

they could be eaten. The present invention has substantially solved this problem by providing a relatively large space for the insects to enter, and by ensuring that the only surfaces illuminated by the lamp 24 were those on the inside of the housing 22, as well as trapping the insects more certainly. Thus, any insect attracted toward that surface would be deflected from the sides of the housing downwardly toward the lamp and the nearby exit 23.

Means other than the enclosure 29 for preventing the escape of the insects from the vicinity of the water can be provided. For example, the insect collector or trap 20 and the enclosure 29 can be replaced by an electrocution type of insect trap which electrocutes the insects so that they fall dead or stunned onto the water surface 42. Means for chopping the insects caught in the trap 20 is another alternative way of incapacitating the insects.

The above description of the invention is intended to be illustrative and not limiting. Various changes or modifications in the embodiments described may occur to those skilled in the art and these can be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A device for feeding aquatic animals, said device comprising means for restraining insects adjacent a body of water containing said aquatic animals, an insect collector operatively connected to said restraining means and having an upwardly facing entrance and a downwardly facing exit opening, an insect attractor mounted substantially entirely within said collector near said exit opening, said exit opening being directed to said restraining means, and said restraining means comprising means for forming an insect enclosure over said body of water, the walls of said collector being substantially opaque, said attractor being a lamp which is hidden from horizontal view, and means connected to said enclosure for positioning said collector with said exit opening directed into said enclosure.

2. A device as in claim 1 in which said collector has converging side walls joining said entrance and exit opening, said exit opening having a cross-sectional area substantially smaller than that of said entrance, and including means for creating an air stream through said collector and out of said exit opening.

3. A device as in claim 2 in which said collector is funnel-shaped and said attractor is a round lamp located near said exit opening, and means for limiting the space between the lamp and the side walls of the funnel to relatively small dimensions, whereby relatively strong air drafts flow through said space.

4. A device as in claim 3 in which said lamp is toroidal and is located in a substantially horizontal plane, said fan means being a circular fan located below said lamp to draw air downwardly through said collector.

5. A device as in claim 1 in which the collector is frusto-conically shaped, said lamp is a toroidal black-lamp, and including means for mounting said lamp at a position above said exit and close to said collector, a baffle mounted in the center of and close to said lamp, and a fan mounted on and extending downwardly from said baffle, the internal surface of said housing being reflective to ultra-violet light.

6. A device as in claim 1 in which said enclosure forming means is adapted to float on the water, and the surface of said water forms the bottom of said enclosure, including a cage in said water underneath said enclosure for containing said animals, and including

means for mounting said collector with said lamp shining directly into said water below said device.

7. An insect trap for use in feeding aquatic animals including means for forming an insect enclosure for restraining insects adjacent the surface of a body of water, said means including a float for supporting the enclosure on the water, a substantially opaque collector housing operatively connected to said enclosure and communicating therewith, said housing having an entrance opening and an exit opening, an insect attractor lamp mounted substantially entirely within said collector housing near said exit opening and a substantial distance downstream from said entrance opening, means for supporting said collector housing with respect to said enclosure in a position in which said entrance opening is at a substantially higher elevation than said exit opening, said lamp being positioned in said housing to be hidden from horizontal view but visible from above said lamp through said entrance opening and fan means in said collector downstream of said lamp for urging insects downwardly from said lamp into said enclosure.

8. A trap as in claim 7 in which said housing includes converging side walls joining said entrance and exit openings, said exit opening having a cross-sectional area substantially smaller than that of said entrance opening, said band means creating an air stream through said collector housing and out of said exit opening, said attractor lamp comprising an ultraviolet lamp, and the internal surface of said side walls being reflective to ultraviolet light.

9. A trap as in claim 7 in which said housing is trough-shaped and said attractor is a linear ultraviolet lamp near said exit opening.

10. A method of feeding insects to aquatic animals in a body of water, said method comprising the step of supporting an insect enclosure on said body of water for restraining insects adjacent the body of water, supporting an insect attracting lamp in a predetermined position with respect to said enclosure and adjacent the surface of said body of water inhabited by said animals, hiding said lamp from horizontal view by enclosing said lamp in a substantially opaque housing which is open at the top and bottom and which is in communication with said enclosure, shining light from said lamp downwardly into said water and upwardly through the open top of the housing to attract insects from above and below said lamp, causing insects to travel a substantial distance downwardly in said housing by locating said lamp a substantial distance below the open top of said housing, and urging towards said water, into said enclosure, insects which are attracted to said lamp by creating an air stream in the housing running from the top to the bottom thereof with the aid of a fan located in the housing below the lamp.

11. An aquatic animal feeding method comprising, the step of, hiding an insect attractor, comprising a lamp which emits ultraviolet light, from horizontal view while opening it to view from above, guiding said insects towards water containing said aquatic animals, preventing said insects from escaping from the vicinity of the surface of said water, reflecting said light upwardly and drawing air downwardly past said lamp, directing light from said lamp towards said water; said step of preventing insects from escaping including the step of forming a first enclosure to hold said insects over the water; and holding aquatic animals in an enclosure in communication with the first enclosure for receiving said insects to be eaten.

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