A guava fruit fly Bactrocera correcta (Bezzi) (Tephritidae)

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INTRODUCTION: Guava fruit fly, Bactrocera correcta (Bezzi) (Tephritidae), has been captured in fruit fly detection traps in two locations during July-August 2002. One male has been detected in Homestead (Miami-Dade County) on 24 July 2002; three males have been detected in traps at residences in Pinellas Park (Pinellas County) from 7-9 August 2002. This is only the fourth time that this species has been found in Florida: one fly was detected in Apopka (Orange Co.) on 4 May 2001, one fly was detected in Oviedo (Seminole Co.) on 1 August 2001, and two flies were captured in the Titusville area (Brevard Co.) in August 1999.

DISTRIBUTION: Widespread in India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan; also found in Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, and China. Detected numerous times in California since 1986, but not established.

HOST PLANTS: Recorded hosts include common guava (Psidium guajava), mango (Mangifera indica), peach (Prunus persica), rose-apple (Syzygium jambos), sapodilla (Manilkara zapota) (Clausen et al. 1965; Fletcher 1919; Satoh et al. 1985; Shah and Vora 1975 [all from White and Elson-Harris 1992]); Suriname cherry (Eugenia uniflora), apricot (Prunus armeniaca) (Kapoor 1993). In India, this fly infests “mango, peaches, … orange, etc. …,” and, as it co-occurs with the much more aggressively breeding Bactrocera dorsalis (Oriental fruit fly) and B. zonata (peach fruit fly), its full pest potential is poorly known (Kapoor 1993). In Thailand, it frequently attacks common jujube (Ziziphus jujube) and tropical almond (Terminalia catappa) (White and Elson-Harris 1992).

ADULT IDENTIFICATION: Generally similar to oriental fruit fly, but smaller and with a darker, mostly black thorax. The brown band along the leading edge of the wing has a clear gap before the wing tip (continuous in B. dorsalis). The face has a nearly continuous black band below the antennae (separate spots in B. dorsalis) (see Weems 1987).

ATTRACTANT: Males are attracted to methyl eugenol. Detection of this and many other fruit flies depends on a widespread grid of baited traps in areas where introductions are likely to occur. Once a fly is detected, the trapping density is greatly increased for several square miles around the detection point. If further flies are detected, an eradication program may be implemented. As methyl eugenol is such a powerful attractant, an insecticide is added to the bait and flies are quickly annihilated.

REFERENCES:


Bactrocera correcta (Bezzi) -- male
Photo credit: Jeffrey Lotz, FDACS/DPI