

# The role of the Cuarentagri project in monitoring and issuing phytosanitary sheets concerning the Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata* Wiedeman) (Diptera: Tephritidae) as part of an agricultural warning system in the Azores

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**Abstract:** The Cuarentagri project aims to identify harmful organisms that can affect the different regions of Macaronesia and in particular the Azores. These regions and countries have a biodiversity and particular climatic conditions.

The main objective of this project is to prevent and/or reduce the establishment and proliferation of new harmful organisms, promoting better training in pest risk analysis (PRA) for technicians and producing and disseminating this information to technicians, farmers and citizens.

For achieving it is very important to know which harmful organisms affect citrus from the European Union priority lists like *Trysa erytrae* Del Guercio and his vectors can be introduced, outlining contingency plans to deal with these organisms.

The project is being developed on three Azorean islands: Terceira, São Miguel and São Jorge, and covers citrus pest among others. *T. erytrae* symptoms were not yet observed in the three islands analysed. In addition, *C. capitata* population evolution was monitored using different types of traps and attractants allowing to know the most efficient combination. The best combination trap and attractant was Tephri trap with food attractant trimolure.

The population dynamic data permitted to create agricultural warnings as part of a new alert system. For this purpose, phytosanitary sheets were issued fortnightly with medfly appearance and evolution information. Was also concluded that in Terceira island the traps should be on the field earlier than September to know when the *C. capitata* first peak appears as done in São Jorge and São Miguel.

**Key words:** alert network, medfly, phytosanitary, citrus, Azores.