Fig. 1. Suprasternal ossicles are indicated by arrows: (a) specimen from a juvenile female chimpanzee; (b) specimen from an adult male gorilla

primitive episternum; Rambaud and Renault⁸, Götte⁹ and Dawson¹⁰ derived them from the clavicle; Carwardine¹¹ from the precoracoid; Anthony¹² regarded them as sesamoids. Finally, after an extensive study, Cobb² expresses the view that the suprasternal ossicles are rudiments of the epicoracoids of the primitive shoulder girdle.

The specimens concerned are in the Birmington Collection of anthropoid skeletons. I am indebted to Prof. S. Zuckerman for permission to study this material.

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A Combined Aspirator and Feeding Cage for the Collection and Testing of Insects as Vectors of Plant Viruses

THIS apparatus (Fig. 1b) has been designed to minimize the handling of insects during their collection and transfer from plant to plant in virus-transmission tests. It combines the principles of Kunkel's¹ aspirator for the collection of insects and Maramorosch's² leaf-feeding cage, so that insects can be sucked direct into the feeding cages.

The aspirator consists of a 'Perspex' box $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. $\times$ $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. $\times$ $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. with side walls $\frac{1}{8}$ in. thick, and base and top $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick. Joints are cemented with chloroform. The hinged base has an $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. flange, fitted with a 'Sorbo' rubber seal which is air-tight when closed by the spring clip. Two $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. glass tubes are fitted in the top, using rubber sleeves to make an airtight union. One tube (A), projecting slightly into the box, is bent at right angles and connected by

Fig. 1. (a) Insect-vector cage. (b) Combined aspirator and insect-vector cage

rubber tubing to a mouthpiece. The second or inlet tube (B) projects 2 in. into the box and is drawn into an $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. jet at the outer end.

The cage (Fig. 1a) is made from a commercially manufactured polystyrene pill-box, 2 in. $\times$ 1 in., with a tight-fitting lid. Holes $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter are cut in the lid and base of the box and covered with 34-mesh nylon gauze, which is cemented in position with a solution of the plastic in chloroform. Matching $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. holes are cut in the sides of the box and the lid. On the opposite side of the box a small hole is made through which a string-wick is fitted (not shown in Figs. 1a or 1b).

The cage is inserted in the aspirator so that the intake tube passes through the matching holes in the lid and side of the cage. Insects are drawn through the jet and into the cage by sucking air through the aspirator. The cage is then withdrawn, the inlet hole closed by twisting the lid, and another cage inserted.

In feeding tests, the cage is clipped on to the leaf with a 2-in. $\times$ $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. rubber band (C). The disks (D), which were cut from the pill-boxes, can be used to press the surface against the nylon gauze through which the insects feed. The cage is orientated so that the string-wick is at the lowest point, and absorbs the honey-dew.

When several species of insects have been collected into one cage, they can be separated most conveniently by replacing the cage in the aspirator and anaesthetizing the insects with carbon dioxide passed in through the inlet tube.

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