

Fact sheet: Queensland Fruit Fly

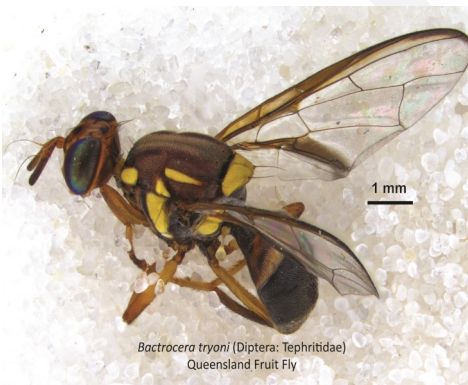


Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF), or *Bactrocera tryoni*, is a very serious pest of a wide variety of hosts and is a particular threat to northern New Zealand. Damage levels can be up to 100% of unprotected fruit. In addition to physical damage, QFF inflicts economic damage through loss of market access (breeding populations can result in significant implications for kiwifruit exports) and costs associated with quarantine and monitoring.

Identification

The adult female is approximately 6-8mm long with a 10-12mm wingspan. The wings are mostly transparent, marked with brown and the fly is reddish brown with yellow markings.

Eggs are small (less than 1mm long), white and banana shaped. Larvae grow to 6-8mm long and are pale yellow.



Images above from left to right: side view of the QFF; larvae in a mango; top view of the QFF

Signs and symptoms

QFF are most active in warm, humid conditions. They might be seen walking on the undersides of leaves or on maturing fruit after rain. Damage to fruit results from eggs being laid in fruit, feeding by the larvae, and decomposition of plant tissue by secondary microorganisms.

Distribution and climate range

QFF is indigenous only to Australia but has the potential to establish populations in other tropical areas. It is the major fruit fly pest species in Eastern Australia and occurs in large populations.

It is also established in New Caledonia and the Austral Islands. It is usually found in the warmer areas of Australia but has been found in Tasmania indicating that adult fly may be able to establish in New Zealand especially in the warmer regions.



Surveillance

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

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