

BL 2010-07-14

Protocol in relation to Allergy Risks in working with Bicyclus butterfly material.

Goal:

To be handed out to all personnel who will work with the Bicyclus stocks to MINIMIZE the risk that any person becomes sensitized to butterfly material and develops allergic reactions (including cross reactions).

Background:

Both 'waste' products from the adult butterflies (especially wing scales) and the larval stages (their frass) can present major risks in terms of personnel becoming allergic to butterflies. Such a potential problem for an individual may be completely unapparent for a long period (of sensitization) but then becomes a health issue. In certain individuals it can represent a major health risk and so has to be taken very seriously by everyone from stage student onwards. Preventing the occurrence of any problem by taking simple precautions is the best policy by far. Fortunately, our new Laboratory is set up to physically reduce these risks as much as possible by air extraction systems BUT their efficiency is also dependent on our BEHAVIOUR.

We, therefore, strongly recommend that all staff take all the following straightforward precautions so as to minimize any risk.

With your cooperation and behavior in accord with this set of protocols, we will together make sure we minimize all potential health risks associated with our insect work.

Remarks:

- Notice at the entrance will state that people only enter when wearing a Lab. Coat.
- Whenever possible, any major butterfly work should be done in the laboratory area rather than the climate rooms themselves.
- A safe system for cleaning butterfly cages, sleeves and Petri dishes (Adalia) will be developed and then this will be done by M/D/K. A separate protocol will be made for M/D/K.
- All live butterfly-insect work will be done in the rearing-laboratory facility behind the air vent system.
- M/D/K will ensure regular mopping of floors.
- The cleaning of dirty stuff will be done by M/D/K with help as necessary. Again a separate protocol will be developed.
- Medication in case of an emergency will be available.(BHV)

Allergy-prevention-protocol

1. **Entering the Bicyclus butterfly-insect rearing facility: put on a lab coat**
2. **Doing any intensive work with adult butterflies or with larval stocks: wear a personal mask (and hairnet or scarf?).**
3. **Ensure that the climate room or laboratory area is left in as clean as possible condition. Also, any air hoods or specific equipment used outside the climate rooms themselves must be left clean after use.**
4. **Set Procedures must be followed for disposing of plant-insect material, for emptying and cleaning of all types of cage or storage equipment (see detailed notes below).**
5. **All doors in the butterfly lab area must be kept closed.**
6. **All allergen containing material are to be transported to outside of the facility in garbage bags inside containers kept closed.**

Procedures for disposing of waste and cleaning of equipment:

1. All waste that has been in contact with larvae or butterflies (maize plants, dead butterflies, banana, gloves etc.) goes directly into a garbage bag inside the yellow bin. These will be emptied regularly by Mariel/David/Kees.
2. Used butterfly cages go into the freezer in room 3.4.08. These will be emptied and cleaned by M/D/K.
3. Used caterpillar cages and sleeves go into the box marked “laundry” in room 3.4.08. These will be washed by M/D/K.
4. The white bottom plates from used caterpillar cages and bamboo sticks are cleaned by the users. Put them in the Halamid solution for half an hour, then rinse them with water and remove any remaining dirt. Let them dry and put them back in the storage place.
5. Hooks and frames for caterpillar cages need not to be cleaned. Put them in the storage place.
6. All other stuff to be cleaned (plastic pots, mesh lids etc.) should be put in the white box in room 3.4.08. These will be cleaned by M/D/K.
7. Do not leave dirty or clean stuff lying around in room 3.4.08. Store away clean stuff as soon as it is dry. Leave dirty stuff that you are going to clean yourself in your climate room until you have the time to clean it.
8. Do not leave stuff in the Halamid for longer than 30 minutes. If you do not have the time to take it out after 30 minutes, then do not put it the Halamid but leave it in your climate room.
9. Mop or vacuum clean (PURCHASE A Vacuum cleaner) the floor in your climate room weekly. M/D/K will not do this for you. The floor in the corridor between the climate rooms and the floor in room 3.4.08 will be cleaned weekly by M/D/K. (The air vent, main corridor and room 3.4.06 (maybe all rooms??) are cleaned by the cleaners under supervision of M/D/K).

Leiden, December 2009; Paul, Bas, Patricia

Please when you have read this protocol, sign a copy and give it to your supervisor.

Name:

Signature:

Date: