

CITRUS BIOSECURITY THREAT: Peach Fruit Fly



The insect

- *Bactrocera zonata* is one of the most harmful species of Tephritidae.
- Economic impacts may result from direct yield losses from infested fruit, market access loss and quarantine restrictions.
- The pest can easily spread, adapt to temperate conditions, and establish outside tropical climates.

Description

Adults are about 6 mm long, and red-brown with yellowish thoracic markings. Wing patterns of the peach fruit fly are in general reduced and mostly yellowish or brownish.



CABI

Adult peach fruit fly

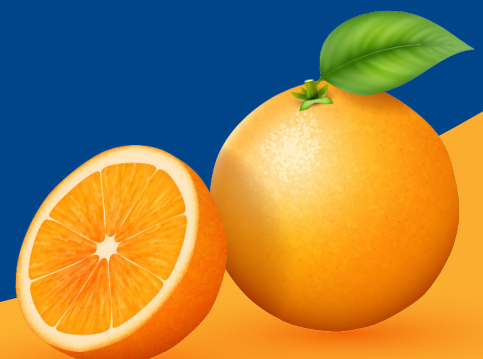


Yates.com.au

Oviposition punctures in fruit

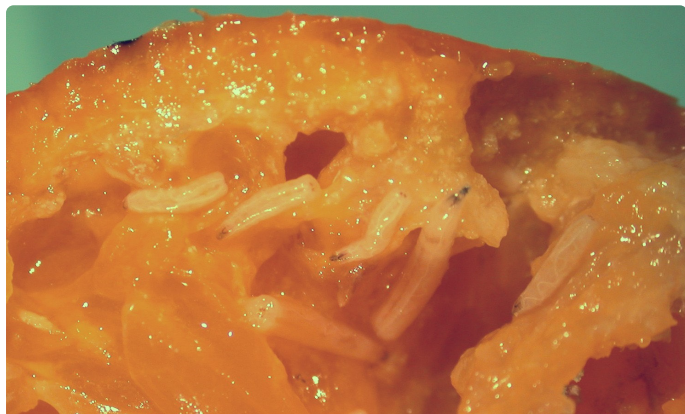
Signs of presence

Fruit flies may be detected as eggs or larvae in fruit, or as adults caught in traps. Infested fruit have tiny oviposition punctures. In juicy fruit, fluid exudes from the oviposition puncture in the form of a droplet that later dries up, leaving a brown, resinous deposit. Larvae bore tunnels inside the fruit, leading to deterioration and rotting of the fruit.



Host range

The peach fruit fly is a polyphagous species attacking about 40 species of fruit, including peach, mango, guava and some *Citrus* types.



Fruit fly larvae are white and in general have a cylindrical maggot-shape, 5-15mm in length

Current distribution

- Asia
- Cyprus
- In Africa it is present in Egypt, Libya, Sudan, Mauritius and Réunion



Fruit fly eggs

Method of spread

- **Natural flight**
The peach fruit fly is a strong flier and highly mobile. It naturally spreads by means of adult flight.
- **Movement of infested fruit**
The transport of infested fruit, via trade and travellers, is the main means of movement and dispersal.
- **Host plants with roots**
- **Packaging**
The peach fruit fly will also spread if present on fruit packaging material.

Preventative actions

- Quarantine procedures for importation of citrus fruit and other hosts
- Host plants transported with roots should be free from soil, or the soil should be treated against puparia
- Awareness and surveillance to ensure early detection and rapid implementation of control measures
- Do not bring illegal plant material into South Africa and onto your farm!

For more information on this disease, or if you find anything unusual, contact Wayne Kirkman from CRI's Biosecurity Division: waynek@cri.co.za, 084 458 0349

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