TECHNICAL NOTE

DETECTION OF WATER LEVEL IN INVERTED BOTTLES

Animal maintenance facilities that do not provide water from a continuous tap source often use inverted bottles to supply individual animal cages. Although the inverted bottle system is economical and efficient, detection of a low water level requires more than casual inspection. This problem is compounded if colored bottles are used, particularly the amber tint of wide-mouth beer bottles. By placing an appropriately colored float in the bottle, the water level can be determined from a distance by cursory inspection.

For 2 yr, our laboratory has successfully used 2.5-cm diameter synthetic rubber ("super") balls with specific gravity of approximately 0.90. Synthetic rubber balls are inert in water and may be cleaned with ordinary detergents or disinfectants. When used with animals in biochemical research however, balls of specific color

and manufacture should be assessed for possible microsomal enzyme induction (*cf.* Conney, 1967). These balls, in a variety of colors, are available from most novelty stores at nominal cost (approximately eight cents each). For the balls we have used, local distributor addresses may be obtained from C. A. Reed Co., Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701.

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REFERENCE

- Conney, A. Pharmacological implications of microsomal enzyme induction. *Pharmacological Review*, 1967, 19, 317-366.