

Trying Out A Tullgren Funnel

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Experiments with a Berlese Funnel

Trying to figure out what to call a Berlese (or Tullgren) Funnel takes more time than describing what it does. It is an apparatus for collecting microfauna from soil or leaf litter samples. The history is hard to pin down, but the earliest mention seems to be from Berlese (1905) and Tullgren (1917). It appears that Berlese was the first to describe the apparatus, using a water bath as a heater, and Tullgren simplified the overall arrangement by using an electric lamp as a source of heat. I'm going to stick with "Berlese Funnel" for now.

The general principle involves providing a funnel with a fine-mesh lid, a coarse mesh upon which the sample material is laid, and a slippery funnel leading to a receptacle with a liquid preserving agent. The use of a lamp to warm and dry the sample is an optional extra in these days of high energy costs, especially if you keep the apparatus in a warm, dry place.

Bibliography

This short bibliography covers sources that helped to inspire this article.

Berlese, Antonio. 1905. “Apparecchio Per Raccogliere Presto e in Gran Numero Piccoli Arthropodi.” *REDIA* – *Journal of Zoology*, 85–89.

Tullgren, A. 1917. “En Enkel Apparat För Automatiskt Vittjande Av Sällgods.” *Entomologisk Tidskrift* 38: 97–100. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/42375#page/124/mode/1up>.