India is known to have about 200 fruit fly species, most of which are of low economic importance (Verghese et al., 2002). The pestilent genera are Bactrocera, Dacus and Carpomyia. The distribution of most fruit flies are not adequately known. Therefore, this report is deemed of academic value.

In one of the sweep net surveys for adult fruit flies as part of a regular surveillance, in the orchards of Indian Institute of Horticultural Research campus at Bangalore, Karnataka, South India, during January 2007 an unfamiliar fruit fly species was collected and sent to the Entomology Department of University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore where it was identified as Craspedoxantha indica Zaka-ur-Rab (Figs. 1&2).

Literature survey indicated that it has been reported in India from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh; elsewhere it has been recorded in Pakistan (Agarwal and Sueyoshi, 2005). This fruit fly was first described by Zaka-Ur-Rab in 1960 based on one male fly collected from Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh, India). He collected an adult male from the leaves of Xanthium strumarium (Compositae) in 1959, though this cannot be attributed as the host. The genus Craspedoxantha Bezzi of tribe Terelliini includes nine species of which seven species are Afrotropical, and two are Oriental (Amnon Freidberg, 1985).

Host records available are all within the family Asteraceae or Compositae. Attempts to obtain maggots of C. indica in a range of plant species in these two families proved to be unsuccessful.

This species resembles Craspedoxantha octopunctata Bezzi in that it has eight black spots on the thorax, with similar wing pattern (Zaka-ur-Rab, 1960). The characters of male Craspedoxantha indica such as coloration of the body, head, thorax and abdomen; is clearly described by Zaka-Ur-Rab 1960. It differs from Craspedoxantha octopunctata Bezzi by lacking a yellow band along vein CuA₁ in the wing. The aculeus of C. indica is relatively narrower and more pointed than that of C. octopunctata, and the epandrium has a different shape. However, the aedeagus of C. indica is very similar to that of C. octopunctata, indicating close affinity between these species (Amnon Freidberg, 1985).

It is more similar to C. yaromi sp.n., which has an almost identical wing pattern. However, these two species can be separated by their terminalia.

Collection of C. indica in Karnataka shows that this fruit fly’s range of distribution extends at least up to Karnataka in South India. Though this is economically not important, its range of distribution will be of interest in biodiversity and other ecological studies.
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