

Fruit Fly News

FFN#49 - February 2026

Photo credit Zhihong Li



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FRUIT FLY NEWS

FFN#49— FEBRUARY 2026

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12th International Symposium on Fruit Flies of Economic Importance

AGADIR, MOROCCO
10 / 15 MAY 2026

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1. GUEST OF HONOUR



Prof. Zhihong Li

I was born in Hebei, China, in 1969 and spent my earlier years in Tianjin, China from 1971-1987. It was a very happy period for me, with my young brother, parents, grandparents, other families and good friends. I love my hometowns and often visit them.

I am the leading professor at the Department of Plant Biosecurity, College of Plant Protection, China Agricultural University (CAU). I came to Beijing in September 1987 and had a ten-year education at CAU. I received my B.S. in 1991, M.S. in 1994 and Ph.D. in 1997 in Agricultural Entomology.

[Read more..](#)

2. NEWS

Meeting of experts in fruit fly biological control



Jorge Cancino & Sergio Ovruski

Fruit fly control programs across Latin America face common challenges due to their heavy reliance on chemical pesticides. Beyond environmental and health concerns, this dependence has prompted social criticism and raised the risk of pesticide resistance.

Biological control has emerged as a strong alternative, gaining ground thanks to its proven field performance and broad social acceptance. This progress has fostered two important developments: 1) teams of specialists advancing parasitoid mass-rearing, release, and evaluation techniques, and 2) the ongoing need to train and retain researchers in basic sciences such as behavior, genetics, and taxonomy.

[Read more..](#)

Chemical ecology of fruit flies continues to be the focal point of international attention



Alvin Kah-Wei Hee

Although many species of tephritid fruit flies are serious pests of fruits and vegetables, their strong attraction to certain host plant volatiles has long been a subject of fascination among tephritidologists, often leading to discoveries of chemical compounds useful in monitoring and control of pest fruit flies. Interests in this exciting science continue to grow in various regions of the world.

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Apply bait sprays for fruit fly control where it counts: mid to upper canopy

Aruna Manrakhan & Chris Weldon

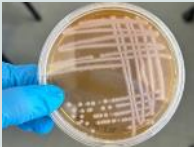


All markets have a zero tolerance for fruit flies in exported citrus. As a result, considerable efforts are undertaken to suppress fruit fly populations in orchards. Protein bait sprays are recommended and are effective. These are more commonly used than other protein bait application techniques such as bait stations and mass trapping. In addition to baiting, orchard sanitation is essential, and further suppression can be achieved using male-targeted attract-and-kill products.

[Read more..](#)

Fruit fly management research at the Centre for Biological Control, Rhodes University, South Africa

Marcel van der Merwe, Caroline Knox, Aruna Manrakhan and Martin Hill



The South African citrus industry faces challenges from three fruit fly pest species: *Ceratitis capitata*, *C. rosa* and *Bactrocera dorsalis*. These pests can cause economic losses through larval feeding, rendering fruit unmarketable. They are also pests of quarantine importance, with stringent export regulations associated with them. As one of the world's leading citrus exporters, South Africa therefore requires innovative, effective, and sustainable strategies for managing fruit fly pests.

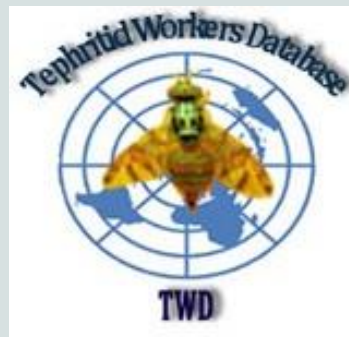
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Triple Triumph for icipe



A triple celebration at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe), with three researchers receiving globally prestigious recognition and grants.

[Read more..](#)



Invasive fruit fly control and prevention in the United States



Corey Bazalet, USDA APHIS

In 2025, USDA APHIS and their partners had another busy year fighting outbreaks of invasive fruit flies, especially in California and Texas. See a running list of program updates [here](#)

Incursions of Oriental fruit fly into New Zealand, and successful eradication



Mike Inglis, Biosecurity New Zealand Commissioner North

Foreign pests are a significant threat to New Zealand's multi-billion-dollar horticultural industry, including a number of fruit fly species. Their small size, coupled with their ability to enter the country while hidden in fruits and vegetables, make them a particularly serious threat.

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3. YOUNG SCIENTIST'S CORNER

Paloma Guazzelli Della Giustina



Vacaria, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

My name is Paloma Della Giustina, and I grew up in Vacaria, in southern Brazil, a region shaped by fruit production, especially apples. Coming from a farming family, I saw early on how deeply pest pressure can impact a production system, and how urgently farmers need sustainable and effective solutions.

[Read more..](#)

Fozia Masood



Applied BioSciences, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

I was born and raised in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in a multicultural environment. From an early age, I was drawn to science through a curiosity about how medicines work, particularly how a drug administered orally targets a specific site in the body, such as relieving a headache. This simple question stayed with me and gradually shaped my academic interests.

[Read more..](#)

Dylan Pullock



Department of Zoology and Entomology, Forestry and Agriculture Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria, South Africa

My name is Dylan Pullock, and I am a PhD student at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, where I have completed all my other studies. Despite living most of my life in Pretoria, I was born in KwaZulu Natal and spent many holidays on my grandparent's farm outside Vryheid. The land was mostly untouched since my grandfather only cultivated a small maize field near the farmhouse where he also kept a few animals. As a child, I was fascinated by the animals present on the farm, both domestic and wild, as well as the effort it took to work the field. Ultimately my grandparents ended up selling the farm, but those early years shaped my interest in the natural world, and my grandfather's struggles left its own imprint, though I didn't realise it at the time.

[Read more..](#)

Rayhana Adnasse



SIT Center, Ait Melloul, Agadir Ida Outanane, Morocco

My name is Rayhana Adnasse. I am an agronomic engineer, a graduate of the Hassan II Institute of Agronomic and Veterinary Medicine (IAV), Morocco. I was born and raised in Agadir in a family of five. Every weekend, we used to visit the Ouled Aissa region, where my grandparents are originally from. As a result, I grew up surrounded by citrus orchards and immersed in an agricultural environment.

[Read more..](#)

Seon Ah Jeong

Institute of Agriculture and Life Science, Gyeongsang National University, Jinju 52828, Republic of Korea



My name is Seon Ah Jeong, and I was born in Daejeon, the science capital of Korea, where I grew up surrounded by science from an early age. I earned my Bachelor of Science degree at Hannam University, and completed both my Master's and PhD degrees while working at the Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology (KRIBB). During my graduate studies, I conducted research on the chemical communication systems of various insects, including two fruit fly species (*Bactrocera depressa* and *B. scutellata*) and some other insects such as *Drosophila suzukii* and *Spodoptera* moths.

[Read more..](#)

Md Nazim Uddin

Darsana Government college, Chuadanga, Bangladesh



Hello. I am Dr. Md Nazim Uddin. The fruit fly research community of Bangladesh introduce me as a fruit fly cytogeneticist, and as such I now have to take the lead in fruit fly cytogenetic research in this country. Their comments make me proud, and self-confident as well; but this pushes me into an area of uncertainty, with a huge responsibility for the continuation of fruit fly research in Bangladesh.

[Read more..](#)

Vasilis Rodovitis

Laboratory of Entomology and Agricultural Zoology, Department of Agriculture, Crop Production and Rural Environment, University of Thessaly, Volos, Greece



I was born on January 31, 1994, and I come from Naoussa, Imathia, a small mountainous town of about 15,000 inhabitants in northern Greece. Naoussa is surrounded by forests and rich natural landscapes, as it lies on the foothills of Mount Vermio. My father originates from Agia Fotini in Edessa, while my mother is from Naoussa. This broader region is the largest fruit- and vegetable-producing zone in Greece and one of the most important in the Balkans, with a remarkable diversity of cultivated crops. I grew up and spent my childhood and teenage years in Naoussa, the surrounding areas, and the nearby village, spending most of my time outdoors and in nature.

[Read more..](#)

4. UPCOMING MEETINGS

12th ISFFEI 2026



10 - 15 May 2026 | Agadir | Morocco

<https://12isffe-morocco.com/>

In case you have any questions, please contact the technical Secretariat at: info@12isffe-morocco.com

12th TWWH Meeting 2028



The 12th TWWH meeting will be held in 2028, and the venue will be announced during the [12th ISFFEI](#) in Agadir, Morocco, in 2026. Those interested in hosting the meeting and who have institutional support can contact Janisete Silva (jgs10@uol.com.br) in order to request the proposal form. The organizing committee will be receiving proposals until the end of March 2026.

In case you have any questions, please contact [TWWH](#) chair, Janisete Silva at: jgs10@uol.com.br

6th TEAM Meeting 2028



14 - 18 August 2028 | Arusha | Tanzania

In case you have any questions, please contact [TEAM](#) chair, Aruna Manrakhan at: aruna@cri.co.za

3rd TAAO Meeting 2028



October 2028 | Ha-Noi | Viet Nam |

In case you have any questions, please contact [TAAO](#) chair, Zhihong Li at: lzh@cau.edu.cn

5. PUBLICATIONS ON TEPHRITIDAE IN 2025*

Top 25 authors, Top 25 Affiliations, and Top 25 countries. Source: Based on [346 publications](#) from the Web of Science (Compiled by Pablo Liedo)

Top 25 authors



*Disclaimer: These charts have been created by the Web of Science and produced as JPG files. It is therefore not possible to make the text more readable. We apologize to any readers who have difficulty reading the text.

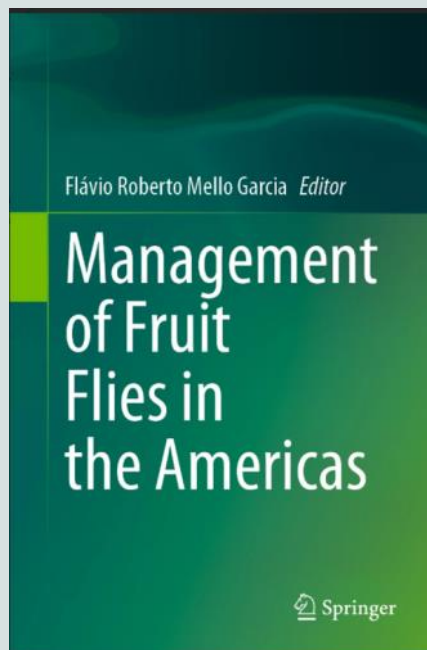
Top 25 affiliations



Top 25 Countries



Management of Fruit Flies in the Americas



2024

Flávio Roberto Mello Garcia, Editor

The book represents a landmark contribution to agricultural entomology and plant protection in the Western Hemisphere. Bringing together the expertise of 82 leading researchers from Central, North, and South America, the volume provides a comprehensive overview of the management of fruit flies in the genera *Anastrepha*, *Bactrocera*, *Ceratitis*, and *Rhagoletis*, all recognized as pests of major economic importance in fruit production systems.

[Book overview](#)

A SELECTION OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- De Oliveira Filho, M.C., Alencar, J.B.R., Araújo, A.S., et al. Influence of canopy cover on the diversity of *Anastrepha* (Diptera: Tephritidae) in an Atlantic forest fragment in Brejo Paraibano, Northeast Brazil. *Int J Trop Insect Sci* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42690-025-01677-3>.
- FAO/IAEA. (2025). Thematic Plan for Fruit Fly Management Using the Sterile Insect Technique. Vienna, Austria. 62 pp. <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/ff-thematic-plan.pdf>
- FAO/IAEA. (2025). Guidelines for mass-rearing of the West Indian fruit fly *Anastrepha obliqua* (Macquart). Yeudiel Gómez-Simuta, Walther Enkerlin, and M. Teresa Vera (eds.). Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations/International Atomic Energy Agency. Vienna, Austria. 41 pp. ([EN](#), [ES](#))
- FAO/IAEA. (2025). Guidelines for mass-rearing of the Mexican fruit fly *Anastrepha ludens* (Loew). Yeudiel Gómez-Simuta, Walther Enkerlin, and M. Teresa Vera (eds.). Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations/International Atomic Energy Agency. Vienna, Austria. 42 pp. ([EN](#), [ES](#))
- Insect Science. (2025). Special issue on “[Improvement of colony management in insect mass-rearing for sterile insect technique applications](#)”. Adly M. M. Abd-Alla, Brian Weiss, and Pablo Liedo (eds.). *Insect Science*, 32 (5): 1473-1819. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/17447917/2025/32/5>
- Kevin Malod, Eleftheria-Maria D. Bali, Corentin Gledel, Emma Dieudonne, Laura Moquet, Anandi Bierman, Evmorfia Bataka, Vassilis Rodovitis, Christopher W. Weldon, Minette Karsten, Hélène Delatte, Nikos T. Papadopoulos, John S. Terblanche. (2025). *Effects of past and current temperatures on the flight performance of invasive pest fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritidae): Climate change may facilitate movements of tropical species to higher latitudes*. In: *Functional Ecology; Special Feature: Causes and Consequences of Phenotypic Plasticity* Isabel L. Smallegange & Natalie Pilakouta (eds.). Vol. 39 (11), 3139-3151. <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1365-2435.70165>

Fruit Fly Proceedings and Newsletters

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• Previous fruit fly meetings and proceedings

• Tephritid fruit fly regional Groups



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