4. How to rear leaf-roller moths

Collecting the leaf-roller moth pupae

Also keep a watchful eye on the leaf-roller moth larvae. After approximately four to five weeks from when the egg batches hatch they will pupate. When this occurs you will need to remove the pupae from the bitou bush plants and place them into containers.

It may be a good idea to set up a roster, and have the students take turns checking for and collecting the pupae.

**Step 1:**
Thoroughly check all over the plants and pots for pupae. Pupae will very often hide under the rim of the pot, in amongst the foliage, on the main stem and on top of the potting mix. The pupae will be inside a white webbing, which is the larval feeding shelter.

**Step 2:**
With soft flat forceps, gently pull the pupa from the larval feeding shelter. Carefully pick up the pupa using the forceps. Hold the forceps parallel to the pupa. Place the pupa into a container. Continue to remove and place all the other pupae into the container.

**Step 3:**
Sort the pupae into male and females. The female pupae will be larger in size than the males.

Once you have sorted the pupae lay a tissue on the base of each container and place equal numbers of males and females into each container (approximately three of each sex in each container). Record the date on the side of the container.

Seal the containers by securing a piece of gauze to the top with a elastic band.

**Step 4:**
Check over the plants and harvest any pupae two to three times per week. Continue to remove and fill up subsequent containers until all the pupae have been collected.

Preparing the leaf-roller moth colony for release

After seven to ten days moths will emerge. The moths do not require food or water. They will pair up and the female will lay eggs in batches on the side of container. These will appear as a yellow spot of the side of the container. Once the eggs have been laid the moths will die. The eggs are now ready for release.

Cut around the egg batches, allowing room on one end for the cardboard to be stapled onto the bitou bush. Place the egg batches in a container such as an esky and store in a cool place to transport them to the release site.