A METHOD FOR THE TRAPPING OF *GLOSSINA MORSITANS* SUGGESTED FOR TRIAL

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It is not proposed to discuss at length why the method described below may be useful ; a short outline is sufficient to indicate that such a method may be worthy of trial. It is based on the known habits of this tsetse, described and reiterated time and again for many years.

(a) Attraction for colour: dark colours, such as dark blue, dark gray, etc.

(b) The attraction of the fly by moving objects. The light structure and the shape of the traps are particularly designed to catch any prevailing wind, in order that the traps may be thrown into movement.

(c) The " following range " (Dr. HODGES).

(d) The habit of *G. morsitans* of indulging in short periods of intermittent flight and rest.

(e) The dispersal of the fly when the object they are following comes to rest.

(f) The fact that female *G. morsitans* are more frequently taken on moving objects than otherwise (Sergeant-Major GIBBONS).

(g) The large area of adhesive surface exposed: the diagram shews forty traps, which represent 240 square yards.

(h) The marked preference for forest in contrast to their dislike for open plains and cleared spaces.

(i) The concentration of *G. morsitans*, for various reasons, at certain times into definite areas during the height of the dry season, August and September, in the Nyasaland Proclaimed Area.

(j) That no special decoys are necessary, inasmuch that the natives of the district would act as such while travelling. The traps could be placed at suitable positions, so as to act as " interceptors." The space between the traps—i.e., one yard in every direction—is sufficient to allow of free passage through these systems. Men or animals may be used as decoys to entice the fly into these situations, and a slow pace should

be observed while going through, if not an actual halt in the middle for a short while.

(k) That this method may possibly be found of value when employed for the purpose of controlling the extension of fly-belts along traffic routes into fly-free country.

The trap I suggest may be best made of light canvas, in lengths of $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide, and of any suitable dark colour. The ends of the canvas sewn—*vide* diagram No. 3—so as to slip over light rods of iron. Four pieces of canvas to go to one trap, and the surface adhesive on both sides; the capturing area of each trap being six square yards. The light rods should be placed at right angles to each other, top and bottom, and adjusted so as to pivot round on the central support, which must be stout enough to prevent the trap from being blown over. About six inches should be allowed between the lowest part of the canvas and the ground level.

The arrangement of the traps can be modified as desired, and the most useful formation discovered by experiment, and added to or reduced in number; but the distribution demonstrated in diagram No. 2 may prove to be a good model to begin work upon.

Before the traps are erected an area should be thoroughly cleared, as indicated in diagram No. 2. I would suggest forty yards on each side, measured from the centre of the road or path, and not much more than twelve yards for the length of clearing for the trap-covered area; if too much is cleared all the fly may not follow through. The shaded area in diagram No. 2 is forest. Numerous suitable sites exist in the Proclaimed Area, Nyasaland, and one in particular situated just before the path from Kambwiris village leads on to Kuti Dambo.

Very little clearing would be required in some places, and the whole experiment would not cost more than a few pounds.

Diagrams of Traps described by Dr. J. O. SHIRCORE.