

TECHNIQUES

A NEW NON-SLIP NET ATTACHMENT AND LIFTING APPARATUS FOR ERECTING MIST NETS

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In *Safring News* 17: 23 (De Swardt 1988), I reported on a non-slip wire hook for attaching guy-ropes to net poles and the application thereof. Whilst netting and ringing Gurney's Sugarbird *Promperops gurneyi* over the past four years, the wire hook has been used extensively and several shortcomings of its design have become apparent. Because the hook was made of thick copper wire, it bent easily and broke when the net was caught by a strong wind (a frequent occurrence). Furthermore, although described as non-slip, the hook did not maintain its grip and kept sliding down the pole.

Neels Bothma, designer of the device, has redesigned it after observing the shortcomings. The new device is much improved and 'bites' onto the pole when pulled down under pressure (Fig. 1).



FIGURE 1

THE DEVICE 'BITES' ON THE POLE GRIP WHEN PRESSED DOWNWARDS

In detail the metal device is rounded and fits on the wooden broomstick pole with a 45° filed edge which provides the bite on the pole when pressed downwards (Fig. 2).

The inside diameter of the metal device should be not less than the diameter of the pole (i.e. must fit). This device can also be used on aluminium poles. Another piece of apparatus was designed for lifting and lowering the shelf string loops as the mistnets have to be erected relatively high on the net poles.

The apparatus with its two hooks (A and B in Fig. 3 opposite) which are attached to a short piece of pipe can then be fitted over the end of a broom handle, similar to those which are also used for net poles. The net can easily be lifted by hook A or lowered by hook B. This apparatus is easily carried with the net poles, even in difficult terrain.

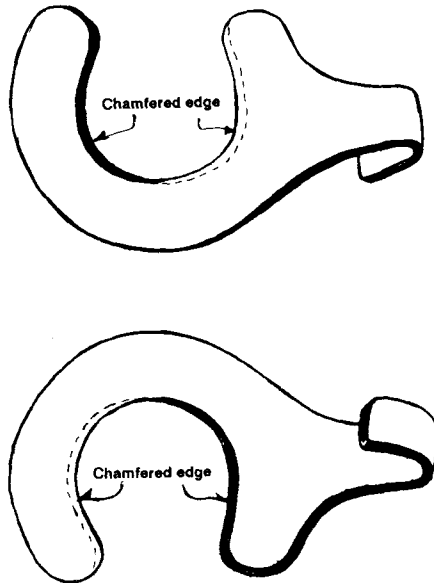


FIGURE 2

THE DESIGN OF THE METAL DEVICE



FIGURE 3
LIFTING AND LOWERING
APPARATUS WITH ITS TWO
HOOKS (A FOR LIFTING
AND B FOR LOWERING)

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