



Face

Thorax

Lateral view and legs



Abdomen



Wing

Dacus ciliatus (Loew)

Diagnosis: Small sized, reddish brown fly devoid of lateral and medial vittae on thorax, wing hyaline with a narrow costal band, all femora yellow without any prepectal markings, abdomen reddish-brown with fused tergites. Males do not respond to any of the parapheromones. It is widely distributed in India infesting cucurbitaceous crops.



Habitus lateral



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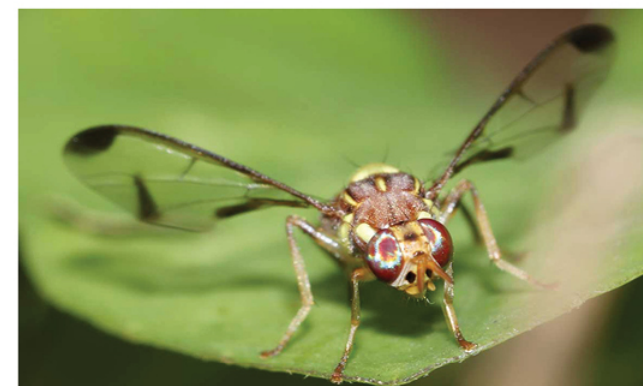
Management

- Ply woods blocks impregnated with cuelure added with two to four drops of toxicant like malathion or spinosad is placed in containers called traps with suitable holes or vents for entry of fly. These are male annihilation (MA) traps, placed @ 16–20 traps/ acre. Traps can be tied to staked bamboo sticks/ hung below the *pandal* at 3–4 feet height from above the ground.

(Note: The toxicant has to be added to the plywood block using an ink filler by the farmer before placing in the MA trap. We advocate the use of ICAR-NBAIR licensed traps.)

- Bisexual attractant in yellow traps along with male traps is efficient in controlling these pests.
- Hanging yellow/orange plastic balls, (visual attractants) smeared with non-drying adhesive along the borders helps in early detection of fruit flies.
- Spraying 10% jaggery bait solutions, mixed with a toxicant like cypermethrin (@ 2ml/litre), on the lowest leaves, close to the ground, once a week starting from early fruit formation further controls the flies. This is for *Dacus ciliatus*, as it is not attracted to cuelure.
- At every harvest infested fruits have to be removed and deep-buried in soil.
- Sprays of azadirachtin (3000ppm) @ 3ml/l, after fruit set especially in organic cucurbits mitigates the infestation. In staggered or multiple picked crops, this can be repeated.
- It is important to keep the fields weed-free and clean (without rotting fruits).
- Avoiding flood irrigation and adopting drip mitigates infestation.

Identification of fruit fly pests of cucurbits in India and its management



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