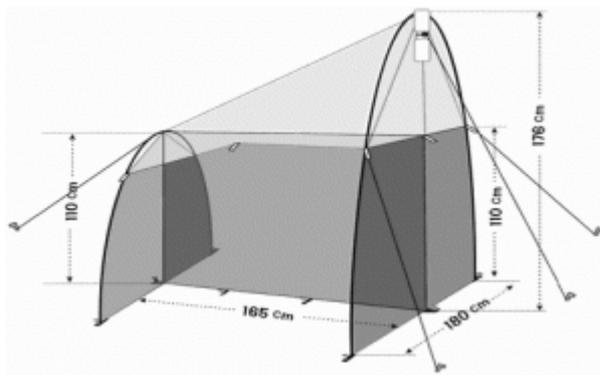


Setting up the Malaise trap



A Malaise trap is a black & white tent like structure, used to effectively collect flying insects and provide information on the diversity of insects in an area. It was invented by the Swedish entomologist René Malaise in 1934.



There is a black mesh panel which runs up the central axis of the tent, and when insects hit this panel, they naturally move upwards towards the white roof of the tent. They keep climbing up until they reach the top point of the tent, where they end up in the collection bottle, filled with propylene glycol which humanely kills them, while preserving their bodies and DNA for later scientific research. The bottle is replaced regularly (for Insect Investigators this will be weekly).

A Malaise trap works best when placed in the natural flight path of insects, this will mean it catches hundreds of insects, especially flies, wasps, small moths and butterflies and true bugs.

Set up the tent **by Monday the 28th February** and change over your bottles on **Tuesday the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th of March**. This will be easy by following the steps here [Setting up a Malaise trap – Insect Investigators](#) and below:

- Select your location well! In Australia, the ideal position for setting up a Malaise trap is in a north-south orientation, intercepting an insect flight path. Flight paths are often between bushes, across a natural break in vegetation or across a track or path, anywhere that the insects need to get from one natural habitat to another. The end with the collection bottle should ideally face north.
- Take the contents out of the bag, you should have the trap netting; 2 poles; 4 bottles containing propylene glycol; tent pegs; ropes and an information sign.
- Working with a friend, unroll the trap and place it in the orientation that you'll be setting it up in.

- Assemble the long pole and insert the ends of this pole into the pockets at the end of the Malaise trap that has the bottle attached.
- Attach the clips to the pole, facing backwards.
- Repeat this with the other pole for the back end of the Malaise trap.
- Attach a rope to the front centre ring of the bottle and peg out this support rope, about 1 metre away from the trap.
- Repeat this step for the back end. The trap should now stand up.
- Attach ropes to the support loops at the front and peg out at an angle. Repeat for the back.
- Attach side support ropes and peg out, following the white seam.
- Peg the bottom of the trap down through the loops.
- Get the week 1 collection bottle, and take out the seal.
- Attach the bottle to the trap.
- **Check that you've got the correct weeks bottle** with the correct dates.
- Attach the information sign with the provided cable tie.
- Your trap is now ready to collect insects!
- Follow the provided instructions carefully to change over your bottle (see the included instructions sheet 'returning the bottles' and see the video at [Resources – Insect Investigators](#). Securely put the **cap and lid** back on the bottle which should be now full of insects, put it into its corresponding lined bag, into a pre-paid post bag and send it back to Insect Investigators headquarters ASAP in accordance with your next mail run.
- Repeat this process for 4 weeks.
- At the end of the 4 weeks, the malaise trap will need to be taken down and packed away back into its bag. You will have been provided with a reply-paid, addressed tough-bag, pop the tent in here, seal it up and take it to your nearest post office when convenient. See the video at [Resources – Insect Investigators](#) for instructions on how to do this.