

EASY COLLECTION OF MEALWORMS

by Anthony C. Berry, Peoria, Illinois

I only have a few lines to offer, but it might make your hobby much easier, and that equals "more enjoyable" for most. A plague among us, of epidemic proportions, is work. Work has its place, but not in a hobby meant for enjoyment. How many hobbyists do you know whose aquariums grew and grew. They just glowed when talking about how much they had of this and that. One day they didn't have anything. Why was this? It was because they became slaves rather than masters. It was work, and they quit.

This is about mealworms. I don't know what kind, but they are what I bought at a bait shop for sport fishing. We use them primarily in winter as a Bluegill lure. I don't know what makes them attractive. In fact, there's a whole lot I don't know about them. What I do know is that sunfish eat them.

I've read many articles on how easy mealworms are to raise. They are so easy that I guess all of the methods are right. What I haven't seen in print is how to collect them. I know an easy way.

How have you tried it in the past when it was time to feed? Did you finger through the medium and pick the worms one by one? This is tedious and takes away time from enjoying the fish. So here we go the Berry way:

On top of the medium (cracked corn, corn flakes, bran, etc.), place a plastic lid with the lip up. On top of this lid, place one fresh potato peel. Cover the peel and the lid with an even larger plastic bowl. That's all you need do.

The worms (they aren't really worms, of course, but beetle larvae) need a dry medium, but some moisture. Don't ask me how they find the potato peel, but they do very easily. The worms like it dark, and the bowl provides this shade. Because they are on a fairly clean plastic lid, you don't have to sort through the medium. No more tedious finger-picking!

All that is needed is to pick up the bowl, remove the peel, and tap off any worms clinging to it, shoo off any beetles that might be there, and all you have left is a supply of live food.

Another little detail I haven't read is how to feed them to your fish. If you want the worms on top, just drop them gently and most of the time they float. If you want the worms

to sink, simply throw them in the water with force. I haven't figured out how to do this with a guarantee of 100 percent. I also don't know how to make them suspend half-way down.

If these lines save a little work for just one hobbyist and helps keep him or her in the fold, my time has been well spent. While you read this, consider some little of idea of yours that is just as good, or even better. I need help too. Please share with all of us.

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