

Fact sheet: Oriental Fruit Fly



Oriental Fruit Fly (OFF), or *Bactrocera dorsalis*, is a major economic pest occupying a wide range of commercial fruit. OFF can inflict severe physical damage to fruit as well as significant economic damage due to quarantine costs and market access implications for kiwifruit exports.

Identification

Adults (image above right) are noticeably larger than house flies with a body length of 8mm, and a wingspan of about 7mm.

Colour is variable but there are prominent yellow and dark brown markings on body.

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



Signs and symptoms

OFF 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.



Surveillance

New Zealand has a fruit fly surveillance programme that has been operating for almost 20 years and involves over 7500 traps nationwide.

Distribution and climate range

OFF 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.



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