Fruit Fly Fact File

NAME: Common fruit fly
LATIN: Drosophila Melanogaster

Statistics

Wing rate: 200 times/second
Average speed: 0.7 m/s
Top speed: 2.0m/s
Estimated population: 1.5-2.5 million
Length: 3mm ± 1mm
Legs: 6
Eyes: 2(but they are compound eyes, meaning they are made up of thousands of ommatidia)
Eggs/day: 20-50
Eggs/lifetime: 400-800
Lifespan: 40-50 days
Maximum instantaneous G-force tolerance: 300-400 G
Oxygen usage (female): 4 µl O_2 per mg per hour
Oxygen usage (male): 6 µl O_2 per mg per hour
Survival time in 1cm^3 of air (only counting oxygen usage)(Female)52h
Survival time in 1cm^3 of air (only counting oxygen usage)(Male)35h
Favourite food: banana

Description:

The fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*) is a small insect commonly found near ripe and decaying fruit. It measures about 3–4 mm in length and has red eyes, a tan-colored body, and transparent wings. Fruit flies are widely used in scientific research, particularly in genetics, due to their short life cycle and high reproductive rate. They undergo complete metamorphosis, progressing through egg, larva, pupa, and adult stages in approximately 10 days under optimal conditions. These insects are known for their ability to detect fermenting fruit using their highly sensitive olfactory system. While they can be a nuisance in homes and food industries, they play an essential ecological role by aiding in the decomposition of organic matter.

Life Cycle: