



PRODUCT REFERENCE

Drosophila spp.

What are *Drosophila* spp.?

Drosophila is a genus of small flies whose members are commonly known as 'fruit' flies. Both the terms "fruit fly" and "*Drosophila*" are often used synonymously with the species *Drosophila melanogaster* in modern biological literature as this is a commonly used model species. The entire genus contains about 1500 species, most feeding on overripe or rotting fruit and preferring a warm, moist environment.

As a small insect, *Drosophila* spp. reproduce very quickly and therefore perform genetic crosses at an accelerated rate making them ideal for genetic research. As such it is common for these flies to be imported as genetically modified. If this is the case, importers are required to provide a supplier's declaration stating that any genetic modification in the flies has not increased their fitness or likelihood to become pests in addition to meeting OGTR requirements.

Note: *Drosophila suzukii* (the spotted wing fruit fly) is not permitted entry into Australian territory as it is a major pest species that infests fruit during the early ripening stage, in contrast to other *Drosophila* species that infest only rotting fruit. *Drosophila pulchrella* and *D. subpulchrella* also have a similar pest profile to *Drosophila suzukii*, are considered quarantine pests and are not permitted entry into Australian territory.

Biosecurity procedures

Imported flies are required to be housed in an appropriate Approved Arrangement (AA) insectary site. More information regarding AAs may be found on the department's website at <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/arrival/arrangements>. If research requires the release of flies, the imported flies must be bred through a generation in post entry quarantine, with only the progeny of the imported flies having the possibility of release after an additional assessment.



Image: *Drosophila melanogaster*, Credit: yourgenome.com (2018) Shutterstock