

are arranged on the distributor jacket whereby the sampling program is largely fixed as a function of the running cycle of the clockwork mechanism, the second embodiment described below and as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 is provided with an interchangeable front panel 15 having holes 16 and fitted with necks, being fixed by easily detachable screw connections 17 to the distributor housing. In these illustrations, constructional elements are marked with the same numbers as elements with a similar function in FIG. 1. As can be seen from FIG. 4, which represents a view of the front panel 15 looking in direction X as shown in FIG. 3, the sampling program is adjusted to the circumstances in question by interchanging front panels with a different hole configuration.

FIG. 5 shows a lengthwise section, aligned with the neck 13 of the distributor housing and the connection piece of a plastic bag (not shown, of a cylindrical check valve 20 with a valve cylinder 21, a rubber ball 22 and a piece of wire 24 for retaining the ball. To establish a connection, the check valve is pushed on to the neck 13 and the plastic connection piece 23 is inserted in the valve cylinder 21. The pressure of the current of air emerging at the neck is sufficient to open the valve.

For those skilled in the art, it is clear that the variations of the invention described can be modified and adapted in many respects.

Thus it is possible to arrange various circles of holes on the front panel whereby a simple mechanism permits the transition from one circle of holes to another. The advance movement and the interval between the samples taken can also be varied within wide limits by

interposing a reduction element between the clock and the distributor.

We claim:

1. Automatic sampling device for atmospheric probes which enables a sampling program to be varied within wide limits, comprising a distributor having a full-length bore and pivotably mounted in a distributor housing having apertures on a hollow spindle in such a manner that the mouth of the bore during rotation passes across at least one of said apertures whereby the hollow spindle is connected on the one side to the bore and on the other to the pressure side of an air pump drawing in air from its surroundings and the distributor is driven by a shaft whose rotation controls the beginning, sequence and duration of the probes taken as a function of the local distribution of apertures on the distributor housing.

2. Device as recited in claim 1, wherein the apertures are arranged as necks for plastic bags.

3. Device as recited in claim 2, wherein the necks are each connected to the plastic bags via a cylindrical check valve.

4. Device as recited in claim 1, wherein the apertures are arranged on the jacket surface of a cylindrical distributor housing.

5. Device as recited in claim 1, wherein the apertures are arranged on an interchangeable front panel of the distributor housing.

6. Device as recited in claim 1, wherein the distributor is driven via the shaft of a mechanical timer.

7. Device as recited in claim 5, wherein the apertures on the front panel form at least one circle.

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