

Medfly updates # 2, 2014

On March 6th, 2014 fruit stripping, ground spraying and trap servicing were conducted at Lime Caye as part of the ongoing eradication activities on this island. Due to weather conditions and sometimes rescheduling of the fisheries boat, we have been unable to effectively carry out these activities in a timely manner. This has allowed the residual medfly population that are in the immature stages (larvae, pupa) to have a chance to reach adults flies, mate and continue the population. Prior to this visit to the Sapodilla Cayes, only four adult medflies were detected; however we detected 29 adult flies on this trip, which means that there is still an active population on this particular Caye.

On March 7, 2014 follow up eradication activities were also conducted in Jalacte as a result of five (5) medflies that were detected in this border village a week earlier. During the trap inspection, sixty nine (69) adult medflies were detected in four delimitation traps that were placed around a coffee plantation (fig 1).

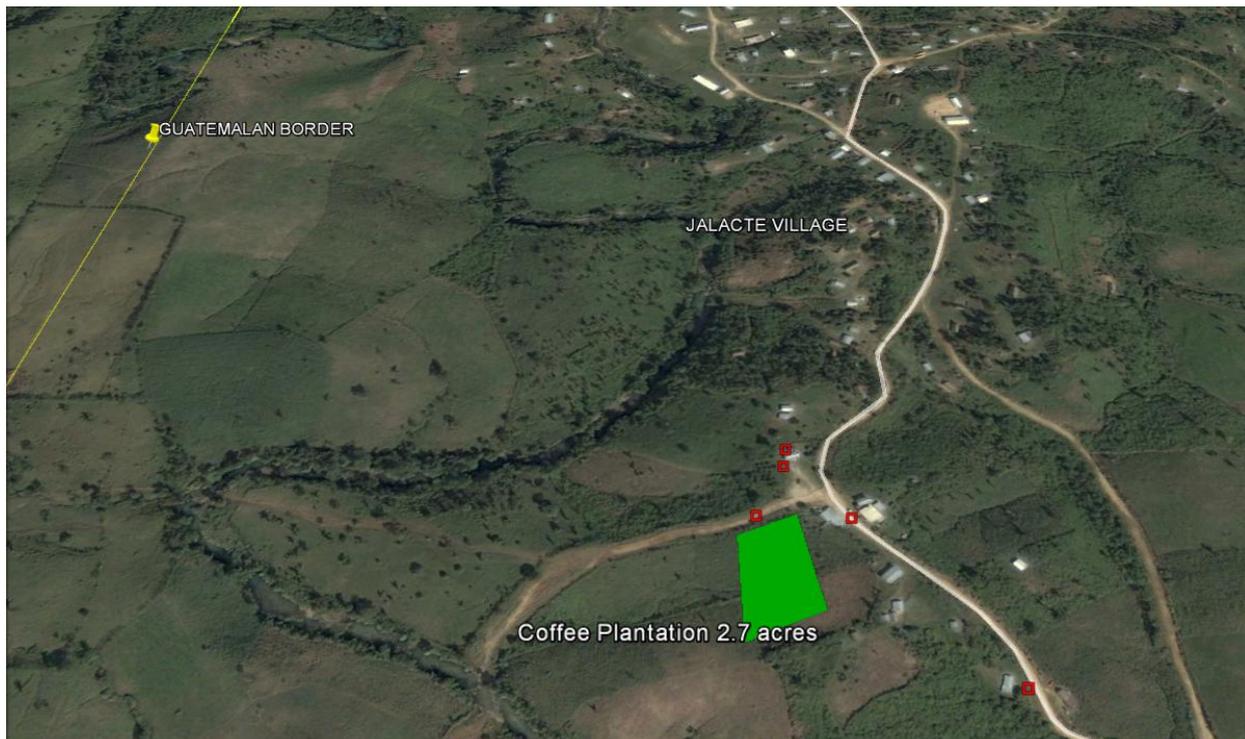


Figure 1

As a result of these detections, fruit stripping was conducted at the coffee plantation and all backyards around the detection site. A total of 20 lbs of mature coffee berries and two sacks of oranges/mandarins were collected and destroyed. Based on recommendations from technical personnel from USDA/Guatemala we began conducting ground spraying twice per week for the initial two weeks then we will revert to once per week. Additional traps were also placed in the coffee plantation.

On March, 12, 2014 another cycle of ground spraying was conducted and traps were again serviced. Seven (7) medflies were detected in two traps around the coffee plantation and two (2) medflies were detected in the same trap that had five medflies the week before. After discussions with the Managing Director and the directors of Quarantine and Plant Health it was decided that an initial two weeks internal 24 hour quarantine checkpoint would be established at Pueblo Viejo to deter the movement of medfly host commodities. Based on the commodities confiscated and the situation at Jalacte the checkpoint could be extended for a further two weeks. Sporadic checkpoints along this route will also be conducted (figure 2)



Figure 2

On March 14, 2014 eradication activities were again conducted in Lime Caye and two (2) adult medflies were detected. All tropical almond fruits, the only host on the Caye were removed and we believe that we now have this population under control. However we found evidence that visitors of this Caye are bringing fruits and vegetables on the island (fig 3-4). This situation will continue to pose a threat to our medfly free status and monitoring of these islands with traps will have to become part of the regular surveillance programme.



Figure 3



Figure 4

On March, 15, 2014 another cycle of ground spraying was conducted and traps were again serviced. Nine (9) adult medflies were detected in two traps that are in the coffee plantation and thirty (30) larvae were detected in coffee berries that were found on the ground or on the trees. More traps were set up within the coffee plantation to see if the entire plantation is infested or if the infestation is localized within a certain section. The trend however, clearly shows that the population is in the coffee plantation. A second round of fruit stripping was conducted on March 16.

On March 19, another cycle of ground spraying was conducted and traps were again serviced. Eight (8) adult medflies were detected in traps within the coffee plantation. Again the detections are showing that the infestation is centered around the more mature plants. Another small coffee plantation with about 150 trees was found in the vicinity of the first detection site and all mature berries including green berries were removed from the trees.

On March 21, ground spraying was conducted at the Sapodilla Cayes and sixteen (16) medflies were detected in three traps on Lime Caye. We have conducted fruit stripping, drenching of the ground under host trees that with Diazinon[®], and ground spraying on this Caye. We will continue to monitor and conduct weekly ground spraying along with fruit removal if necessary until the medflies from this cayes is eradicated.

On March 22, ground spraying was conducted in Jalacte. Only one (1) adult medfly was found in a trap at the coffee plantation.

Ground spraying will continue twice per week for the first three weeks and then we will revert to once per week once the population remains low. Fruit stripping will also be conducted when necessary. We will also be installing stationery baits that we have received from the Guatemalan Medfly programme in both Jalacte and Lime Caye.