

Hence the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) has placed an internal biosecurity ban on shipment of all fruits to and from Rotuma.

BAF would like to advise the travelling public to and from Rotuma that it is prohibited to bring any fruits from Rotuma into Fiji.

Fiji's economy is heavily dependent on agriculture and BAF needs your co-operation in keeping our islands free of unwanted pests and diseases.

People found in breach of this biosecurity regulation are liable for prosecution and penalties.

**Declaration of Infested Biosecurity
Controlled Areas for Fruit Fly
(*Bactrocera Xanthodes* and *kirki*)**

The island of Rotuma has been declared as an infested Biosecurity Controlled Area. Movements of any life stage (adult, pupa, larva, egg) of *Bactrocera kirki* and its hosts (Mango, Citrus, Kavika, Breadfruit, Papaya, Vutu) and any other fruits out of Rotuma without the permission of a biosecurity officer is strictly prohibited. The movement includes



transporting and carriage of any of the aforementioned fruits from Rotuma to any ship, boat, or aircraft that arrives and departs Rotuma. Failure to comply with this declaration is an offence under section 70(5) and 70(4) of the Biosecurity Promulgation 2008, and the court can issue a maximum fine of \$40,000 and /or 12 months imprisonment or an alternative fixed penalty of \$800.

Remember, Fiji needs **YOU to
DECLARE all fruits and vegetables in your possession as you enter or leave Rotuma!**

For more information please contact:

**Biosecurity Authority of Fiji Office –
Ahau Research Station Rotuma**

Ph: 889 1042

Fax: 889 1040

Headquarters (Suva)

Ph: 331 2512

Fax: 330 5043

Nadi Airport Biosecurity Office

Ph: 672 0803/ 672 5092

Fax: 672 0053

Lautoka Biosecurity Office

Ph: 666 1182

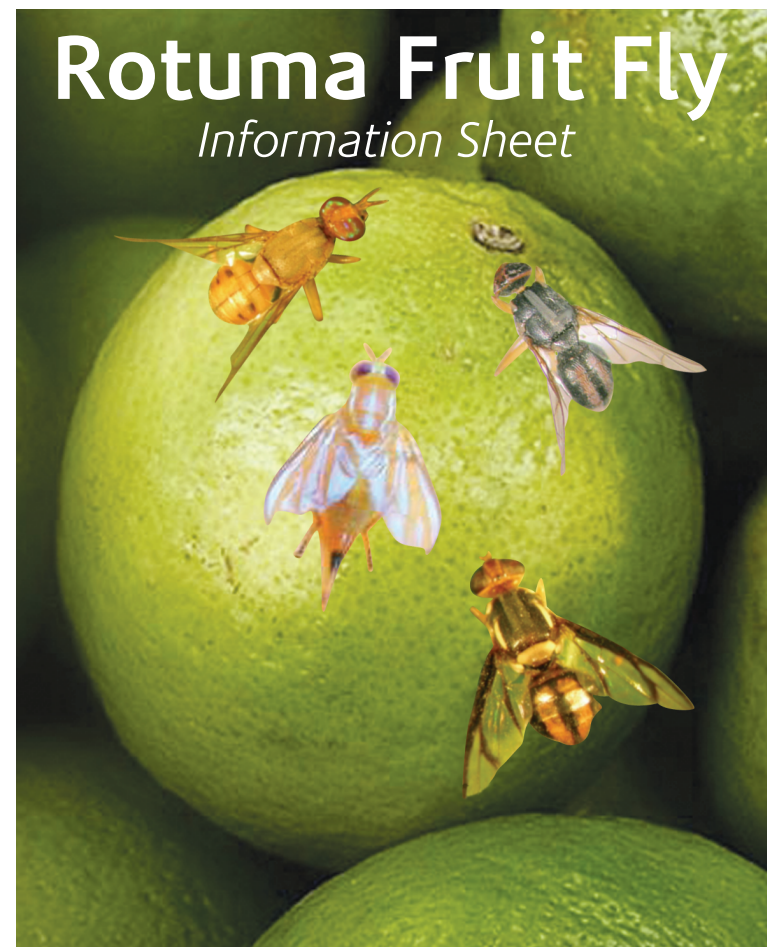
Fax: 665 0084

Email: info@biosecurityfiji.com



Rotuma Fruit Fly

Information Sheet



**Figalelei ma hat
rogrog te'is**

The Fiji Islands is relatively free from many pests and diseases that can cause widespread destruction to our wildlife, environment, and agricultural industry. It is important that we protect our country from the entry of exotic pests and diseases. Fruit flies (*Diptera: Tephritidae*) are one such pest that is a major biosecurity concern as they cause damage to commercial fruits and vegetables, hindering production of these fruits and vegetables and decreasing exports.



B. kirki

Main hosts include:
Mango
Citrus sp.
Kavika
Breadfruit
Papaya
Vutu

Figure 1: *B. kirki* present in Rotuma.

Many of us know fruit flies as maggots or worms that are commonly found in ripe guava, fao (*Pometia pinata*) and pe'a (avocado), mangoes and breadfruit.



B. xanthodes

Main hosts include:
Breadfruit
Papaya
Vutu

Figure 2: *B. xanthodes* present in Rotuma

Rotuma is different from the other islands of Fiji in its distribution of fruit flies on the island.

Rotuma has 4 species of fruit flies which are:

- *Bactrocera xanthodes*- (commonly known as Fijian fruit fly)
- *B. distincta*
- *B. obscura* (present only in Rotuma)
- *B. kirki* (present only in Rotuma)

Two of the above fruit flies, *B. kirki* and *B. obscura* are only present in Rotuma and not in other parts Fiji.

While *B. obscura* is not an economically important species, *B. kirki* is a fruit fly of economic importance and a very serious biosecurity pest as seen in Samoa and Tonga. *B. kirki* is a black fruit fly species with yellow markings near the head and wings. The lower body of *B. kirki* is glossy black with orange-brown longitudinal bands in the middle of the abdomen.



B. passiflorae

Main hosts include:
Mango
Citrus sp.
Kavika

Figure 3: *B. passiflorae* not present in Rotuma.

The migration of *B. kirki* to Fiji is likely to pose a significant threat to Fiji's fruits and vegetables and also affect Fiji's fresh produce exports.

Fiji has a Bilateral Quarantine Agreement (BQA) with New Zealand and Australia for export of fresh produce to these countries. The BQA ensures that a structured system is put in place to minimise the risk of injurious pests and diseases particularly fruit flies entering into these countries.

The migration of *B. kirki* can jeopardize the BQA with the two countries thus also hindering exports.



B. obscura

Is a forest species,
main hosts -

fruits found in
forests

Figure 4: *B. obscura* is present in Rotuma.

Similarly of the seven fruit fly species present in Fiji, three are not in Rotuma. One of these include *B. passiflorae*, which is also commonly called the Fijian fruit fly. *B. passiflorae* is also a very serious pest and it would cause even more damage to fruits and vegetables if it was introduced to Rotuma.

The cost of managing and controlling this pest will also be very high as experienced with the eradication of the other significant pests in Fiji such as the American Iguna and the Asian Subterranean Termites.

Remember, Fiji needs **YOU** to **DECLARE** all fruits and vegetables in your possession as you enter or leave Rotuma!