

Fijian fruit fly

What is the Fijian fruit fly?

Fijian fruit fly (*Bactrocera passiflorae*) is a small fly that attacks a range of fruit including papaya. Like all fruit flies, it can cause a significant amount of damage to fruit and make fruit unmarketable. This pest has the potential to have a significant impact on the Australian papaya industry.

What does it look like?

The Fijian fruit fly has a black coloured body with a black abdomen and clear wings. It is approximately 6-8mm long. Accurate diagnosis requires expert examination of the fly under a microscope.

What can it be confused with?

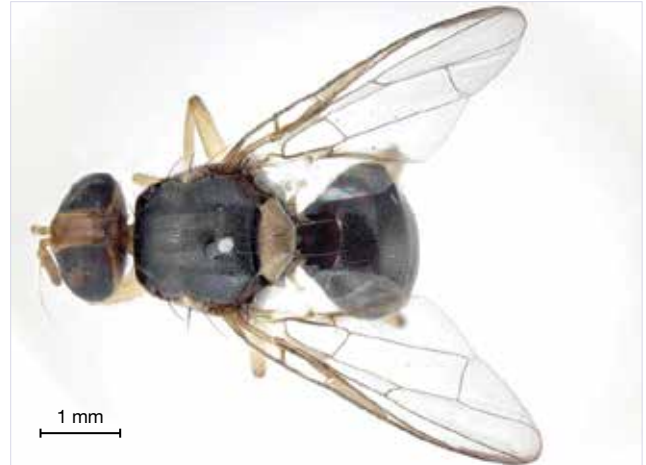
At first glance most fruit flies are very similar. The Fijian fruit fly can be differentiated from other fruit flies by its predominantly black colour. If you see any unusual fruit flies consult an agronomist or contact the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

What should I look for?

Adult Fijian fruit flies are visible to the naked eye so you should keep a look out for small black coloured fruit flies, especially around fallen or damaged fruit. Traps placed in your orchard may also help you look for fruit flies. You should also look for distorted, dropped or rotten fruit as these symptoms can be caused by fruit flies. Report any unusual fruit flies in your orchard to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

How does it spread?

Adult Fijian fruit fly can disperse over long distances through flight, while the transport of larvae in infested fruit can result in the global movement of the pest.



Dorsal view of adult Fijian fruit fly

Ken Walker Museum Victoria, PaDiL



Lateral view of Fijian fruit fly. Note: fly is predominantly black in colour

Ken Walker Museum Victoria, PaDiL



Where is it now?

As the name suggests the Fijian fruit fly is native to Fiji. It also occurs in Tonga, Tuvalu and Western Samoa. This species of fruit fly is not known to occur in Australia. If it enters Australia many tropical and subtropical fruit producing areas could be put at risk.

How can I protect my orchard from Fijian fruit flies?

Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common papaya insect pests so you can tell if you see something different.

Maintain good hygiene and ensure that fallen fruit is collected and disposed of so that it cannot harbour fruit flies.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**



Adult Fijian fruit flies

S. Wilson, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)



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