

***Oxyops Vitiosa*: A Melaleuca Biological Control Agent**

Using Your Collector

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1. Place a melaleuca branch cutting inside your collector. This will help sustain *O. vitiosa* during transport. These weevils prefer young, tender growth.



2. Locate adult *O. vitiosa* on your melaleuca trees. More than likely, they can be found eating the apical meristematic tissue on the growing tips of the melaleuca branches.



3. *O. vitiosa* has a tendency to fall off the branch when disturbed, so place the funnel of your collector under the weevil you just located. Gently pick the weevil off the branch, and allow it to fall into the funnel trap. Place a wad of paper in the funnel tip to keep them from escaping.



4. Relocate your *O. vitiosa* to another suitable stand of melaleuca trees. Remove the lid of your collector. You may have to tap it several times to move *O. vitiosa* off the underside of the lid. They can be encouraged onto the leaves of another melaleuca by placing an uncut branch from that melaleuca tree inside the collector. *O. vitiosa* will move onto the branch.

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