

Dec 13, 1959

First eggs were hatching today. Eggs still being deposited on between the slides. A new slide was placed in the jar but egg laying there slow, only two sets of eggs were deposited whereas on the first slide a dozen or so were placed in the same period of time. Larvae remained between slides.

Dec 15, 1959

most of the larvae have now moved from the microscope slide and have taken a position on the bottom of the jar. Only 5 sets of eggs on new slide indicating a slowing down of egg laying. A skull of a freshly killed *Peromyscus* was cleaned (90%) overnight by both adults and small larvae but only when placed on the floor of the jar. It is impractical to keep floor clean because of the small larvae that remain there. It is planned to use regular jar and let debris accumulate in bottom and then clean at intervals. A heat source might drive the larvae to the upper levels and if such a control can be installed, the debris that accumulates on the floor from the feeding activity of the dermestids on the skulls above will fall to the floor. The young remain on the floor while adults climb upward in search of food. Moisture and new food initiates breeding. Too much food causes a mold to develop on the food. The larvae placed in vials several days ago (see notes) are now 3 mm in length and have cast at least one skin since placed in the jar Dec. 8, 1959. The adult beetles become nervous when food is removed for a short period of time.

Dec 18, 1959

Placed entire colony of dermestids in a new jar (1 gallon) with an alcohol lamp and wick for moisture control. Also placed 8 slides for deposition of eggs on food in bottom of jar. Plan on letting debris accumulate there and then periodically clean. These slides are separated the width of the eggs.

Dec 19, 1959

5 batches of eggs on slides, most of them at point where masking tape held the slides together, indicating a preference for semi-dark areas of the slide. This would also indicate that the females discern difference between dark & light areas. Slides should be made of dark glass. After the *Peromyscus* skull was soaked in water, there was increased activity in cleaning the remaining tissue.