

Fact Sheet:

Oriental Fruit Fly

Bactrocera dorsalis

Oriental Fruit Fly (OFF) is a major economic pest occupying a wide range of commercial fruits. OFF can inflict severe physical damage to fruit and significant economic damage due to quarantine costs and export restrictions.

Identification

Adults (image below) are noticeably larger than house flies with a body length of 8 mm, and a wingspan of about 7 mm. Colour is variable but there are prominent yellow and dark brown markings on body.



Eggs are about 1 mm in length and white. Larvae (image below) are similar to that of the MedFly, being white and about 10mm in length.



Distribution and Climate Range



Oriental Fruit Fly distribution show in yellow

Oriental Fruit Fly is found throughout South East Asia and some Pacific Islands (Tahiti, Pulau, Nauru and Hawaii). Eggs will not develop below 13 degrees, although the adult fly may cope with colder temperatures. Therefore high risk areas for this organism in New Zealand would be the warmer northern areas.

Signs and Symptoms

The oriental fruit fly has been found in more than 150 different fruit and vegetable hosts. Adults lay eggs in fruit and the subsequent larval feeding can cause significant crop damage compounded by invading secondary microorganisms.

Control

New Zealand has a fruit fly surveillance program that has been operating for almost 20 years and involves over 7500 traps nationwide. There have been 9 recorded fruit fly interceptions since 1989, of these was for OFF, Auckland, 1996 (Asian papaya fly which has subsequently proven to be the same species). These interceptions resulted in increased trapping surveillance surrounding the location and have successfully prevented a population establishing.

What should you do if you think you have seen this pest? Phone MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or KVH on 0800 665 825