

## BEFTA Protocol

### *Insect combination trap protocol*

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[www.oilpalmbiodiversity.com](http://www.oilpalmbiodiversity.com)



## Background

Combination (pitfall, flight intercept and Malaise) traps are being used to sample a variety of different insect groups. These traps have been used successfully before in related projects in Malaysia (see [www.safe.project.net](http://www.safe.project.net)) and will ensure that results are comparable with other studies.

Their design consists of two interlocking Perspex sheets, with a large plastic funnel at the top and bottom of the trap. In addition, at the top there is a funnel of fabric that acts as a mini-malaise trap. When the trap is set, the corners of the fabric funnel are pulled out to the sides with string, stabilising the funnel and trap (Figure 1). The bottom funnel is set flush with the ground, creating a pitfall trap. Bottles of alcohol at the top and bottom of the trap catch and preserve any insects that fly up or fall down.



Figure 1. An insect combination trap being set in one of the BEFTA plots. Inset – insects being collected from the trap.

## Methods

Three trapping locations were selected in each plot. These are 50m apart from each other, spaced at regular intervals around the centre of the plot. Trapping points were initially located by measuring out 31m from the central point at bearings 45, 165, and 285 degrees.

A hole was dug at each point and a large bucket sunk into the ground, with the lip below the surface. These were left covered with their lids, to avoid accidental captures. These holes form permanent sampling locations and were marked with large plastic poles.

Insect trapping will take place three times a year in February - March (end of wet season), June, and September-October (end of dry season).

