# MORPHOMETRIC STUDIES OF FRUIT FLIES COLLECTED IN BATTICALOA REGION





*BY*

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## ABSTRACT

A study on the morphological characters of fruit flies was conducted in the Biology laboratory, Department of Agronomy of Eastern university of Sri Lanka, to identify the fruit fly species of cucurbits (*Bactocera* species), during the period of July to October, 2001.

Fruit flies of cucurbits were collected from Snake gourd (*Trichosanthes cucumerina* L), Bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia* L), and Luffa (*Lufa acutangula*), grown in the Agronomy farm of EUSL with the help of polythene bags and pheromone traps. Permanent slides of these fruit flies were prepared and the measurements and observations were made with the help of a light microscope fixed with vernier. Length of antennae, head, thorax, wings, legs, abdomen and ovipositor and their special features, were considered as the key parameters.

The results showed that two species of fruit flies associated with cucurbits were present in the Agronomy farm. Based on the number of fruit flies collected *Bactocera* (*Zeugodacus*) *cucurbitae* was higher in number than the *Bactocera* (*Zeugodacus*) *gavisa*. It was also noted that *Bactocera* (*Zeugodacus*) *cucurbitae* was not attracted to pheromone, Methyl Eugenol.

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