

Establishment of TEAM (Tephritidae of Europe, Africa and the Middle East), a new international working group on fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritidae)

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Introduction

Here we present TEAM, a newly established scientific group that deals with fruit flies in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. TEAM is a professional organization that constitutes a formal platform for the generation and exchange of knowledge and information in relation to fruit flies.

The idea emerged in May 2004, in Florida USA during the meeting of the Working group on Fruit Flies of the Western Hemisphere. The first organizational meeting of TEAM took place in Vienna on the 11th of May 2005 during the "Second FAO/IAEA International Conference on Area-Wide Control of Insect Pests: Integrating the Sterile Insect and Related Nuclear and other Techniques". Approximately sixty scientists of more than 30 organizations/Institutions participated and decided to establish TEAM. A steering committee of 10 members was elected.

Why establishing TEAM?

Africa, Europe and the Middle East have interacted commercially, politically and economically for thousands of years, mutually influencing each other throughout history.

Trading, human mobility and cooperation between these areas has resulted in movements of cultivated plants and transfer of pests. Although among the most important pests are certain species of fruit flies, so far there has been a lack of scientific interaction within the framework of an international organization.

TEAM was established to fill this need, as a professional organization that constitutes a formal platform for the generation and exchange of knowledge and information in relation to fruit flies in this areas.

Fruit flies

Fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritidae), comprise an important group of insects inflicting severe damage upon the agricultural sector, and upon the trading industries of agricultural commodities.

Within the approximately 194 taxa belonging to the Tephritidae family, there are several species listed as the most notorious agricultural pests. For example the olive fruit fly (*Bactrocera oleae*) is the most damaging pest in olive culture, while the Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*), an extremely polyphagous pest that infests more than 300 plant species, is considered to be the most important pest for fruit production worldwide. Other major genera considered target pests, besides *Ceratitis* and *Bactrocera*, include *Dacus*, *Rhagoletis*, and *Anastrepha*.



Bactrocera oleae
Olive Fruit Fly



Ceratitis capitata
Mediterranean Fruit Fly



Bactrocera zonata
Peach Fruit Fly



Dacus ciliatus
Lesser Pumpkin Fly



Rhagoletis cerasi
European Cherry Fruit Fly

TEAM working group objectives

- To establish an independent scientific group that addresses questions regarding fruit flies in Europe Africa and the Middle East.
- To provide a platform for interaction promoting collaboration and communication among scientists in these areas.
- To organize scientific meetings every 2-3 years.
- To develop a web site that provides online information and interaction between scientists.
- To promote basic and applied research on biology, ecology, behavior, genetics, physiology, management and other disciplines.
- To promote scientific exchanges through co-operative projects with particular attention to students and junior researchers.

TEAM is open to every individual who wills to become member
If you are interested fill up the registration form below!!

Registration forms

TAKE ONE!



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