

The relative abundance and association between fruit flies, *Bactrocera* spp. in Sudan

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Flies (Diptera: Tephritidae) are the most destructive insect pests of fruits and vegetables in the world. Fruit and vegetable production is one of the most important agricultural subsectors in Africa, providing income, creating employment opportunities, and enhancing food and nutritional security. Sudan has a vast and diverse fruit and vegetable production zones which enable production of horticultural crops all around the year. Fruits and vegetables are important components in human nutrition as they are an important source for minerals and vitamins. In Sudan the production of fruits and vegetables is affected by fruit flies (*Bactrocera* spp.) that may play a major role in reducing production and limiting the exportation capabilities.

These pests cause significant losses to crops which include direct damage to production and rising cost of protection.



Infestation of *B. zonata* in push



Infestation *B. zonata* in mango

The objective of the present study was to investigate the relative abundance and association between fruit flies (*Bactrocera zonata* and *Bactrocera invadens*) (Diptera: Tephritidae).

Several field surveys were conducted in Wad Medani Area, Gezira State, Sudan during season 2016/2017. Three locations were selected in the study area and three sites were selected at each location. An orchard was randomly selected at each site and five directions at each orchard were determined. Methyl Eugenol trap was used to estimate the seasonal abundance of the fly among locations and sites.

Data were subjected to descriptive analysis and regression analysis. The relative abundance of *Bactrocera dorsalis* (76.9%) was higher compared to the *Bactrocera zonata* (23.1%) at Wad Medani area, Gezira State, Sudan throughout the season 2016/17. In conclusion, the finding of this study could be utilised in sustainable pest management strategy for fruit flies (*Bactrocera* spp.) in the agro-ecological system of Gezira State, Sudan.



Bactrocera zonata



Bactrocera dorsalis