

1 **Ecological Niche and Potential Geographic Distribution of**
2 **the Invasive Fruit Fly *Bactrocera invadens* (Diptera,**
3 **Tephritidae)**

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5 M. De Meyer^a, M.P. Robertson^b, M.W. Mansell^{b,c}, S. Ekesi^d, K. Tsuruta^e, W.
6 Mwaiko^f, J-F Vayssières^g, A.T. Peterson^h

7

8

9 ^aRoyal Museum for Central Africa, Entomology Section, Tervuren, B-3080 Tervuren,
10 Belgium

11

12 ^bDepartment of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, 0001,
13 South Africa

14

15 ^cUnited States Department of Agriculture, APHIS, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa

16

17 ^dInternational Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, PO Box 30772-00100, GPO,
18 Nairobi, Kenya.

19

20 ^eMoji Plant Protection Station, MAFF, Nishikaigan, Moji-ku, Kitakyushu, 801-0841,
21 Japan

22

23 ^fMinistry of Agriculture and Food Security, Plant Health Services, P.O.Box 9071, Dar
24 es Salaam, Tanzania

25

26 ^gCIRAD, UPR Production Fruitière, Montpellier, F-34398 France ; IITA, Cotonou,
27 Bénin.

28

29 ^hNatural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center, University of Kansas,
30 Lawrence, Kansas 66045 USA

31

32 *Corresponding author: Marc De Meyer

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34 **Running title:** Potential geographic distribution of *B. invadens*

35

1 **ABSTRACT**

2

3 Two correlative approaches to the challenge of ecological niche modeling (genetic
4 algorithm, maximum entropy) were used to estimate the potential global distribution
5 of the invasive fruit fly, *Bactrocera invadens*, based on associations between known
6 occurrence records and a set of environmental predictor variables. The two models
7 yielded similar estimates, largely corresponding to Equatorial climate classes with
8 high levels of precipitation. The maximum entropy approach was somewhat more
9 conservative in its evaluation of suitability, depending on thresholds for
10 presence/absence that are selected, largely excluding areas with distinct dry seasons;
11 the genetic algorithm models, in contrast, indicate that climate class as partly suitable.
12 Predictive tests based on independent distributional data indicate that model
13 predictions are quite robust. Field observations in Benin and Tanzania confirm
14 relationships between seasonal occurrences of this species and humidity and
15 temperature.

16

17 **Keywords**

18 Fruit flies, *Bactrocera invadens*, ecological niche models, potential distribution,
19 GARP, Maxent

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1 INTRODUCTION

2 Fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritidae) are globally distributed, picture-winged flies
3 of variable size. With >4000 species described, the family ranks among the most
4 diverse groups of true flies (White & Elson-Harris, 1992; Thompson, 1999). Most are
5 phytophagous, with larvae developing in the seed-bearing organs of plants. Although
6 commonly named 'fruit flies,' larval development can take place in other parts of host
7 plants besides fruits, including flowers and stems. About 35% of fruit fly species
8 attack soft fruits, including many commercially important ones (White & Elson-
9 Harris, 1992).

10 Several tephritids are critically important as fruit crop pests (Thompson, 1999).
11 Economic impacts can be enormous, and control or eradication requires substantial
12 budgets. For example, Dowell & Wange (1986) stated that establishment of major
13 fruit fly threats to the Californian fruit industry would cause crop losses of US \$910M
14 yearly, and an eradication program would cost US \$290M. Annual losses in the
15 eastern Mediterranean (Israel, Palestinian Territories, Jordan) linked to fruit fly
16 infestations are estimated at US \$192M (Enkerlin & Mumford, 1997). Indirect losses
17 resulting from quarantine restrictions imposed by importing countries to prevent entry
18 and establishment of unwanted fruit fly species can also be enormous. Most
19 economically important fruit fly pests belong to four genera: *Anastrepha* Schiner
20 (New World Tropics), *Bactrocera* Macquart, *Ceratitis* MacLeay, and *Dacus* Fabricius
21 (Old World Tropics).

22 In recent decades, several *Bactrocera* species have been introduced accidentally in
23 other parts of the world with established fruit industries in spite of quarantine
24 procedures, often with major economic consequences. For example, the papaya fruit
25 fly (*B. papayae* Drew & Hancock), introduced in Australia in 1995, led to a major

1 blockade of papaya exports from northern Queensland and major losses to local
2 growers in 1995-1998. Only through an eradication program, costing US \$32.5M,
3 could the pest be eradicated and commercial trade restored (Cantrell *et al.*, 2002). The
4 carambola fruit fly (*B. carambolae* Drew & Hancock), introduced into Suriname, has
5 lead to drastic export reductions in the region, threatening the US \$1M annual export
6 from Guyana to neighboring Caribbean countries (USDA/APHIS, 2000).

7 *Bactrocera invadens*, a species native to Asia, was recorded for the first time on the
8 African mainland in 2003 (Lux *et al.*, 2003), and has already become a pest species of
9 major concern to fruit growers. Here, we develop correlative ecological niche models
10 (ENMs) for this species, which can be projected geographically to estimate the global
11 distributional potential of the species (Peterson, 2003). ENMs are based on digital
12 geospatial data layers and how they correlate with known occurrences of the species
13 in its region of origin. We develop ENM predictions of invasive potential, and test
14 them quantitatively in Africa to measure the predictive power of the methodology for
15 anticipating the species' global potential distribution.

16

17 **Invasion history and economic impact of *Bactrocera invadens***

18 In 2003, an unknown *Bactrocera* species was found in Kenya (Lux *et al.*,
19 2003). Taxonomic expertise showed that it was a member of the *B. dorsalis* complex,
20 an Asian complex including several pest species (Drew & Hancock, 1994). Identical
21 specimens from earlier surveys in Sri Lanka were initially classified as aberrant forms
22 of *B. dorsalis* (Hendel), but eventually were re-identified as *B. invadens* (Drew *et al.*,
23 2005).

24 Immediately subsequent to its discovery in Kenya, the species was recorded in several
25 countries on the African mainland (Mwatawala *et al.*, 2004, Drew *et al.*, 2005). It is

1 now known to occur in tropical Africa from Senegal to Mozambique, as well as in the
2 Comoro Islands in the Indian Ocean (De Meyer *et al.*, 2007). The native range, known
3 so far, ranges from Sri Lanka to southern India (Drew *et al.*, 2005; Sithanantham *et*
4 *al.*, 2006) with some isolated records from Bhutan (Drew *et al.*, 2007). It is not clear
5 whether Bhutan should be considered as part of the native range. The *B. dorsalis*
6 species complex comprises several morphologically very similar taxa (Drew *et al.*,
7 2008). Other representatives of this complex occur in the same region (*e.g.*, *B.*
8 *dorsalis* and *B. kandiensis*; Drew & Hancock 1994). The native range of *B. invadens*
9 is likely larger than currently assumed, since specimens may be misidentified as other
10 representatives of the complex (see, for example, records for *B. dorsalis* distribution
11 by Stephens *et al.*, 2007). Therefore, the Bhutan records are considered here as part of
12 the native range.

13 This invasive species has major economic impacts, ranking among the most
14 devastating pests of local horticultural products, particularly mango (Pouilles-
15 Duplaix, 2007). Research in West (Vayssières *et al.*, 2005) and East Africa (Ekesi *et*
16 *al.*, 2006; Mwatawala *et al.*, 2006a,b; Rwomushana *et al.*, 2008) has demonstrated
17 that it can become dominant in mango monocultures. In Benin, >60% losses due to
18 fruit flies were recorded on main mango cultivars of economic interest in the second
19 half of the mango season (Vayssières, 2007a), and phytosanitary pressure lead to
20 uprooting mango plantations in one area (Borgou) in this country (Vayssières, 2007b).
21 Native pest species such as the mango fruit fly [*Ceratitis cosyra* (Walker)] appear to
22 be outcompeted by this invasive species, although pre-invasion data are largely
23 lacking. In addition, *B. invadens* is polyphagous in nature, and has been reported from
24 44 different hosts belonging to 23 plant families (De Meyer *et al.*, 2007).

1 The timing and exact pathway of invasion by *B. invadens* into Africa are not known.
2 An intensive 1999-2004 sampling program (Copeland *et al.*, 2006) examined ~4000
3 fruit samples (~980,000 pieces of fruit) from 882 plant taxa and 116 plant families
4 from coastal and western Kenya, and from the Central Highlands. However, not until
5 March 2003 was *B. invadens* collected in the coastal region (Lux *et al.*, 2003). Fruit
6 flies were sampled intensively in commercial mango orchards across coastal Guinea
7 in West Africa in 1992-1996 (Vayssières & Kalabane, 2000) and Mali in 2000
8 (Vayssières *et al.*, 2004), but did not detect *B. invadens*; the first *B. invadens*
9 specimens in that part of the African mainland were not detected until June 2004
10 (Drew *et al.*, 2005). This species' presence in these countries before 2000 is,
11 therefore, unlikely. Unfortunately, no similar studies were conducted at that time
12 elsewhere in Africa where the fly currently occurs. That the first specimens were from
13 the East African coast may indicate that the species' port of entry was the East
14 African coast, although clear proof is lacking. A brief outbreak of a methyl eugenol-
15 responding species in Mauritius in 1996, attributed to *B. dorsalis* (White *et al.*, 2001),
16 may actually have been *B. invadens*. The available non-teneral sample was recently
17 re-examined, but results were inconclusive (White, 2006). In Asia, the earliest
18 specimens date to 1993 in Sri Lanka (Drew *et al.*, 2005), 2000 for Bhutan (Drew *et*
19 *al.*, 2007), and 2005 for India (Sithanantham *et al.*, 2006). However, given likely
20 confusion with *B. dorsalis*, careful revision of all *Bactrocera* material from that
21 region is needed.

22

23 **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

24 **Occurrence data**

1 Native-range distributional data for *B. invadens* were derived from surveys in
2 Sri Lanka during 1993-1996 (Tsuruta, unpubl. data) and from the literature
3 (Sithanantham *et al.* 2006). Records from Bhutan were drawn from Drew *et al.*
4 (2007). Sources for non-native (i.e., non-Asian) distributional data are summarized in
5 Table 1, resulting from independent surveys conducted by the authors in different
6 parts of Africa, supplemented by published records (Drew *et al.*, 2005; White 2006).
7 All records are based upon specimens clearly identified as *B. invadens* and
8 differentiated from other taxa within the *B. dorsalis* complex. All, bar the records
9 from southern India, were based on specimens for which identification was confirmed
10 by taxonomic experts. After removal of duplicate records, 34 native and 192 non-
11 native records could be referenced to reasonably precise (i.e., to within 10 km) sites.
12 This list is exhaustive, in the sense that it comprises all distributional data currently
13 published, as well as extensive unpublished data made available for this study. The
14 non-native data enable quantitative tests of the predictive ability of the ecological
15 niche models regarding the geographic potential of the species.

16 For georeferencing, when possible, we used coordinates from specimen labels. When
17 such information was lacking, however, we extracted coordinates from electronic
18 gazetteers, like GeoNet (<http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html>), or from
19 specialized locality databases available in some institutions for their collections.
20 Records were plotted on maps and inspected visually to detect obvious errors;
21 peripheral records were investigated individually.

22 Only occurrence data originating from the species' native distribution were used to
23 generate ENMs. Since no evidence indicates recent range expansion by *B. invadens* in
24 Asia, and given that model predictions with and without the Bhutanese records

1 differed only slightly, we present here only results from models based on
2 distributional data including the Bhutanese records (see above).

3

4 **Environmental data**

5 Raster geospatial data sets used to characterize environments across the native
6 distributional area and worldwide consisted of ‘bioclimatic’ variables interpolated at 1
7 km spatial resolution (Hijmans *et al.*, 2005). Particular variables used included annual
8 mean temperature, mean diurnal range, maximum temperature of warmest month,
9 minimum temperature of coldest month, annual precipitation, and precipitation of the
10 wettest and driest months. These particular climate dimensions were chosen to
11 represent environmental dimensions relevant to distributions and survival of small
12 arthropods, in particular fruit flies (Fletcher, 1989; Vargas *et al.*, 1987; Vera *et al.*,
13 2002). No vegetation or land cover data layers were used owing to the heterogenous
14 nature of habitats, including man-made horticultural environments, that can
15 potentially be occupied by these species. Although host range can provide useful
16 information with regard to species recognition in *Bactrocera* (Drew, 2004; Drew *et*
17 *al.*, 2008), this information remains incomplete for *B. invadens*, particularly as regards
18 the native range. In addition, as the majority of point localities used in this study are
19 derived from para-pheromone trapping surveys they do not comprise host data.

20

21 **Ecological niche modeling (ENM)**

22 Our approach is based on the idea of modeling species’ ecological niches, which are
23 considered to constitute long-term stable constraints on species’ potential geographic
24 distributions (Martínez-Meyer *et al.*, 2004; Peterson, 2003; Peterson *et al.*, 1999;
25 Raxworthy *et al.*, 2003; Wiens & Graham, 2005). Niche shifts have recently been

1 reported for some species (Broennimann *et al.*, 2007; Fitzpatrick *et al.*, 2007; Steiner
2 *et al.*, 2008), but niche shifts over short evolutionary time frames remain controversial
3 (Peterson & Nakazawa, 2008). Ecological niches are herein defined as the set of
4 conditions under which a species is able to maintain populations without immigration
5 (Grinnell, 1917; Grinnell, 1924). Several avenues of research have demonstrated
6 accurate predictions of invasive species' potential distributions (Peterson, 2003;
7 Peterson & Vieglais, 2001; Welk *et al.*, 2002; Morrison *et al.*, 2004; Thuiller *et al.*,
8 2005; De Meyer *et al.*, 2008). Our approach consisted of four steps: (1) model
9 ecological niche requirements based on known native-range occurrences of the
10 species; (2) test the accuracy of the native range predictions by splitting the dataset
11 into a training and testing set; (3) test the accuracy of non-native range predictions
12 (trained using all native records) using all available African distributional records; and
13 (3) project the niche model globally to identify areas putatively susceptible to
14 invasion. The global projection was based on a niche model trained using all the
15 native range records. Other studies have used the software package CLIMEX to
16 describe potential distributions of invasive fruit fly species (e.g., Yonow & Sutherst
17 1998; Sutherst *et al.*, 2000; Vera *et al.*, 2002; Stephens *et al.*, 2007). CLIMEX differs
18 from correlative ENM techniques in that it simulates mechanisms considered to limit
19 geographical distributions of species in relation climate (Sutherst 2003; Stephens *et*
20 *al.*, 2007).

21

22 We used two correlative ENM techniques to estimate the potential distribution of this
23 species—a genetic algorithm (GARP; Stockwell & Peters 1999) and a maximum
24 entropy method (Maxent; Phillips *et al.* 2006), both on default settings. These two
25 techniques provided contrasting results in recent comparisons of niche modeling

1 techniques (Elith *et al.*, 2006; Peterson *et al.*, 2007; Peterson *et al.*, 2008). GARP is an
2 evolutionary-computing approach to discovery of nonrandom associations between
3 occurrences and raster GIS data layers that describe potentially relevant aspects of
4 ecological landscapes. As GARP has been used widely (Peterson 2001; Anderson *et al.*,
5 2002; Stockwell & Peterson 2002; Anderson *et al.*, 2003; Peterson 2005), we do
6 not present detailed descriptions of the methodology herein. In general, all analyses
7 were run on default settings, and the best-subsets procedure (Pearson *et al.*, 2007) was
8 used to choose a subset of models for further consideration, which were then summed
9 to produce a single grid summarizing model agreement in predicting presence versus
10 absence. This grid was converted to a binary prediction of presence versus absence by
11 choosing the lowest threshold at which the species was known to occur (Rice *et al.*,
12 2003). The result was a set of binary grids summarizing the geographic extents of the
13 environmental niche calculated by GARP for the species.

14

15 Maxent estimates the ecological niche of a species by determining the distribution of
16 maximum entropy, subject to the constraint that the expected value of each
17 environmental variable (or functions of these) under this estimated distribution
18 matches its empirical average (Phillips *et al.*, 2006). Maxent makes use of presence
19 records and a set of background values (pseudoabsences) drawn from the entire study
20 region. We used default parameters in Maxent (version 1.3.0) to produce models:
21 feature selection automatic, regularization multiplier at unity, maximum iterations
22 500, convergence threshold 10^{-5} , and random test percentage at zero. The result is a
23 set of probabilities that sum to unity across the entire study area; to make values more
24 manageable, these suitability indices are usually presented as logistic transformations

1 of cumulative probabilities (Phillips *et al.*, 2006), with values ranging 0-100 (low to
2 high suitability).

3

4 Spatial predictions of presence and absence can include two types of error: omission
5 (predicted absence in areas of actual presence) and commission (predicted presence in
6 areas of actual absence; Fielding & Bell, 1997). Because GARP is a random-walk
7 procedure, it does not produce unique solutions; consequently, we followed best-
8 practices approaches to identifying optimal subsets of resulting replicate models
9 (Anderson *et al.*, 2003). In particular, we developed 100 replicate models; of these
10 models, we retained the 20 with lowest extrinsic omission error rates, and then
11 retained the 10 models with intermediate extrinsic commission error (i.e., we
12 discarded the 10 models with area predicted present showing greatest deviations from
13 the overall median area predicted present across all low-omission models). This ‘best
14 subset’ of models was summed pixel by pixel to produce final predictions of potential
15 distributions in the form of grids with values ranging from 0 (all models agree in
16 predicting absence) to 10 (all models agree in predicting presence). Since the two
17 modeling techniques produce different sorts of output with very different frequency
18 distributions, correct choice of thresholds becomes critical in interpreting the resulting
19 maps (Peterson *et al.*, 2007). As such, we used the lowest training presence threshold
20 approach (LTPT) of Pearson *et al.* (2007): specifically, we inspected the native-range
21 occurrence information relative to the raw outputs from GARP and Maxent. We
22 determined the lowest predictive level at which any training presence point was
23 predicted, and used that level as a minimum criterion for prediction of presence
24 (*versus* absence) in non-native regions.

25

1 **Model testing**

2 To evaluate the model predictions, we offer two sets of tests. First, we developed
3 initial models across the native range region based on a subset of available data, in
4 which 10 randomly chosen points were set aside (for testing) prior to model
5 development; this procedure was repeated twice, with different random subsamples.
6 Statistical significance of these predictions was assessed using the cumulative
7 binomial probability approach described below. Second we assessed the predictive
8 ability in Africa (using African records) for a model that was calibrated using all
9 records from the native region. Given the rather crude resolution of this initial
10 exploration, we assumed that different invaded-range occurrences were independent,
11 neglecting possible effects of spatial autocorrelation. Because our goal was predicting
12 global invasive potential, we tested model predictivity with the null hypothesis that
13 the observed coincidence between prediction and test points was no better than chance
14 expectations.

15 The most common mode of evaluating niche models in recent literature is via the area
16 under the curve in a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis (e.g., Elith *et al.*
17 2006). ROC analysis, however, is not appropriate to the present situation for two
18 reasons: (1) ROCs require absence data, which are not available in the present case;
19 and (2) ROCs weight type 1 and type 2 errors equally, but the focus on invasive
20 potential would weight omission error more heavily than commission error (Soberón
21 and Peterson, 2005; Peterson *et al.*, 2008). However, we use an adaptation of the ROC
22 curve approach as a means of assessing predictive ability visually, plotting omission
23 on an inverse scale (= “sensitivity”) against proportion of area predicted present (an
24 estimator of 1 – specificity; Phillips *et al.*, 2006, Peterson *et al.*, 2008).

1 Models were tested using binomial tests that incorporate dimensions of correct
2 prediction of both presences (based on success in predicting independent test data)
3 and absences (based on proportion of the area predicted present, which is taken as the
4 probability of a success). Given that *B. invadens* has as yet only invaded Africa
5 broadly, the universe of testing was taken as Africa (including Madagascar and the
6 Comoro Islands) south of 18°N. Models were tested at the LTPT threshold described
7 above.

8

9 **RESULTS**

10 Fig. 1 shows the known distributional information for *B. invadens* from its
11 native range (Asia) and non-native distributional areas (Africa and the Indian Ocean).
12 The projections of the two ENMs for the native range (Fig. 2) were similar: both
13 indicate Sri Lanka and southern India as highly suitable. GARP predicted higher
14 suitability in coastal regions (particularly the east coast) and the Ganges Delta in
15 Bangladesh, while Maxent indicated suitability more restricted to isolated pockets in
16 these parts when high threshold values are taken into account only. When lower
17 thresholds were included in Maxent, the predicted areas were more similar between
18 the two methods (Fig. 2)—we note that the LTPT for Maxent was 0.027 out of 100,
19 whereas for GARP it was 8 out of 10. Testing model predictions by the two
20 algorithms based on two separate random subsets, predictions from both models were
21 significantly ($P < 0.05$) better than random expectations. For example, in one of the
22 random subsamplings, the GARP model predicted 11.5% of the area present, but
23 managed to predict 9 of 10 independent test points correctly; similarly, the Maxent
24 model predicted 14.7% of the area present, but predicted all 10 test points correctly--
25 the associated binomial probabilities were both lower than 10^{-9} . The training and

1 testing sets may not be completely independent, as the native-range occurrence
2 records are clustered in a small region; however, model predictions were also tested
3 with records from the invaded range in Africa (see below).

4 Projecting niche models to Africa and Madagascar (Fig. 3) again yielded similar
5 predictions between the two methods, with Maxent again appearing more
6 conservative. Both models predicted high suitability in the Equatorial rain forest belt
7 and the East African coastal regions. The GARP model predicted higher suitability in
8 areas farther removed from the coast, particularly in Ivory Coast in the west, and
9 Tanzania and Mozambique in the east. Also, the latitudinal limits identified by GARP
10 predictions were broader, especially southwards, with high suitability being predicted
11 for much of the Angolan and Mozambican coastlines; these differences were less
12 dramatic once lower thresholds were considered in Maxent. The same tendencies are
13 observed in global projections (Fig. 4): GARP predicted somewhat broader potential
14 distributional areas in tropical South America and Southeast Asia (particularly
15 Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam). The only areas where Maxent indicated broader
16 potential distributional areas than GARP are in parts of Borneo, Papua New Guinea,
17 and the western Amazon.

18 We used the non-native populations of *B. invadens* in Africa as a means of testing
19 model predictivity regarding suitable areas for the species globally. Omission error
20 was minimal—3 of 192 invaded-range test points were excluded from model
21 predictions in each case. In both cases, model predictions were considerably better
22 than expectations under random (null) models (binomial tests, both $P < 10^{-14}$),
23 indicating that both approaches offer significant predictivity regarding the global
24 potential distribution of the species. Inspecting ROC plots for the two model
25 predictions based on independent testing data on a landscape distant from that where

1 the models were trained, it is clear that the two models are similar in performance.
2 Maxent appears to perform better at middle-level omission values, while GARP
3 appears to perform better at lower omission values (Fig. 5).

4

5 **DISCUSSION**

6 **Models in ecological dimensions**

7 The two niche modeling algorithms employed in this study present a similar
8 overall picture, although Maxent is somewhat more conservative. Comparing with the
9 updated Köppen-Geiger Climate classification (Kottek *et al.*, 2006), most suitable
10 areas identified by our models fall within the Equatorial climate categories (minimum
11 temperatures $\geq 18^{\circ}\text{C}$), especially Af (Equatorial rainforest, fully humid) and Am
12 (Equatorial monsoon). The GARP model also assigns high suitability to a large part of
13 the Aw (Equatorial savannah with dry winter) climate class.

14 This result suggests that *B. invadens* prefers hot and humid environments. Annual
15 precipitation must be high, although it does not have to be continuous. Equatorial
16 monsoon type climate (Am) is defined as a climate with a short dry season, but with
17 still sufficient moisture to keep the soil humid throughout the year. Equatorial
18 savannah climate type has a distinct dry period with driest-month precipitation of < 60
19 mm. Continuous presence of *B. invadens* in Af and Am climates is not as-yet
20 supported by field data, for lack of field studies, but presence in Aw climates is now
21 amply demonstrated. Mwatawala *et al.* (2006b) trapped *B. invadens* in orchards in the
22 Morogoro region of central Tanzania continuously for 61 weeks in 2004-2005.
23 Morogoro is situated in the transition zone between bimodal and unimodal rainfall
24 belts in Tanzania with a distinct dry season: *B. invadens* is present year-round,
25 although populations increase dramatically during the rainy season. Similar

1 observations were made in Benin, in areas also demonstrating fly activity during a
2 clear dry season (Vayssières, 2004; Vayssières *et al.*, 2005).
3 Stephens *et al.* (2007) developed a model for the closely related *B. dorsalis* using a
4 different approach (CLIMEX). The optimal climate suitability for Africa identified in
5 that study corresponds reasonably well with optimal conditions for *B. invadens*,
6 although some marked differences are evident. The CLIMEX model for *B. dorsalis*
7 predicts optimal suitability further south along the South African coast (representing a
8 warm temperate climate type, fully humid, with hot summers), while parts of the
9 interior of Tanzania and northern Mozambique and parts of Nigeria were rated as less
10 suitable. Non-native populations of *B. dorsalis* in Hawaii, have been rated to prefer
11 humid areas (Vargas *et al.*, 1989, 1990); hence, the climatic optimal conditions for the
12 two species likely overlap broadly. Studies on niche partitioning in areas where both
13 taxa occur are, however, lacking.

14

15 **Model predictivity**

16 Despite the fact that the great majority of known occurrences fall within predicted
17 areas, some isolated occurrences of *B. invadens* in other ecological situations are
18 known. Observations show that the species can occur in lowland moist and dry
19 savannah in western Africa, the Sudan, and Zambia, which present climates with
20 longer dry periods and hot conditions during part of the year. Some of these
21 occurrences may correspond to anthropogenic microclimates (see, e.g., Coetzee,
22 2004). For example, the *B. invadens* collecting sites in the Sudan (Fig. 1) are
23 irrigation schemes along the Blue Nile River: although situated in low-rainfall
24 savannah habitat, these irrigated areas are typically very humid and partly under

1 cultivation, with suitable host plants such as mango, citrus, guava, and banana.
2 However, such is not the case for the other sites in Zambia and West Africa.
3 These discrepancies can be caused by two factors: incomplete sampling in the native
4 region or actual niche differentiation in the non-native populations. It is plausible that
5 the currently available native-range occurrence data are incomplete (*cf.* above).
6 *Bactrocera invadens* might then have a much broader ecological niche in its native
7 range. We should also take into consideration that these particular habitat types
8 (lowland wet and dry savannah) are not present in the native distributional area, so the
9 modeling algorithms have been presented with incomplete data on the species'
10 distributional potential in such habitats: regions with similar climate conditions are
11 found in central and northern India, but *B. invadens* records are not available from
12 these regions. A more thorough inventory for the species in its native region, or at
13 least detailed inspection and re-evaluation of *Bactrocera* records from the region,
14 might present additional information that could improve the models. Currently,
15 however, such information is not available.

16 In case of niche differentiation in invaded regions, two elements are known to cause
17 exotic species to expand beyond their predicted climate envelope. It may result from
18 adaptive changes in the fundamental niche of the species or changes in the realized
19 niche (i.e. fundamental niche constrained by biotic interactions) (Broennimann *et al.*,
20 2007). Given the short time span between detection of the invasion and the
21 observation of presence beyond the predicted range, the likelihood that evolutionary
22 change has occurred that might have affected the fundamental niche of the species
23 seems unlikely. More likely, release from biotic constraints like enemy release,
24 (Colautti *et al.*, 2004) has an effect on the realized niche of *B. invadens*. As such,
25 caution should be taken with regard to the boundaries of the models presented here,

1 since these isolated records indicate some potential for the taxon to occur outside
2 them. The fly's abundance in these areas is unclear for lack of continuous trapping
3 data.

4

5 **Potential threat of *B. invadens* outside its native range**

6 Given the apparent rapid spread of *B. invadens* across Africa, and its impact on local
7 horticulture, the risk of this species being introduced, establishing and invading other
8 regions of the world should be considered. Our models indicate regions of the world
9 that are climatically suitable for the species, but they do not indicate regions that *will*
10 necessarily become invaded by the species. For a species to invade in a new region, it
11 must overcome a series of challenges (Richardson and van Wilgen, 2004; De Meyer
12 *et al.*, 2008). Richardson and van Wilgen (2004) listed six barriers that a species has
13 to overcome to become invasive in a new region. Our analyses are only able to assess
14 one of them: the likelihood of the species surviving in the new region. Regions highly
15 suitable for the species as indicated by the models are more likely to be invaded than
16 regions that have a low suitability. In Africa, for example, most of West Africa,
17 Central Africa, and Madagascar, and parts of East Africa, are indicated as highly
18 suitable by the models. Large regions of the Neotropics are also indicated as being
19 suitable, as is most of Southeast Asia. A comprehensive assessment of invasion risk
20 for this species for various parts of the world will require that other barriers be
21 assessed (Thuiller *et al.*, 2005), which will require better knowledge of the species'
22 basic biology and natural history.

23 As we have not explored all of the invasion challenges that non-native species face,
24 our maps should not be interpreted as maps of invasion risk or likelihood of
25 establishment. However, a region presenting suitable climatic conditions for the

1 species is likely more vulnerable than one presenting unsuitable conditions. Regions
2 highlighted as highly suitable by the models include areas already invaded by the
3 species, giving some confidence in the models. Although the species has invaded
4 several parts of Africa, we cannot be certain about risk of individuals being
5 introduced to other regions (e.g., Neotropics or Southeast Asia), and whether
6 propagule pressure will be sufficient to enable the species to establish there. Insights
7 into propagule pressure can be obtained by examining the volume of trade between
8 regions where the fly currently occurs and those regions that have suitable climate
9 conditions (Thuiller *et al.*, 2005).

10 Another important consideration is whether individuals introduced to these areas can
11 survive the local conditions long enough to breed successfully. An important element
12 in this respect will be interspecific competition with native fruit flies. Most regions
13 identified as being at risk already have established fruit fly faunas, comprising native
14 species and sometimes previously introduced exotics: polyphagous species, infesting
15 diverse fruits that also act as hosts for *B. invadens*, are already present. Duyck *et al.*
16 (2004) stated that where polyphagous tephritid species have been introduced in areas
17 already occupied by a polyphagous tephritid, interspecific competition has generally
18 resulted in a decrease in numbers and niche shifts of the previously established
19 species, without leading to complete exclusion. Duyck *et al.* (2004, 2007) assumed
20 that life-history strategy could be a determining factor in this competition.

21 In Africa, most native polyphagous pests, such as *Ceratitis capitata*, express *r*-
22 selected traits. Invasive *Bactrocera* species, on the other hand, display more *K*-
23 selected traits. From the case studies presented by Duyck *et al.* (2004, 2007), *K*-
24 selected species appear to be better invaders. In the case of *B. invadens* on the African
25 mainland, some details seem to confirm this hypothesis. Data from Nguruman Rift

1 Valley Province in Kenya show that the principal pest detected in monitoring traps in
2 mango orchards, was *C. cosyra* prior to 2003, but has gradually been replaced by *B.*
3 *invadens* since then (S. Ekesi, unpubl. data). Although pre-invasion data are lacking,
4 Mwatawala *et al.* (2006a, b) showed that, in Tanzania, *B. invadens* is the major pest
5 species in hosts such as mangoes, which were initially predominantly infested by
6 native *Ceratitis* species such as *C. cosyra*. The latter seems to be displaced in large
7 part by the former. However, abiotic factors may also determine different use of host
8 resources. Vayssières *et al.* (2005), for example, showed that *C. cosyra* is still
9 dominant during the dry season, but *B. invadens* dominates during the rainy season,
10 probably reflecting its preference for humid environments. Whether the presence of *C.*
11 *cosyra* in the dry season is the result of a shift due to interspecific pressure from the
12 invasive species is, however, not clear for lack of comparative data predating the
13 invasion. A better understanding of both the various biotic and abiotic factors, and of
14 the particular interspecific competition mechanisms is needed for a more complete
15 predictive model for invasive fruit flies such as *B. invadens*.

16

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10

1 Table 1: Distribution records for *Bactrocera invadens* with georeferences in decimal
2 degrees. A = non-native records; O = native records

3 Fig. 1: Fig. 1 Distribution records for *B. invadens*. Native records in India (Ind), Sri-
4 Lanka (Sri) and Bhutan (Bhu). Non-native records in Africa.

5 Fig. 2: Predicted distribution of *Bactrocera invadens* in its native range in Asia, using
6 genetic algorithm for rule-set prediction (GARP) and maximum entropy method
7 (Maxent). White, predicted absence, as indicated by the LTPT thresholding; shades of
8 grey indicate higher levels of prediction (chosen arbitrarily), with black the highest
9 strength for predicted presence.

10 Fig. 3: Predicted distribution of *Bactrocera invadens* in Africa and Madagascar, using
11 genetic algorithm for rule-set prediction (GARP) and maximum entropy method
12 (Maxent). White, predicted absence, as indicated by the LTPT thresholding; shades of
13 grey indicate higher levels of prediction (chosen arbitrarily), with black the highest
14 strength for predicted presence.

15 Fig. 4: Predicted distribution of *Bactrocera invadens* globally, using genetic algorithm
16 for rule-set prediction (GARP) and maximum entropy method (Maxent). White,
17 predicted absence, as indicated by the LTPT thresholding; shades of grey indicate
18 higher levels of prediction (chosen arbitrarily), with black the highest strength for
19 predicted presence.

20 Fig. 5: Comparison of accumulation of predictive ability vs. proportion of area
21 (Africa) predicted present in genetic algorithm for rule-set prediction (GARP) and
22 maximum entropy method (Maxent) models.

23