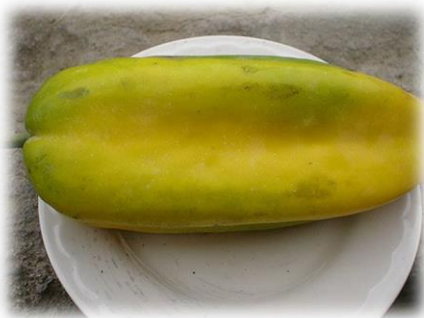


RISK BACKGROUND

Fresh babaco for human consumption

Overview



(Image: Gualán, A, (2007) *Babaco*,
<https://flic.kr/p/2vACVe>
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Fresh babaco (*Vasconcellea x heilbornii* (syn. *Carica pentagona*, *Carica pubescens* and *Carica stipulate*)) for human consumption do not require an import permit but must be:

- sourced from New Zealand
- subject to pre-export inspection by the exporting country
- accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate
- securely packaged (i.e. insect proof)
- inspected on-arrival.

The department has not developed import conditions for fresh babaco sourced from countries other than New Zealand.

Importers and department staff should ensure that BICON conditions are met and that fruit is free from general contamination, and the key risks described below.

Key risks

Fruit fly

Fresh babaco may have the potential to introduce fruit flies, particularly *Bactrocera* spp. which are highly invasive and have a large host range. They have the potential to cause significant economic impact on Australia's horticultural industries and are a [national plant priority pest](#) for Australia. Eggs are laid below the skin of host fruit where larvae feed and develop. Some necrosis may be occur around the puncture site on affected fruit.

As key fruit flies associated with babaco fruit are not recorded in New Zealand, additional risk management measures are not required for these pests.

Other pathway risks

Imported fresh babaco may also harbour biosecurity risk material such as live insects, disease symptoms, and contaminants such as weed seeds, hitchhiker pests and trash. These risks are managed through the range of import conditions outlined above.