

AMAZON NETWORK FOR RESEARCH ON FRUIT FLIES.

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Background: Little is known about the diversity of fruit flies species (Diptera: Tephritidae); reported as one of the main pests affecting agriculture worldwide, in addition to with the low number of researchers working on this biological group in the Amazon region, it motivated the structuring of a research project in the Amazon to allow the integration between institutions and generation of information on the families Tephritidae and Lonchaeidae. With funding from the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation – Embrapa was create the "Amazon Network for Research on fruit flies" led by Embrapa Amapá (August/2007 to July/2010). Bringing together researchers from research institutions in 10 Brazilian states, the Network aimed to generate and spread information on the diversity, distribution, host plants and natural enemies of fruit flies in the Amazon, with emphasis on the carambola fruit fly (*Bactrocera carambolae*), quarantine pest, restricted to the state of Amapá and under official control of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply. The research priorities on *B. carambolae* were established by the Scientific Committee of the National Eradication Program of carambola fruit fly, aiming at to support the actions in the state of Amapá.

Methods: Samplings of fruits and surveys with McPhail traps in various states of the Brazilian Amazon were performed. In the laboratory, fruits were processed according to the methodology used to obtain fruit flies.

Results: As results of this project were obtained new records of fruit flies (Tephritidae) and "lance flies" (Lonchaeidae) species, host plants and parasitoids in the Brazilian Amazon and Brazil, generating a significant advance in scientific knowledge on these flies. Team members were also trained mainly in the taxonomy of fruit flies. New research projects were approved in the network, emphasizing knowledge of fruit flies species of economic importance.

Conclusion: The greater impact of the scientific network will be obtained at the end of 2010 with the book "Fruit flies in Brazilian Amazon: diversity, hosts and natural enemies", which will present the innovative results added to the knowledge previously available in the literature.

Keywords: Tephritidae, Lonchaeidae, *Bactrocera carambolae*, diversity, host.