

The potential use of insects for detecting drugs and other toxins in decomposing tissues has been demonstrated and reviewed (Introna et al. 2001). If insects or larvae are collected from human remains they should be frozen as soon as possible. Larvae rapidly eliminate drugs when removed from the food source. Drugs, metals and pesticides have been identified in entomological specimens including larvae and pupae. Following wash steps to remove external contamination, entomological specimens are homogenised and analysed in a manner similar to that for tissues.