Making temporary pollen slides – Calberla's solution

These slides will last no more than about 48 hours

Pollen can be from:-

- Flower (process as below from step 1.)
- Pollen stored in propanol (Pipette some pollen & propanol onto the watch glass and process as below from step 2.)
- Pollen pellet (Break up the pollen pellet on the watch glass with a glass rod. Add water and stir to unstick the pollen. Pipette or wick away water. Then process as below from step 1.)
- Pollen obtained from frame in hive (As pollen pellet)
- 1. Place pollen in a watch glass and add a few drops of propanol and swirl to remove waxy coating.
- 2. Dip a clean glass rod into the pollen rich liquid and drip one drop onto the middle a clean slide. Don't touch the slide with the rod or you will create a ring of pollen with no grains in the centre.
- 3. Add 2 drops of Calberla's solution and wait 30 seconds for the pollen to stain.
- 4. Place one edge of a coverslip on the slide and lower it slowly onto the liquid.
- 5. If there is excessive liquid then use a piece of kitchen roll and wick away some liquid from the edge of the cover slip.
- 6. Place on microscope stage.

