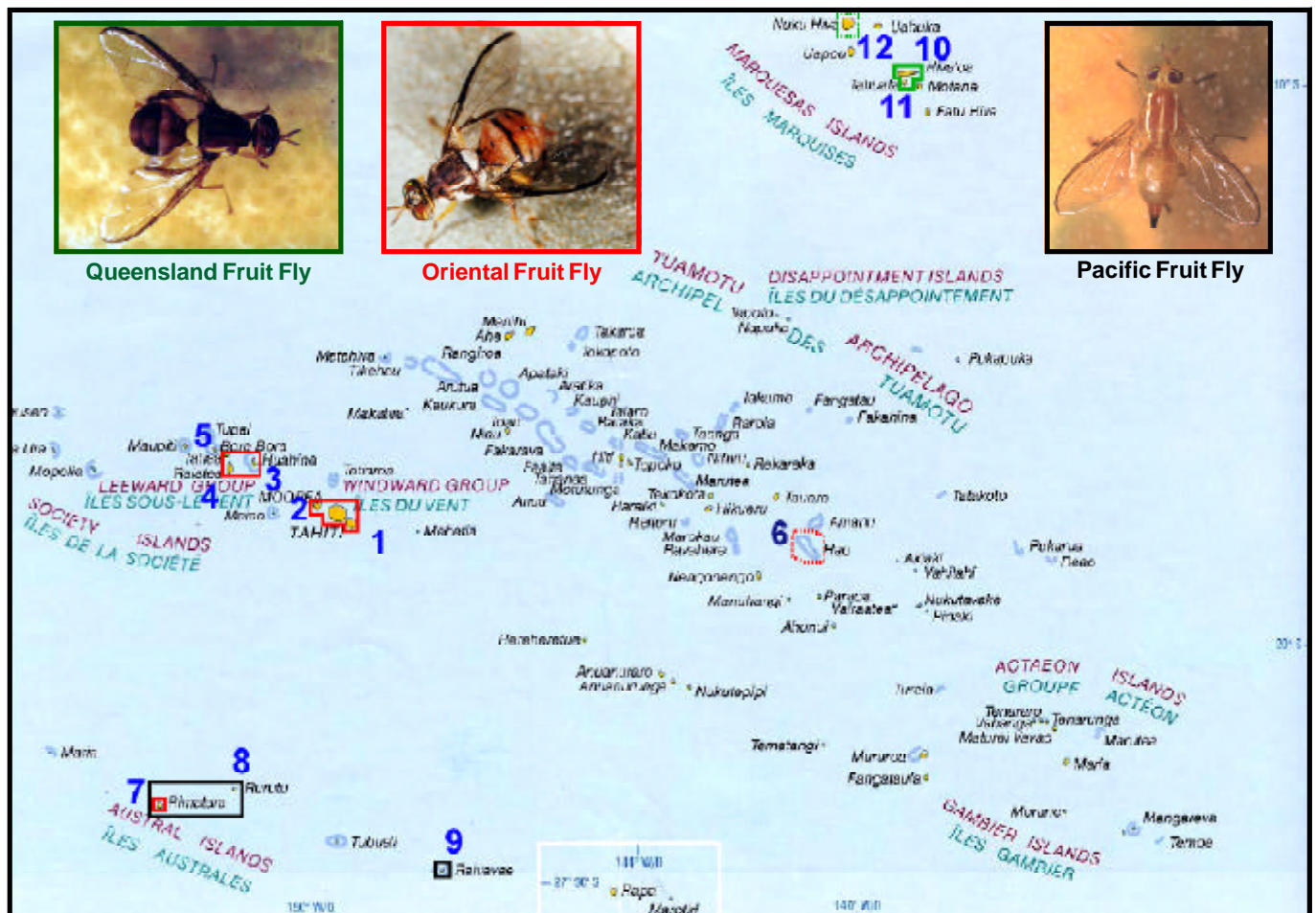




## Oriental and Pacific fruit flies spread within French Polynesia

Oriental fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel)) (OFF) was originally detected in French Polynesia on Tahiti and Moorea in July 1996. Efforts to eradicate the species since January 1997, using male annihilation technique (MAT) and very limited protein bait application technique (BAT) have not been successful. Six MAT campaigns in 1997 reduced the OFF population and distribution to a point near eradication, but the programme was interrupted for one year, and resumed on Tahiti and Moorea in early 1999. The latest MAT campaign took place in April 2002. Soon after the OFF discovery, an extensive surveillance network was established throughout French Polynesia, with cue-lure and methyl eugenol traps on 20 islands or atolls, to monitor the spread of OFF and the incursion of other exotic species.

Recently, OFF was confirmed on Huahine (Leeward Group) (May 2002), Raiatea and Tahaa (Leeward Group) (June 2002), and Rimatara (Austral Group) (June 2002). Incursions were detected at a very early stage on Rimatara, Raiatea and Tahaa, and very few flies are trapped in its limited distribution range. On Huahine, on the other hand, OFF is widespread. In response to its detection, MAT and BAT campaigns were initiated and are ongoing.



Pacific fruit fly (*Bactrocera xanthodes* (Broun)) was discovered on Raivavae (April 1998), Rurutu (May 2000), and recently on Rimatara (June 2002). Eradication responses, using MAT and BAT, were initiated in December 1998, May 2000, and June 2002, respectively. The species has nearly been eradicated but very few flies are still trapped and sustained efforts to rid the Austral group on this species are continuing. Eradication of OFF, Pacific fruit fly, and Queensland fruit fly (*Bactrocera tryoni* (Froggatt)) is in progress on 12 islands or has been successfully completed, as shown on the table and map above.

The confirmation on the occurrence of OFF in Huahine, Raiatea, Tahaa and Rimatara, is a threat to the neighbouring Pacific Island countries and territories. It is imperative that these neighbouring countries strengthen their border control programmes involving the movement of yachts.

|    | Islands   | Species                          | Date Detected | Status                         |
|----|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1  | Tahiti    | <i>B. dorsalis</i>               | July 1996     | Large populations              |
| 2  | Moorea    | <i>B. dorsalis</i>               | July 1996     | Large populations              |
| 3  | Huahine   | <i>B. dorsalis</i>               | May 2002      | Large populations              |
| 4  | Raiatea   | <i>B. dorsalis</i>               | June 2002     | Restricted distribution        |
| 5  | Tahaa     | <i>B. dorsalis</i>               | June 2002     | Restricted distribution        |
| 6  | Hao       | <i>B. dorsalis</i>               | February 2000 | Eradicated                     |
| 7  | Rimatara  | <i>B. dorsalis, B. xanthodes</i> | June 2002     | Low populations                |
| 8  | Rurutu    | <i>B. xanthodes</i>              | May 2000      | Restricted distribution        |
| 9  | Raivavae  | <i>B. xanthodes</i>              | April 1998    | Very low populations           |
| 10 | Hiva Oa   | <i>B. tryoni</i>                 | May, 2002     | Restricted distribution        |
| 11 | Tahuata   | <i>B. tryoni</i>                 | December 1999 | Widespread but low populations |
| 12 | Nuku Hiva | <i>B. tryoni</i>                 | July 1999     | Eradicated                     |

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Communications of pest and disease incidents of interest to the Pacific region should be sent to: **Plant Protection Service**, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji Islands. Tel:(+679) 3370733; Fax: (+679) 3386326; E-mail:[pps@spc.int](mailto:pps@spc.int)