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ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY IN FRENCH POLYNESIA

The occurrence of Oriental fruit fly, *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel), in French Polynesia has been confirmed. This species is one of the six most damaging pest fruit flies in the world. It occurs in Cambodia, India to southern China, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam in South-east Asia and Hawaii and Nauru in the South Pacific.

It is capable of attacking most fleshy fruits and many vegetables. It will infest commercial fruits and vegetables such as avocado, banana, capsicum, chilli, grapefruit, mandarins, mango, orange, papaya, star apple, starfruit, tomato and many more. It will also attack wild or forest fruits, such as Pacific almond (*Terminalia catappa*), island chestnut (*Inocarpus fagifer*), pistach (*Syzygium cumuni*), other members of the *Syzygium* genus, and many others.

Oriental fruit fly was recorded in French Polynesia following the establishment of an extensive quarantine surveillance programme using traps baited with methyl eugenol and cuelure. This species is attracted to methyl eugenol. It has been recorded on Tahiti and Moorea. On Tahiti, it is widespread around the coastline, but is concentrated in the south-eastern corner on and adjacent to the Tairapu Peninsula. On Moorea, it occurs in very small numbers only along the northern coastline and at one site on the south-western coastline. At this stage, it has not been recorded in other island groups.

The Government of French Polynesia has requested assistance from the South Pacific Commission to develop a strategy for eradication consisting of male annihilation, strategic protein bait spraying, destruction of fallen fruits, and restrictions of movement of fresh fruits and vegetables. Quarantine authorities in French Polynesia have imposed restrictions on the movement of fresh produce to other islands and are treating all produce destined for other islands with methyl bromide before shipment. Public awareness of the Oriental fruit fly has been increased through the print and television media.



It recommended that Pacific Island countries and territories revise their quarantine surveillance programmes, making sure that the trapping programmes and targeted fruit surveys are fully operational. Countries and territories may wish to review their quarantine requirements related to the importation of produce from French Polynesia.

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