Mediterranean Fruit Fly

Ceratitis capitata Wiedemann (Diptera, Tephritidae)

Primary hosts

Coffee, bell pepper, citrus, common fig, apple

Symptoms

Attacked fruit usually shows signs of oviposition punctures and there is laboratory evidence of fruit-rotting fungal transmission. Very sweet fruits may produce a sugary exudate.

Life cycle

Eggs of *C. capitata* are laid below the skin of the host fruit. They hatch within 2-4 days (up to 16-18 days in cool weather) and the larvae feed for another 6-11 days (at 13-28°C). Eggs pupate in the soil under the host plant and adults emerge after 6-11 days (24-26°C; longer in cool conditions) and adults may live for up to 2 months. The climatic area in which *C. capitata* survives coincides with where Citrus is grown. Dispersal is by adult flight (up to 20km) and by transport of infested fruit.



Extension Service



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Current geographic distribution

Europe – mostly southern Europe; Asia – mostly Middle East; Africa; C. & S. America; USA restricted – few occurrences in CA, FL eradicated, HI present, TX eradicated; Australasia - few occurrences.

Life Stages: Adult, pupa, larva, eggs from: http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/fruit/mediterranean_fruit_fly.htm

Impact in Oregon Negligible.

N.B. Ceratitis capitata, the Mediterranean fruit fly, is one of the greatest economic pests of fruit worldwide. Adult flies require a protein food source in order to develop eggs, which may include animal excrement. A laboratory study, which investigated the possibility of *C. capitata* transmission of *Escherichia coli* to intact apples, found that the Mediterranean fruit fly is a potential vector of human pathogens to fruit and unpasteurized fruit juices.

(http://www.pestalert.org/pestnews.cfm, dated Aug 5, 2005)



Peach infested with larvae from: http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/fruit/mediterranean_fruit_fly.htm