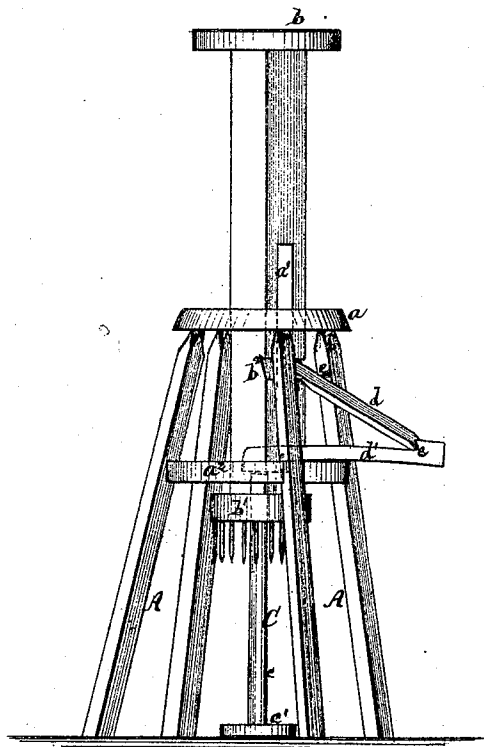


*J. Adams,*

*Mole Trap.*

*No. 110,618.*

*Patented Jan. 3. 1871.*



Witnesses:  
*E. N. Pearson*  
*Newton Cranford*

Inventor:  
*John Adams* by  
*H. W. Beadle, atty*

# United States Patent Office.

JOHN ADAMS, OF GREENCASTLE, INDIANA.

Letters Patent No. 110,618, dated January 3, 1871.

## IMPROVEMENT IN MOLE-TRAPS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

*To all whom it may concern :*

Be it known that I, JOHN ADAMS, of Greencastle, in the county of Putnam and State of Indiana, have invented a new and improved Mole-Trap; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

This invention has for its object the production of a simple and efficient device for catching moles, and consists of certain details of construction, which will be fully described hereinafter.

In the drawing—

To enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe fully its construction and operation.

A A represent the legs or supports of the trap, which may be of any suitable number.

They are attached at their upper ends to the plate or disk *a*, which is provided with a central quadrangular slot, *a*<sup>1</sup>, as shown.

They are also attached below to the disk *a*<sup>2</sup>.

B represents a plunger, which has a vertical movement in the circular pieces *a* *a*<sup>2</sup>.

It is provided at its upper end with the circular cap *b*, and at its lower end with a disk, *b*<sup>1</sup>, provided with a row of spikes about its edge, as shown.

The lower part of the plunger B is slotted, and the disk *b* has a central orifice for the purpose of permitting the entrance of the piston-trigger C.

This trigger consists of a shaft, *c*, having a disk, *c*<sup>1</sup>, the circumference of which latter is somewhat less than the circle described by the series of spikes.

At a suitable point upon the plunger B notches, *b*<sup>2</sup>, are located, as shown.

*d* represents a small, straight piece of wood or metal, provided, if desired, with a notch near its center, and slightly beveled at both ends.

*d*<sup>1</sup> also represents a small piece of wood or metal, which is provided with hooks or catches at each end upon opposite sides, as shown.

*e* represents a supporting wire, secured to two of the legs A A, as shown.

The trap is set as follows :

It should be placed over the spot where the mole

has already worked. With the foot stamp down the ridge the mole has already made to a little below the surface of the surrounding earth, and make the place smooth and hard.

The trap should be so located over the place that the plunger will rest directly upon the spot which has been stamped. Now raise the plunger, and place one end of the piece *d* in its notches *b*<sup>2</sup>, the notches in the piece *d* being caused to rest upon the supporting-rim *e*, and its lower end being caught in one of the hooks of piece *d*<sup>1</sup>.

The other hook of the latter piece should be caught in the side of the slot of plate *a*<sup>2</sup>.

The disk of the piston-trigger should rest upon the place stamped, its shaft extending upward of course, and resting in the orifice in plate *a*<sup>2</sup>.

The operation is as follows :

When the mole reaches the stamped place and attempts to pass by it, as he must inevitably do, he raises by his movement the piston-trigger, the shaft of which disengages the piece *d* from its hold upon the sides of the slot in piece *a*<sup>2</sup>, and thus frees the plunger. The latter being disengaged, descends with great force and forces the spikes on the lower disk deep into the earth, and catches the mole.

If it is not desired to make the plunger itself of sufficient weight to secure the necessary force of descent, weight may be placed upon the cap *b*.

As the spikes are arranged in a circle, they penetrate the earth on all sides, and therefore cannot fail to catch the mole, no matter from what direction he may be coming.

Having thus fully described my invention,

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The trap described, consisting of its legs A A, plates *a*<sup>1</sup> *a*<sup>2</sup>, plunger B, with cap *b*, and disk *b*<sup>1</sup>, trigger *c*, and pieces *d* *d*<sup>1</sup> when constructed and arranged as described.

This specification signed and witnessed this 17th day of October, A. D. 1870.

JOHN ADAMS.

Witnesses:

H. H. MORRISON,  
DUDLEY ROGERS.