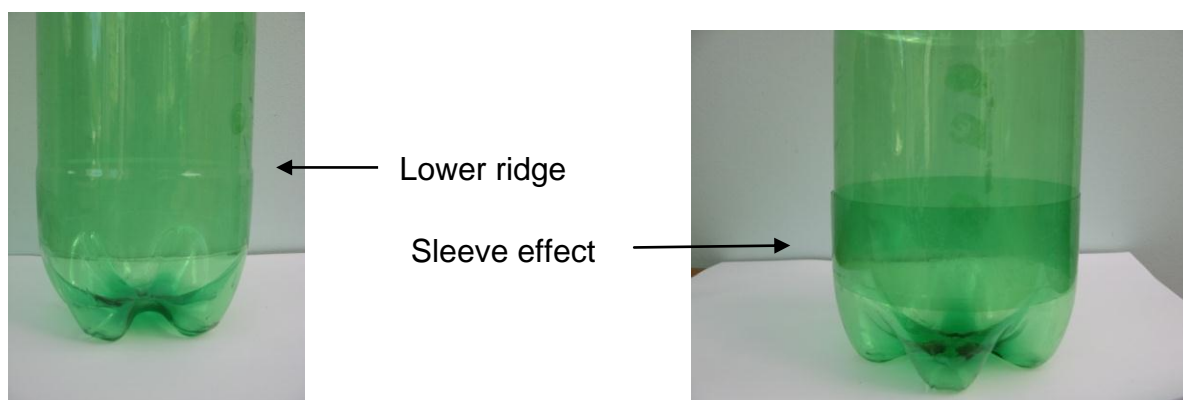


A Simple Monitoring Trap for the Asian Hornet

There is a very robust French made monitoring trap for the Asian Hornet, details of which can be found on BeeBase at <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/index.cfm?pageid=208> which uses a combination of plumbing fittings and a plastic bottle. However, similar fittings available in the UK are quite expensive and do not readily match up with our pop bottles without the use of a lot of silicone sealant. This article describes a somewhat less complicated version made from readily available materials.

All that is required is a couple of pop bottles, a bit of plastic coated garden wire and a 100mm square off-cut of epoxy coated wire Varroa floor mesh.

Look for pop or fizzy water bottle which has ridged sides with the bottom section marginally wider than the middle. Make an incision with a sharp knife and cut each side of the lower ridge with scissors – this will give a sleeve effect with the middle of the bottle free to slide into the bottom part.



Also cut around the neck of the bottle just above the bottom of the shoulder – this will make a funnel when inverted and can be fixed into place with a few staples. The cap of the bottle is drilled with 2 or 3 x 7 mm entrance holes.

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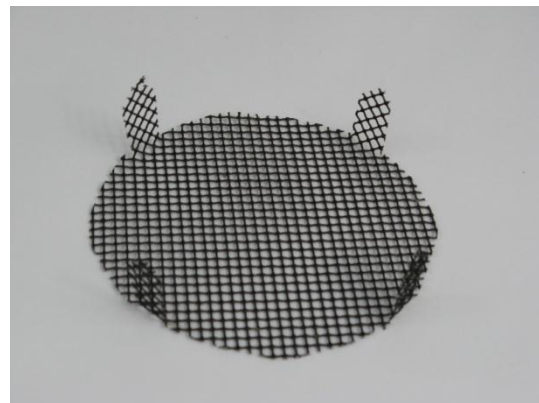
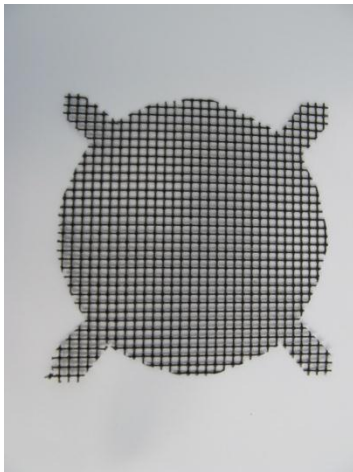
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Cut a circle of card which fits snugly inside the lower section of the bottle and place this over the square of mesh. Cut in from each side on the corners of the mesh to just inside the card circle to leave a 10 to 12 mm tab and then cut along the edge of the card as shown. Bend the tabs up so that the mesh fits inside the bottle bottom then fold over the top 5mm section to create a retaining clip to hold the mesh in place.



With the middle section of the bottle held firmly onto the mesh tray make a hole at each side through the overlapping layers of plastic with a small hot nail. Push a 140mm length of garden wire right through – this will hold the two sections firmly in

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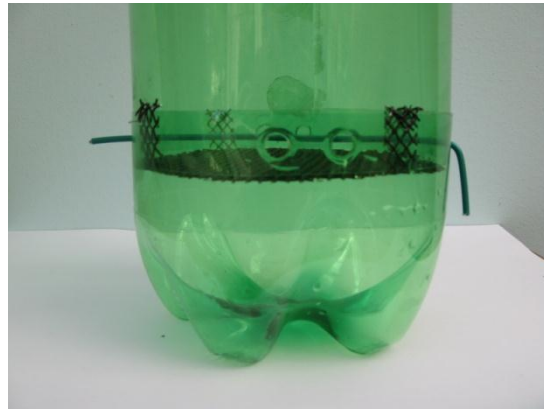
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place. Now make two more opposite holes with a larger nail (a 4 inch nail will give holes about 5mm diameter). Gently separate the bottle sections and twist by about 1.5 cm and push the small heated nail back through the hole in the outer bottle section so that there is now a second retaining hole in the inner section. When the holding wire is in this position the two larger holes are off-set, closing the 5mm 'escape' holes (to prevent smaller insects using these as alternative entrance holes).



Escape open



Escape closed

Cut 3 x 150 mm lengths of garden wire and a rectangle of plastic from a second bottle side. Two of the wires are fed through holes punched or drilled in the curved sheet of plastic and then hooked through holes made in the top of the trap. The third length of wire is hooked through holes made in the top of the cover to make a hanger for the completed trap.



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