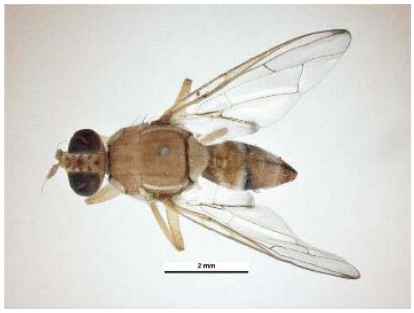
Fact sheet



The Peach fruit fly (*Bactrocera zonata)*.
Image Ken Walker, Museum Victoria, Pest & Diseases Image Library (PaDIL), www.padil.gov.au.

Exotic threats of tropical fruit: Peach fruit fly

What is it?

The peach fruit fly (*Bactrocera zonata*) affects more than 42 different fruit crop species including apple, apricot, avocado, citrus, custard apple, eggplant, guava, kumquats, mango, nectarine, okra, papaya, peach, pear, quince, rockmelon, sapodilla, tomato and watermelon. The peach fruit fly represents a serious threat to fruit and vegetable production and marketing in the areas where it occurs, particularly because of its broad host range. If this fruit fly species was to be introduced into Australia and become established, it could cause serious 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.

The peach fruit fly 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 orange brown in colour with some yellow markings (see picture).

Bactrocera zonata 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 peach fruit fly, you should keep samples for identification and report your findings immediately.

Where is it found?

The peach fruit fly probably originated in India and is now known to occur in the following countries: Bangladesh, Egypt, France (Reunion Island), India, Iran, Laos, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates

and Vietnam. It was introduced into California (USA) in 1994 but was subsequently eradicated.

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.

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