

## A DEVICE FOR BAGGING COCOA FLOWERS\*

Protection of flowers in cocoa, a cauliflorous crop is achieved by covering the flower cushions with hoods of nylon mesh or small plastic tubes fixed to the trunk with plasticin (Wood, 1975).

The authors have developed a simple and cheap device which can be made with indigenous materials. A thin (1 mm) aluminium or g. i. wire is made into a conical structure with a 5 cm base ring and 10 cm length (Fig. 1). This conical wire frame is inserted into a muslin cloth bag of 12 cm inner length and 5 cm diameter. The end of the cloth bag is tucked into the inner side of the cone (Fig. 2) The device is placed on the cushions without disturbing the emasculated/pollinated flowers and then fixed to the trunk with the help of adhesive tape. The advantage of the device is that the conical frame can be easily bent and adjusted to fit the trunk taking into account the direction of the flowers in the cushions.

The above device was found to be effective for pollination studies.

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### Reference

Wood, G. A. R. 1975. *Cocoa*, Longman, London, pp. 283

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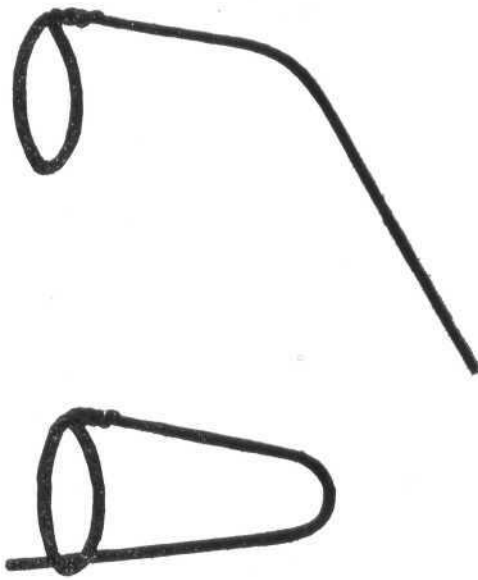


Fig. 1 Preparation of the conical wire frame

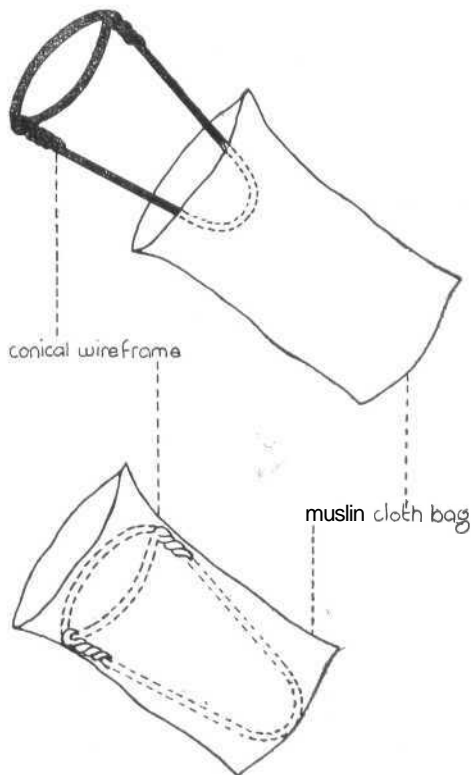


Fig. 2 Insertion of the wire frame into the muslin cloth bag