

Closing Cobb's aluminium slide holders (Nematology)

Cobb's aluminium slide holders are developed to hold two thin coverslips (around 160 -200 micron each). The mounted specimen are in between in the medium (Glycerin for nematodes)

The lower coverslip is square and has a size of 25 mm. The upper coverslip can be round or square and has a size that does not exceed 20 mm in order to be able to use a closing medium. Glyceel and Zut are well know chemicals for slide closing . Nail polish is also used but has the disadvantage that in the longer run it hardens so much that leakage may occur.

The coverslips are closed-in with a cardboard piece (25 x 25 mm) on each side of the coverslips .

After sealing the mount wit the Glyceel or Zut the edges of the aluminium slide holder have to be bent so that the cardboard pieces are fixed and keep the coverslips in place.

Make sure that the coverslip is not under the cardboard because it may break while pressing but also make sure that the coverslips are well fixed in between the cardboard to avoid lifting of the coverslips while using your slide on the microscope under immersion oil.

To ensure a nice plain microscope slide some devices were developed in the long past. The disadvantage being that they were quite costly and needed to be made specially on request hence it was hardly ever applied.

Still the demand of proper plain microscope slides remains.

While teaching the Nematology Courses in Wageningen a method was used being approachable for everyone and still fulfilling the request of ending up with a nice plain microscope slide.

A hardwood block with sizes of about 20 cm long and 7x 7 cm. was used. The preparation of the block has to ensure that it is really flat. Do not paint the block to avoid that paint comes on the slides.

Slides are placed on a solid base e.g being a laboratory table or a piece of solid flat wood or metal. Press one side of the slide than press the other side. Check if the coverslips are in the desired position. To end up press the complete slide and your slide is ready for observation and storage in you slide system.