store specimens in a refrigerator (5°C)
- NEVER store infected specimens in alcohol or in a freezer.

Transport/Postage/Labelling

Best as dry specimens, in matchboxes, plastic tubes, *etc.* using tissue paper to prevent damage and LABELLED - where and when did you find them? Why did you notice them?

CONTACT:

The Entomology Division (Dr. A R. Cudjoe i/c), CRIG, New Tafo Akim, Ghana
Prof. K. Afreh Nuamah, ARPISS Programme, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra
Outside Ghana: Dr. Roy Bateman, IPARC, Imperial College London, Ascot, SL5 7PY, UK