

A Simple Hornet Monitoring Trap

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A very robust French-made monitoring trap for the Asian hornet, using a combination of plumbing fitments and a plastic bottle, was described in *Bee Craft*, May 2012, page 9.

Similar fitments available in the UK are quite expensive and do not readily fit our soft drinks bottles without the use of a lot of silicone sealant. This is a simpler version made from readily available materials.

Materials

All that is required is a couple of pop bottles, a bit of plastic-coated garden wire and a 100 mm square off-cut of epoxy-coated wire varroa floor mesh.

Making the Trap

Find a soft drinks or water bottle with ridged sides where the bottom section is marginally wider than the middle. Make an incision with a sharp knife and cut either side of the lower ridge with scissors. The middle of the bottle will then slide freely into the bottom part (Figs 1 and 2).

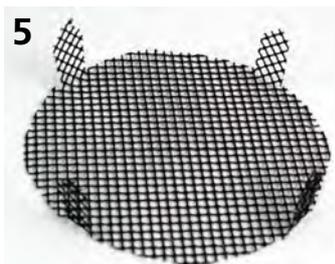
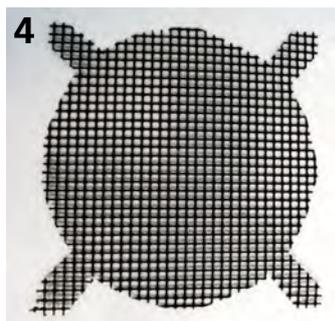


Cut around the neck of the bottle just above the bottom of the shoulder. This will make a funnel when inverted and can be fixed into place with a few staples (Fig 3). Drill the cap of the bottle with one or two 7 mm entrance holes.



Cut a circle of card that fits snugly inside the lower section of the bottle and place this over the square of mesh. Cut in from either side on the corners of the mesh to just inside the card circle to leave a 10–12 mm tab. Cut the mesh, using the edge of the card as a guide (Fig 4). Bend up the tabs (Fig 5) and fit the mesh inside the bottle bottom. Fold over the top 5 mm section to create a retaining clip to hold the mesh in place (Fig 6).

Hold the middle section of the bottle firmly onto the mesh tray. Make a hole at either

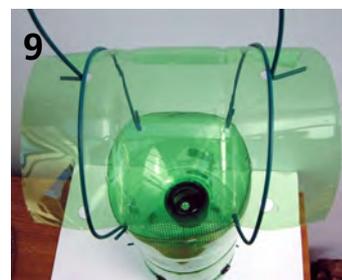


side through the overlapping layers of plastic with a small hot nail. Push a 140 mm length of garden wire right through to hold the two sections firmly in place. Make two more opposite holes with a larger nail (a 4-inch nail will give holes about 5 mm diameter) (Fig 7). Gently separate the bottle sections and twist by about 1.5 cm then push the small heated nail back through the hole in the outer bottle section so that there is now a second retaining hole in the inner section (Fig 8).



When the holding wire is in this position the two larger holes are off-set, closing the 5 mm 'escape' holes (to prevent smaller insects using these as alternative entrance holes).

Cut three 150 mm lengths of garden wire and a rectangle of plastic from a second bottle side. Feed two of the wires through holes punched or drilled in the curved sheet of plastic and then hooked through holes made in the top of the trap (Fig 9).



Hook the third length of wire through holes made in the top of the cover to make a hanger for the completed trap (Fig 10). Bait the trap with a sweet solution such as beer and sugar. □

