CLAIMS

1. An insect storage and release container system comprising:

a container, the container comprising:

a first opening; a lid coupled to the first opening, the lid operable between a closed position to cover the first opening and an open position to uncover the first opening; a first resilient means for urging the lid to assume the open position;

a second opening covered with a mesh; and

one or more plates disposed within the container, wherein the one or more plates are arranged in a manner to provide at least one passageway between the first opening and the second opening of the container.

2. The insect storage and release container system of claim 1, wherein the container further comprises:

an inlet assembly disposed at the second opening of the container, covering at least a portion of the second opening, wherein the inlet assembly comprises:

an inlet in fluid communication with the container;

a port disposed adjacent the inlet; and

a second lid operable between a closed position to cover the inlet assembly and an open position to uncover the inlet assembly, wherein the second lid is biased so as to normally assume the closed position.

3. The insect storage and release container system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the lid at the first opening is pivotally connected to the first opening of the container.

4. The insect storage and release container system of claim 3, wherein the container further comprises:

a latch assembly configured to engage with the lid at the first opening for keeping the lid at the first opening in the closed position over the first opening.

5. The insect storage and release container system of claim 4, wherein the first resilient means abutt against the lid at the first opening for urging the lid at the first opening to pivotally swing outwardly away from the container to the open position when the latch assembly disengages with the lid at the first opening.

6. The insect storage and release container system of claim 2, wherein the second lid is pivotally connected to the inlet assembly.

7. The insect storage and release container system of claim 6, wherein the second lid is disposed within the container such that the second lid pivotally swings inwards when the second lid moves from the closed position to the open position.

8. The insect storage and release container system of claim 2, further comprising:

a mechanism connected to the container for actuating the lid at the first opening between the closed position and the open position.

9. The insect storage and release container system of claim 8, wherein the mechanism is configured to actuate the second lid between the closed position and the open position.

10. The insect storage and release container system of any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least a portion of the lid at the first opening is a mesh.

11. The insect storage and release container system of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the container system comprises two containers adjoined together as a single integral unit.

12. The insect storage and release container system according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the container further comprises:

a first funnel disposed in a space between the one or more plates and the second opening, the first funnel having a wider end positioned closer to the second opening.

13. The insect storage and release container system of claim 12, wherein the container further comprises:

a second funnel disposed adjacent the first funnel, wherein the first funnel and the second funnel is separated by a wall to partition the container into a first compartment consisting of the first funnel and one or more plates and a second compartment consisting of the second funnel and the one or more plates,

wherein the lid coupled to the first opening comprises a lid for each of the first and second compartment for pivotally covering and uncovering the first and second compartment respectively, and

wherein the space between the two funnels and the second opening defines a third compartment.

14. The insect storage and release container system of claim 13, wherein the container further comprises:

a latch assembly for each of the lids provided at the first opening for keeping each of the lids in the closed position over the first opening of the container.

15. The insect storage and release container system of claim 13 or 14, wherein the container further comprises:

a first resilient means abutting against each of the lids at the first opening for urging each of the lids at the first opening to swing outwardly away from the container when each of the lids moves to the open position.

16. The insect storage and release container system of claim 2, wherein the container further comprises:

a second resilient means abutting against the second lid and urging the second lid to stay in the closed position.

17. The insect storage and release container system of claim 2, wherein the second lid is actuated via insertion of an actuation block through the port.

18. The insect storage and release container system of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the container is cylindrical.

19. The insect storage and release container system of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the lid at the first opening comprises a cavity for housing pupae within the container.

20. The insect storage and release container system of any one of the preceding claims, further comprising:

a base compartment disposed at the second opening of the container.

21. The insect storage and release container system of claim 20, further comprising:

a fan disposed within the base compartment.

22. The insect storage and release container of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the insect storage and release container is configured to be stackable with another of the insect storage and release container.

23. The insect storage and release container system of any one of the preceding claims, further comprising:

a plurality of containers; and

a frame structure for supporting the plurality of containers.

24. The insect storage and release container system of claim 8, further comprising:

a handle to facilitate the transportation of the container system; and

a controller to activate the mechanism to selectively actuate the lid at the first opening of the corresponding container from the closed position to the open position.

25. A method for storing insects into a container system and for releasing insects into the environment, the method comprising:

allowing insects to travel into one or more containers of a container system through at least one of the openings of a corresponding container;

activating a mechanism to actuate a lid provided at the at least one of the openings of each of the one or more containers to a closed position for storing insects within the one or more containers;

activating the mechanism to actuate the lid provided at the at least one of the openings of each of the one or more containers to an open position for releasing the insects within the one or more containers into the environment, wherein the lid provided at the at least one of the openings is urged by a resilient means to assume the open position; and

activating one or more fans to generate a flow of air into one or more containers to encourage movement of the insects within the one or more containers towards the opening with the lid in the open position of each of the one or more containers.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising:

activating the mechanism to selectively actuate the lid of the one or more containers to the open position to release the insects stored in the selected one or more containers.

27. The method of claim 25, further comprising:

activating the mechanism to actuate the lids of all the containers all at once to release the insects stored in all of the containers.