

Drosophila (drō'sofīlə, drō-, drōō-) is a genus of small flies, belonging to the family **Drosophilidae**, whose members are often called "fruit flies" or (less frequently) pomace flies, vinegar flies, or wine flies, a reference to the characteristic of many species to linger around overripe or rotting fruit. They should not be confused with the **Tephritidae**, a related family, which are also called fruit flies (sometimes referred to as "true fruit flies"); **tephritids** feed primarily on unripe or ripe fruit, with many species being regarded as destructive agricultural pests, especially the Mediterranean fruit fly. One species of **Drosophila** in particular, *D. melanogaster*, has been heavily used in research in genetics and is a common model organism in developmental biology. The terms "fruit fly" and "Drosophila" are often used synonymously with *D. melanogaster* in modern biological literature. The entire genus, however, contains more than 1,500 species and is very diverse in appearance, behaviour, and breeding habitat.



Drosophila

Drosophila is a genus of small flies, belonging to the family **Drosophilidae**, whose members are often called "fruit flies" or (less frequently) pomace flies, vinegar flies, or wine flies, a reference to the characteristic of many species to linger around overripe or rotting fruit.



True flies are insects of the order Diptera (from the Greek di = two, and ptera = wings). The most obvious distinction from other orders of insects is that a typical fly possesses a pair of flight wings on the mesothorax and a pair of halteres, derived from the hind wings, on the metathorax.

x

Drosophila is a genus of small flies, belonging to the family **Drosophilidae**, whose members are often called "fruit flies" or (less frequently) pomace flies, vinegar flies, or wine flies, a reference to the characteristic of many species to linger around overripe or rotting fruit.

x

Drosophila is a genus of small flies, belonging to the family **Drosophilidae**, whose members are often called "fruit flies" or (less frequently) pomace flies, vinegar flies, or wine flies, a reference to the characteristic of many species to linger around overripe or rotting fruit.

x