

# Collection, recording, storage and image quality guide for hitchhiker seasonal pests on vessels

## Collection

All areas listed on the seasonal pest (SP) questionnaire must be thoroughly inspected for insects. Look for insects seeking shelter in crevices, or moving towards well-lit areas during periods of darkness. Pay attention to areas close to the cargo holds/decks, as insects emerge from infested vehicles and break bulk items after periods of inactivity.

## Recording and storage

- ✓ Record the detection of insects (specimens) on the SP questionnaire and note how many were alive and dead, the deck/s they were found and what type of cargo was involved or nearby.
- ✓ Store live and dead specimens in separate bags/containers by deck location. Ensure each bag is clearly labelled.
- ✓ Store all bagged specimens in the fridge until arrival in Australia.
- ✓ Provide all specimens to an Australian Biosecurity officer at the first port of call in Australia.

## Image quality

To enable prompt assessment and identification of reported insects, we must be able to **distinguish colour, shape and patterns** on the specimens (e.g. spots, stripes).

### Image tips

- ✓ specimens must NOT be piled on top of each other, they must be separated with space between each
- ✓ ensure good lighting without shadows and use a light coloured background
- ✓ ensure the specimens are in focus and not unnecessarily small in the image
- ✓ DO NOT photograph specimens inside a plastic bag.

**Ideal Image** – good lighting, specimens separated to show colour, shape and patterns, sorted by colour



**Good image** – reasonable lighting, high resolution to allow image to be enlarged



**Poor image** – specimens too small and piled together, and low resolution

