



CARIBBEAN PLANT HEALTH DIRECTORS

PROTECTING CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE

CARAMBOLA FRUIT FLY



The Carambola fruit fly also known as the *Bactrocera carambolae*, is a pest of many fruits. It was first found in Malaysia, around the southern peninsular area of Thailand and throughout western Indonesia.

Once a fruit is stung, a sort of decomposition of the fruit begins because the species lay eggs below the skin of the host fruit where they hatch within a day or up to 20 days depending on cool conditions.



The fruits that are infested by Carambola fruit flies, are known to show dark dots, which indicate egg-laying. Adult females lay eggs under the skin of the fruits.

Fruits like the carambola fruit, cherry, and guava, can show the dark dots of infestation. Other fruits show less to no symptoms. Carambola fruit flies also favour curacao apple, west Indian cherry, mango, starapple and sapodilla.



Places that do not have the Carambola fruit fly, still have precautions like the McPhail trap. Another early detection system is the Jackson system, which is methyl-eugenol bait.

What can you do?

- Do NOT bring into your country any fruit or agricultural produce without the required Plant Quarantine Import Permits/Approval
- When you travel declare all agricultural items
- Report any infested (pierced or larvae present) fruit to your Ministry or Department of Agriculture. If fruit flies are present do not sell or transport infested fruit
- Follow all control recommendations from your Ministry or Department of Agriculture