EASILY CONSTRUCTED INSECT DIET DISPENSER.—(Note): We have constructed a simple, low-cost dispenser that eliminates hand pouring and provides equal amounts (1 oz) of artificial diet to each container without spillage (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1.—Insect diet dispenser. A, vertical support rod; B, horizontal support rod; C, solenoid; D, pancake dispenser; E, heating tape; F, variable autotransformer; G, foot switch.

A pancake dispenser (Bolshaw® type “K”) was modified by the addition of a 115-V solenoid (General Electric CR 8500®) attached in a position over the dispenser plunger. When voltage is applied by means of a foot pedal switch (Dayton® model 251), the solenoid pushes the plunger down, dispensing diet. (The solenoid may be covered with an inverted plastic cup to shield moving parts.) The plunger can be preset to deliver the amount of diet.

The bottom half of the dispenser is wrapped with 1.27-cm heating tape (Glas-Col® Apparatus Co.) to maintain the diet at a flowable temperature. A variable autotransformer (Powerstat® type 2 PF 136) is used to regulate the temperature of the heating tape.

The dispenser is easily dismantled for cleaning, and no other maintenance is required. S. A. Lovestrand, J. B. Beavers, and G. E. Horanik, U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory, Science and Education Administration, USDA, Orlando, FL 32803.

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1Mention of a proprietary product does not constitute a recommendation for use by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.