Lengths of 15 - 20 mm rigid plastic tubing (the diameter should be big enough to take the body of the balance but too small to admit the support ring) are cut about 3 cm longer than the longest balance. Holes are drilled near one end to enable them to be slipped over a rod of 3-6 mm diameter which acts as a hinge. The rod is mounted in the lid of the tool-box and the tubes slipped onto it with 1 cm spacers (washers or short lengths of tubing) to provide finger space for handling. The free ends of the tubes are held in 'Terry' clips, staggered so that they do not interfere with each other when a tube is lifted, and a piece of plastic foam glued into the lid just clear of the open ends of the tubes keeps the balances in place.

We first used clear tubing so that the balances could be identified by colour, but consider it more convenient to use opaque tubes with the range written on with waterproof ink.

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STALKING AND ENTICING GUINEAFOWL IN A GAME RESERVE

J. van Niekerk

In a project on the ecology of Crowned Guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*) in the Krugersdorp Game Reserve, some attention was given to the trapping and marking of guineafowl. Fifteen successive days of intensive trapping were conducted between March and April 1982, and an additional 15 days between June and July 1982.

Fig. 1 overleaf illustates the shape and dimensions of a guineafowl walk-in trap which was used. Three of these traps were used simultaneously in an area of approximately two square kilometres visited daily by 200-250 guineafowl. Crushed mixed grain was used for bait. During trapping all possible data connected with improving future trapping were collected.

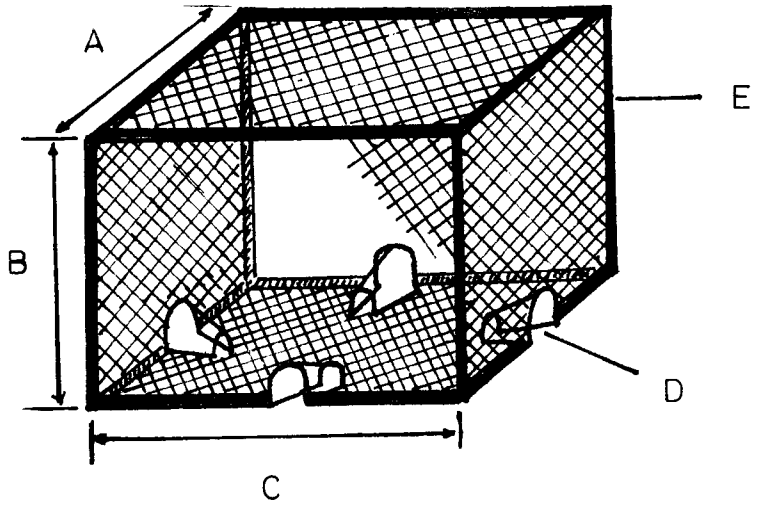

FIGURE 1

Crowned Guineafowl walk-in trap

A. 200 cm B. 150 cm C. 200 cm
D. Walk-in funnel (front loop 30 cm x 30 cm, rear loop 20 cm x 20 cm
E. Panel (square tubing covered with wire mesh)

Three major aspects of trapping are: (a) time of day trapped, (b) number caught in one catch and (c) body damage sustained by guineafowl during trapping.

(a) Fig. 2 (opposite) suggests that guineafowl feed more actively in the cooler mornings and late afternoons. (Feeding includes foraging, scratching and eating). Trapping periods can therefore be restricted to the mornings and late afternoons. All guineafowl trapped at 14h00 were caught under rainy and cloudy conditions.

(b) A total of 71 birds were trapped over a period of 30 days. This gives an average of 2,3 guineafowl trapped per day.

Fig. 3 (opposite) shows that 6 different group sizes were trapped. Single birds were in the majority (62,5%). Groups of 5 birds were never found in traps and a maximum

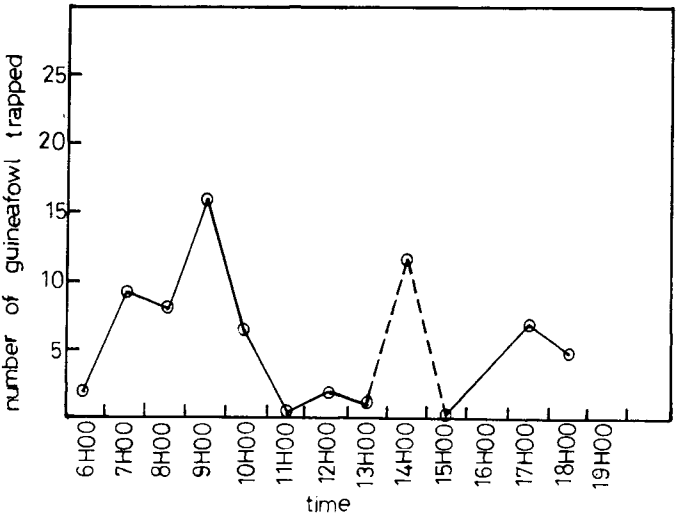

FIGURE 2

Active and inactive guineafowl trapping periods

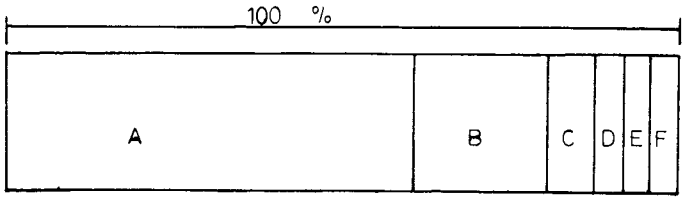

FIGURE 3

Percentage of six guineafowl group-sizes trapped.

A. Group size 1 (62,5%). B. Group size 2 (20%)
C. Group size 3 (7,5%) D. Group size 4 (5%)
E. Group size 6 (2,5%) F. Group size 7 (2,5%)

of 7 birds were trapped together. This simply suggests that a guineafowl walk-in trap need not be bigger than the one shown in Fig. 1, as guineafowl do not seem to feed in subgroups of more than 7 birds at a time.

(c) Injuries sustained by guineafowl in the trap are of major concern. Table 1 (page 61) gives the results of damage done to guineafowl. Fig. 4 below shows the vulnerable anatomical parts of the guineafowl body. To limit these problems the trapper should attend to the traps more often if possible, and then before the bait is depleted after which guineafowl normally start panicking. Always use a small hand-net to capture the guineafowl in the trap. This will reduce gross feather loss.

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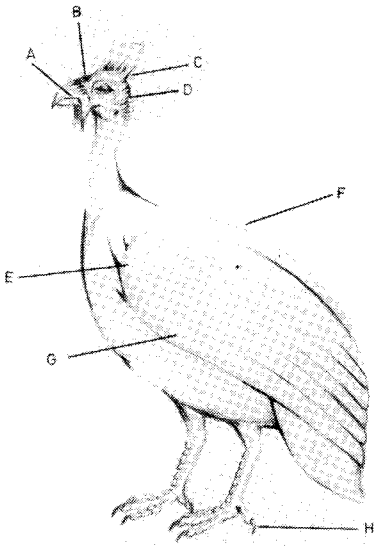

FIGURE 4

Anatomical parts of guinefowl which sustained trauma during trapping. A. Upper mandible. B. Tissue around the nasal cavities. C. Basis of crown on the head. D. Basis of crown behind the head. E. Wing shoulders. F. Back G. Outer feathers. H. Claw nail.

TABLE 1

THE DAMAGE-FREQUENCY SUSTAINED BY TRAPPED GUINEAFOWL

NATURE OF INJURIES	OCCURRENCE	SPECIFIC CAUSE
A) Splintered upper mandible	1	When beaks get hooked in wire mesh
B) Damage to the tissue on the circumferance of the nasal cavities	7	By bumping its "way" through obstacles
C) Cracked crown on the head	14	When the crown gets hooked in the wire mesh
D) Bruised crown basis, behind the neck	5	When the crown gets hooked in the wire mesh By bumping its "way" through obstacles
E) Flesh wound on the "wing shoulders" (scapula)	4	Using its wings to "remove" obstacles
F) Flesh scrape wound on the back of the guineafowl	1	Jumping up against the top horizontal panel. (see fig. 1)
G) Damage to the basis of the bastard wing (alula)	3	Using its wings to "remove" obstacles
H) Splintered toe nail	1	Using its claws to "scratch" through the mesh