

Collecting and studying katydid

Nets

Two kinds of net are useful in katydid collecting: the aerial net and the sweeping net. The latter seems to be more useful and is more robust. The aerial net needs to be lightweight and a golf club can be used with a rim made of piano wire with a diameter of 30–50 cm. The sweeping net should be much more robust with the bag longer and made of heavy muslin or the netting used in plankton nets. The hoop diameter should be larger than that of the aerial net and the rim made of much stronger wire. The handle also needs to be more robust. A hoe handle will last for years. Both types of net are easily

obtained from entomological supply houses at reasonable prices. A long-handled net has its uses but requires some practice. Its best use is probably by coaxing a target katydid to walk into the net rather than sweeping aimlessly through the vegetation.

Recently, a new collecting implement has been developed by Dr M Samways of Stellenbosch University. The ‘Samways Orthotongs’ consists of two tea strainers attached, using small cable-ties, to pair of a long-handled barbeque tongs. These are surprisingly effective in procuring specimens from spiny vegetation or from leafy habitats where a net is impractical. As



Aerial net.



Long-handled net.