

MORPHOMETRIC STUDIES OF FRUIT FLIES COLLECTED IN BATTICALOA REGION

BY
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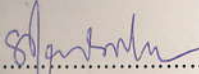
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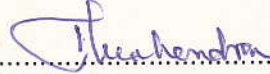
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ABSTRACT

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 (*Luffa 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.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	PAGE
ABSTRACT	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	ii
CONTENTS	iii
List of Figures	vi
List of Tables	viii
List of Plates	ix
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE	7
2.1 Taxonomy of fruit fly	7
2.1.1 Taxonomy nomenclature	7
2.1.2 Order Diptera	7
2.1.3 Family Tephritidae	8
2.1.4 Sub family Dacinae	8
2.1.5 Tribe Dacini	9
2.2 Identification of fruit fly	10
2.3 Fruit fly background	10
2.4 Distribution and host relationship of major fruit fly pest genera	10
2.4.1. <i>Anastrepha</i> species	11
2.4.2. <i>Bactocera</i> species	11

2.4.3. <i>Ceratitis</i> species	11
2.4.4. <i>Dacus</i> species	11
2.4.5. <i>Rhagoletis</i> species	12
2.5 Morphology of fruit fly	12
2.5.1 Head	12
2.5.2 Thorax	13
2.5.2.1 Wings and halteres	14
2.5.2.2 Legs	15
2.5.3 Abdomen	15
2.5.3.1 Female genitalia	16
2.5.3.2 Male genitalia	16
2.5.3.3 Cerci	16
2.6 Major fruit fly species	17
2.7 Major fruit fly species in Sri Lanka	18
2.8 Strategies for control of fruit fly	18
2.9 Economic importance of fruit flies	21
CHAPTER 3 MATERIALS AND METHODS	23
3.1 Collection of adult fruit flies	23
3.2 Identification of the infested pods	23
3.3 Techniques to trap adult fruit flies	23
3.3.1 Pheromone traps	24
3.3.2 Polythene bags	25
3.4 Collection time of fruit flies	25

3.5 Separation of males and females	25
3.6 Preparation of permanent slides of fruit flies	26
3.6.1. Boiling	26
3.6.2. Dehydration	26
3.6.3. Clearing	26
3.6.4. Mounting	26
3.6 Measurements	27
3.7 Characters used in this study	27
CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	29
4.1 The number of fruit flies collected	29
4.2 Morphological characters of collected fruit flies	30
4.2.1 Poly bag trapped fruit flies	30
4.2.1.1 Poly bag collected males	30
4.2.1.2 Poly bag collected females	40
4.2.2 Pheromone trapped fruit flies	51
4.3 Discussion	61
CONCLUSION	67
BIBLIOGRAPHY	68
PLATES	76