Summary

A simple technique for producing spittlebug nymphs and adults [Zulia colombiana (Lallemand), Aeneolamia reducta (Lallemand). and others] and a highly efficient method for recovering spittlebug eggs are described. Eggs are recovered from a soil substrate placed in the bottom of an oviposition chamber. Eggs are incubated in petri dishes and separated according to stage of embrionic development by flotation in salt solutions of varying concentrations. Favorable conditions for rearing nymphs are obtained by growing susceptible grass plants in plastic pots with an aluminum cover. The cover maintains high relative humidity inside the pots during nymphal development when ambient humidity is low. Darkness and humidity afforded by the cover also stimulate proliferation of superficial rootlets, thereby providing abundant feeding sites for early instar nymphs. Adults are collected from screen cages. Some problems commonly encountered and their solutions are discussed.