



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

<https://apps.lucidcentral.org/ppp/>

Pepper fruit fly (416)



Photo 1. Larva (maggot) of the pepper fruit fly, *Atherigona orientalis*.



Photo 2. Adult pepper fruit fly, *Atherigona orientalis* (top view).



Photo 3. Adult pepper fruit fly, *Atherigona orientalis* (side view).

Summary

- Worldwide. In Australia and most Pacific island countries.
- Minor pest of brassica, cucurbit, legume, potato, grass families. Also breeds in decaying organic matter. Major hosts: beans, cabbages, cauliflowers, melon, orange, sorghum (causes 'deadhearts'), and tomato.
- Maggots do the damage, but presence does not mean they are the cause.
- Eggs laid under calyx of fruit, in cracks, grooves, or rots caused by physical damage and those of other insects. Maggots white, 4-6 mm long. Pupae dark orange-red. Adults yellowish-grey fly, squarish head, up to 4 mm long, wingspan 3 mm, dark thorax and yellow abdomen.
- Natural enemies: pupal parasitoids.
- Biosecurity: regulated pest in New Zealand.
- Cultural control: avoid use of chicken manure as flies may use it to breed.
- Chemical control: not recommended, but if needed use neem.

Common Name

Pepper fruit fly; it is also known as the tomato fruit fly.

Scientific Name

Atherigona orientalis

This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds*

The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

