CLAIMS

1. Open topped, stackable, molded plastic container (1), which is generally rectangular with a bottom (2) and first and second pairs (2,3; 4,5) of parallel upright walls joined to the bottom and at corners via corner structures (10), wherein each corner structure ~~comprising:~~ comprises a substantially diagonal and upright wall section (11) which, seen in top view, extends diagonally between adjoining upright walls and blends into said upright walls to define the contour of a containment space (8) of the container; ~~and~~characterized in that each corner structure comprises :

- a top wall (12) extending outward from an upper end of the diagonal and upright wall section; and
- a hollow tubular post (13) extending vertically downward from said top wall (12), said hollow tubular post being spaced from said diagonal and upright wall section (11), wherein the top wall has a hole (14) aligned with the hollow tubular post (13);
- wherein multiple, e.g. at least three, vertical stacking ribs (15a-15g) are arranged circumferentially spaced about the hollow tubular post, each stacking rib having a vertical inner end joined to said hollow tubular post,
    - wherein at least one, preferably two, of said stacking ribs (15a, 15g) have a vertical outer end joined to said diagonal and upright wall section (11) and/or to said adjoining upright wall section; and
    - wherein each of said stacking ribs has a lower end, said lower ends being located in a common plane (C);

wherein said tubular post has a protruding stacking pin portion (13p) extending downward beyond said common plane of the stacking rib lower ends; such that – in a stack – the pin portion of an upper container is received through the hole in the top wall of the corner structure of a lower container onto which said upper container is stacked.

2. Container according to claim 1, wherein said stacking pin portion does not protrude downward beyond the bottom of the container and the lower ends of the stacking ribs lie above the bottom so that – in a stack – the upper container nests in the lower container.

3. Container according to claim 1 or 2, wherein each stacking rib has an upper end joining said top wall 12.

4. Container according to any of claims 1-3, wherein the corner structure further comprises a quarter-circular skirt wall (12c), extending downwards from an outward perimeter of the top

wall; and wherein preferably part of a vertical outer end of at least one stacking rib (15c, 15d, 15e) is joined to said quarter-circular skirt wall.

5. Container according to any of claims 1-4, wherein a top flange (2a, 3a; 4a, 5a) extends outward from an upper end of each upright wall (2,3; 4,5), wherein preferably the top flanges and/ or the top walls are provided with drainage holes (17).

6. Container according to claim 5, wherein flange skirt walls (2b, 3b; 4b, 5b) depend downwards from the top flanges, essentially parallel to and at a distance from the respective upright walls, and wherein preferably at least one of the skirt walls is provided with a label (18).

7. Container according to any of claims 1-6, adapted for use in an insect breeding facility for breeding insects of the type with crawling mother beetles having a protractable egg-laying tube, such as lesser mealworms or zophobas morios; adapted to be used in combination with at least one spawn structure (50) in which the mother insects will spawn their eggs, wherein the bottom of the container is provided with spawn structure clamps to receive the spawn structure and allow the spawn structure to be connected to the container.

8. Use of a container according to one or more of the preceding claims in an insect breeding facility.

9. Stack (2) comprising at least 15, preferably at least 20 containers according to one or more of the preceding claims 1-7.

10. Climate housing of an insect breeding facility, comprising multiple stacks according to claim 9.

~~11. In combination:~~

~~- an insect spawning container (1) adapted for use in an insect breeding facility for breeding insects of the type with crawling mother beetles having a protractable egg-laying tube, such as lesser mealworms or zophobas morios; wherein the insect spawning container comprises a bottom (2) and first and second pairs (2,3; 4,5) of parallel upright walls;~~

~~- at least one spawn structure (50) in which the mother insects will spawn their eggs, comprising a foldable member (51) with a fold section (51f) provided centrally between, and~~

via hinges (51g, 51h) connected to, a perforated left-hand section (51a) and a perforated right-hand section (51b); the spawn structure further comprising a rigid plate (52);

wherein the foldable member and the rigid plate are movable with respect to each other between an open configuration and a closed spawning configuration;

wherein in the closed spawning configuration the foldable member (51) is folded such that the left-hand section (51a) and the right-hand section are parallel to each other, with the rigid plate sandwiched between the sections (51a, 51b), creating a multitude of crevices (53) between the rigid plate (52) and inner faces (51ai, 51bi) of the folded member, the crevices having dimensions tuned to the egg-laying tube of the mother beetles; and in which spawning configuration outer faces (51ao, 51bo) of the folded member form two climbing faces;

wherein the spawn structure in the closed spawning configuration is positioned in the container such that the mother beetles are able to crawl from the bottom onto and up along the climbing faces of the spawn structure into the crevices;

and wherein in the open configuration the foldable member is folded open allowing harvesting of the eggs.

12. Combination according to claim 11, wherein the foldable member has a length in the direction of the fold section, essentially corresponding to the length of the rigid plate, and wherein the width of the left-hand and right-hand sections essentially corresponds to the width of the rigid plate.

13. Combination according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the fold section (51f) comprises an elongated slit seat (51fs) having a length corresponding to the length of the rigid plate (52), a width essentially corresponding to the thickness of the rigid plate, and a depth to accommodate the rigid plate.

14. Combination according to any of the preceding claims 11-13, wherein at least one of the hinges between the left-hand and right-hand sections and the fold section is pre-stressed opposite the folding direction.

15. Combination according to any of the preceding claims 11-14, wherein the ends of the inner faces of the foldable member opposite the fold section and/or the sides of the foldable member adjacent the fold section taper towards the outer faces.

16. Combination according to any of the preceding claims 11-15, wherein the bottom (2) of the insect spawning container is provided with spawn structure clamps (20) to receive the spawn structure in the spawning configuration and allow the spawn structure to be connected to the container, and wherein preferably the ends of the outer faces of the foldable member opposite the fold section are provided with complementary container connectors.

17. Combination according to any of the preceding claims 11-16, wherein the length of the spawn structure is between 70-100%, in particular 80-90%, of that of the insect spawning container, and wherein preferably 2-10, in particular 4-6 spawn structure are provided in the longitudinal direction of the spawning container.

18. Combination according to any of the preceding claims 11-17, wherein the container is according to any of the preceding claims 1-7.

19. Use of a combination according to one or more of claims 11-18.

20. Method for breeding insects of the type with crawling mother beetles having a protractable egg-laying tube, such as lesser mealworms or zophobas morios, comprising the steps of:

- providing a plurality of spawning containers (3) in combination with spawn structures in the closed spawning configuration, according to any of the preceding claims 11-18;
- providing adult insects including mother insects to the spawning containers;

and periodically repeating the steps of:

- removing a spawn structure from the spawning container, leaving the adult insects in the spawning container;
- folding open the foldable member of the spawn structure;
- removing the foldable member and/ or the rigid plate of the spawn structure holding the eggs, and allowing the eggs to hatch;
- providing an empty spawn structure in the closed spawning configuration in each spawning container.