CLAIMS

1. A method, comprising:

   contacting a liquid sample with a collection aperture of a sample collection annulus to collect a film of the liquid sample within the collection aperture; and

   inserting the sample collection annulus with the collected film of the liquid sample into a tubular container through an opening thereof.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the tubular container comprises a liquid disposed therein.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of inserting comprises at least partially immersing the sample collection annulus and the collected film of the liquid sample within the liquid.

4. The method of claim 2 or 3, wherein the contacting comprises manipulating the sample collection annulus with a tubular dispenser secured with respect to the sample collection annulus.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the sample collection annulus and the tubular dispenser are indirectly secured with respect to one another by an extending arm.

6. The method of claim 4 or 5, wherein the collection aperture of the sample collection annulus defines a plane and the tubular dispenser defines an internal bore extending along an axis that is generally parallel to the plane of the collection aperture.

7. The method of any of claims 4—6, further comprising dispensing at least some of the liquid and the collected film of the liquid sample from the tubular container through the tubular dispenser.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the method comprises mixing the liquid and the collected film of the liquid sample within the tubular container prior to or

concurrently with the step of dispensing.

9. The method of claim 2 or 3, wherein the contacting comprises manipulating the sample collection annulus with a sample collection arm secured thereto.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the sample collection annulus is disposed at an angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the sample collection arm.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the angle is from about 10 degree to about 70 degree, from about 20 degree to about 50 degree, from about 25 degree to about 40 degree, or about 30 degree.

12. The method of any of claims 9 – 11, wherein the sample collection arm comprises a top portion and a bottom portion, the top portion being separable from the bottom potion, the bottom portion being secured to the sample collection annulus.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the top portion is detachably secured to the bottom portion via a frangible connection.

14. The method of any of claims 1—13, wherein the collection aperture is triangular.

15. The method of any of claims 1—14, wherein the collection aperture has an area of between about 2 mm^2 and 10 mm^2, e.g., an area of about 4 mm^2, an area of about 5 mm^2, an area of about 6 mm^2, an area of about 7 mm^2, or an area of about 8 mm^2.

16. The method of any of claims 1—15, wherein the collection aperture has a volume of between about 4 µl and 20 µl, between about 5 µl and 18 µl, between about 7 µl and 16 µl, e.g., about 8 µl, about 10 µl, or about 12 µl.

17. The method of any of claims 1—16, wherein the sample collection annulus has a thickness of between about 1 mm and 4 mm, e.g., about 2 mm.

18. The method of any of claims 1—3 or 9—17, further comprising, after the step of inserting the sample collection annulus with the collected film of the liquid sample into a tubular container through an opening thereof, covering the opening, wherein the sample collection annulus optionally remains in the tubular container.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of covering the opening comprises covering the opening with a cap having a passage extending therethrough and then dispensing at least some of the collected film of the liquid sample from the tubular container through the passage of the cap.

20. The method of any of claims 4—8, further comprising, after the step of inserting the sample collection annulus with the collected film of the liquid sample into a tubular container through an opening thereof, covering the opening of the tubular container with a cap having a dispensing passage extending therethrough.

21. The method of claim 15, further comprising dispensing at least some of the liquid within the tubular container and the collected film of the liquid sample from the tubular container through the tubular dispenser and through the dispensing passage of the cap.

22. The method of any of claims 1—16, wherein the sample collection annulus has a thickness of between about 0.3 mm and about 2 mm, e.g., between about 0.3 mm and about 1 mm, e.g., about 0.4 mm.

23. The method of any of claims 1—16, wherein the sample collection annulus has a maximum thickness of between about 0.3 mm and about 2 mm, e.g., between about 0.3 mm and about 1 mm, e.g., about 0.4 mm and the sample collection annulus has a minimum thickness of less than about 75%, less than about 65%, less than about 55% or less than about 50% of the maximum thickness.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the minimum thickness of the sample collection annulus is between about 0.15 mm and about 0.35 mm, between about 0.2 mm and about 0.3 mm, e.g., about 0.25 mm.

25. The method of claim 23 or 24, wherein the sample collection annulus defines opposed upper and lower surfaces spaced apart spaced apart from one another along a height of the annulus and wherein the thickness of the sample collection annulus adjacent at least one of the upper and lower faces is less than the maximum thickness.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the thickness of the sample collection annulus adjacent each of the upper and lower faces is less than the maximum thickness.

27. The method of claim 25 or 26, wherein the thickness of the sample collection annulus adjacent at least one of the upper and lower faces is the minimum thickness.

28. The method of any of claims 1—16 or claim 22, wherein the sample collection annulus has a height of between about 1 mm and about 3 mm, e.g., between about 1.5 mm and about 2.5 mm, e.g., between about 1.75 mm and about 2.25 mm.