

***Zaprionus indianus*, could be a serious pest in Lebanon?**

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In 2009, larvae of drosophila fly were found associated with larvae of Medfly *Ceratitis capitata* inside kiwi fruits in the costal area of Lebanon. Infested fruits decayed and dropped on the ground. Fallen fruits were collected and Larvae were reared in the Laboratory of Plant protection in the Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute (LARI). Emerged adults were identified as *Zaprionus indianus* Gupta.

This small fly is a kind of drosophila native to Africa and it has previously colonized India and the Middle East regions (Chassagnard & Kraaijeveld 1991). The fly is easily recognized from the common vinegar fly by the white stripes across her head and thorax.

In Africa, *Zaprionus indianus* was reported to infest 74 species of fruits already damaged (Lachaise & Tsacas 1983), including avocado, banana, citrus, fig, guava, mango and persimmon (Kaki) which are all produced in Lebanon. Females are unable to lay eggs through the skin of fruits but they need injuries or wounds which was the case of infested fruits of kiwi when females of *Zaprionus indianus* have used the oviposition places of the Medfly to lay their eggs.

Exceptionally on fig, the fly can cause direct damage because emerged larvae have an easy access inside the fresh fruits through the ostiole (Vilela et al. 2001). In 1999, *Zaprionus indianus* was first reported in São Paulo, Brazil, where it has caused an estimated loss of 50 % of fig production in the region (Vilela 1999). Could this small fly cause a serious damage to the fig production in Lebanon?

A First survey is carried out by the Department of Plant protection of LARI at Fanar station in the area of fig production between Batroun and Jbeil regions to study the infestation of fig fruits by *Zaprionus indianus*.

