



The *Bactrocera trivialis* fruit fly.
Image Ken Walker, Museum Victoria,
Pest & Diseases Image Library
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Bactrocera trivialis.
Image www.pacifly.org.

Exotic threats of tropical fruit: *Bactrocera trivialis*

What is it?

The fruit fly species *Bactrocera trivialis* is a serious pest on many fruit crops. Although this species is most commonly found on guava and *Syzygium* species, it also attacks grapefruit, mango, peach and tropical almond. *Bactrocera trivialis* is native to New Guinea where it is widespread. If this fruit fly species was to become established in Australia, it could cause extensive damage to our tropical fruit industries.

What do I look for?

Fruit flies are pest insects whose larvae (maggots) live in and feed off the flesh of fruit and vegetables. Fruit should be inspected for any symptoms of infestation, such as puncture marks and any associated necrosis and decomposition of the fruit that appears as black or brown lesions. Suspect fruits should be cut open and checked for larvae.

Bactrocera trivialis has four life stages: eggs, larvae (maggots), pupae, and the adult flies. The eggs are about 0.8 mm long and 0.2 mm wide, white to yellow-white in colour, and are laid under the skin of the fruit. The mature larvae are about 7.5 – 9.5 mm long and 1.5 – 2 mm wide. Pupae are barrel-shaped and are white to yellow-brown in colour. The adult flies are mostly black or a mixture of black and yellow (see pictures).

Bactrocera trivialis is difficult to identify accurately. Suspect samples of the pest must be sent to a laboratory for identification. If you see any of these life stages of the *Bactrocera trivialis*, you should keep samples for identification and report your findings immediately.

Where is it found?

Bactrocera trivialis is native to Papua New Guinea and is present in Indonesia (Sulawesi and West Papua). It has been regularly detected in fruit fly monitoring traps in the Torres Strait Islands (Saibai, Dauan and Boigu Islands).

Reporting

Growers may report suspected exotic pests to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline (1800 084 881) or can directly contact their relevant state agriculture or primary industries department.

To minimise the risk of disease spread, samples should not be moved until they have been checked by an expert.

This fact sheet is part of the National Tropical Fruit Industry Biosecurity Plan. For more information about the Biosecurity Plan, please contact Plant Health Australia.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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