

Research on the biology, ecology,  
damage and distribution of the sea  
buckhorn fly  
( *Rhagoletis batava* Hering, 1958)  
in Mongolia.

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# Purpose

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1. Study of the biology and ecology of sea buckthorn flies and identification of species
2. Study of flight activity, number density and damage of sea buckthorn flies
3. To make a map of the distribution of Seabuckthorn flies in Mongolia



# Research methodology

1. The species was identified by morphological characters and PCR.

2. Fruit damage was calculated

-When fly larvae are feeding on the fruit

-One tree is selected from every 10-15 trees and 1 branch (25 cm long branch is randomly selected) is determined by scoring system

0. points (0%) – resistant (not damaged by fly larvae)

1. point - relatively resistant (0-1% of the total fruits of the branches are damaged by larvae)

1.-2.points - less damaged (2-10% of the total fruits of the branches are damaged by larvae)

2.-3. points - moderately damaged (11-30% of the total fruits of the branches are damaged by larvae)

3.-4. points - heavily damaged (31-50% of the total fruits of the branches are damaged by larvae)

4.-5. points - high damaged (>50% of all fruits of the branch are damaged by larvae)

3. The number density of flies was estimated using yellow sticky traps.

Traps were placed 3 times out of ten days during the plant growth period, i.e. in the middle of June, and the average number and density of flies caught in one trap was determined.



# Species of Fruit flies

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- Currently, 4350 species of 480 genera of the family *Tephritidae* have been recorded in all geographic regions, and approximately 850 species in the Palearctic.
- In the southeastern part of Western Siberia, 98 species belonging to 36 genera and 11 tribes were found.
- Currently, 62 species are recorded in the taxonomic database of the genus *Rhagoletis* Loew, 1862.

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# Scientists who studied Diptera insects in Mongolia (by family)

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D.Myagmarsuren, N.G. Olsiufe (Diptera, *Tabanidae*)

B.B. Rodendorf, U.G. Verves (*Sarcophagidae*)

V.A. Richter (*Tachinidae, Asilidae*)

E.Narchuk (*Acroceridae, Stratiomyidae, Xylomyidae*)

V.G.Kovalev (*Empididae*)

L.V.Peck (*Syrphidae*)

L.V.Ziminia (*Conopidae*)

V.V.Zlobin (*Agromyzidae*)

E.P. Narchuk, L. (*Chloropidae*)

V.F. Zaitsev (*Phoridae, Bomyliidae, Conopidae*)

O.P. Negrobov, A.B. Barkalov (*Dolichopodidae*)

**M.N. Kandybina (*Tephritidae*)**

**V.A. Richter (*Tephritidae*)**

P.A. Ler (*Asilidae*)

B.V. Mamaev (*Cecidomyiidae*)

# In Mongolia

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In our country, a total of 80 species of *Tephritidae* Newman, 1834 species of fruit flies were recorded in the materials of the comprehensive joint expedition between Mongolia and Russia held between 1967 and 1995.

1. Kandybina M.N. Study of fruit flies (Diptera *Tephritidae*) of the Mongolian People's Republic. Entomological review-1972. T. 51. Issue 4. pp. 909-917
2. Richter V.A. New mottled flies (Diptera *Tephritidae*) from Transbaikalia and Mongolia. Zoological Journal. 1972. T. 51. Issue. 8. p. 1251-1253.

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1. <i>Acinia nigricauda</i> Chen.                     | 21. <i>Rhagoletis flavicincta</i> Loew              | 41. <i>C.hirayamae</i> Matsumura                   | 61. <i>Paranthella guttata</i> Hen              |
| 2. <i>Acanthiophilus helianthi</i> Rossi              | 22. <i>Rhagoletis batava</i>                        | 42. <i>C.igori</i> Korneyer                        | 62. <i>Orotava mongolica</i> Korneyer           |
| 3. <i>Campiglossa amurensis</i> Hendel                | 23. <i>Rh. flavivincta</i> Loew                     | 43. <i>C.kassabi</i> Korneyer                      | 63. <i>Psilosephala frauenfeldi</i> Loew        |
| 4. <i>Campiglossa grandinata</i> Rondani              | 24. <i>Ph. mongolica</i> Kandybina                  | 44. <i>C.lubrica</i>                               | 64. <i>Trupanea amoena</i> Frauenfeld           |
| 5. <i>Carpomyia schineri</i> Loew.                    | 25. <i>Tephrella adila</i> Richter                  | 45. <i>C.luxorientis</i> Hering                    | 65. <i>T.converens</i> Hering                   |
| 6. <i>Chaetostomella cylindrica</i> Robinean-Desroigg | 26. <i>T. basalis</i> Hendel                        | 46. <i>Pseudacinia nigricauda</i> Chen             | 66. <i>T.stellata</i> Fuessly                   |
| 7. <i>Chaetostomella lenta</i> V.Richter              | 27. <i>T. caloptera</i> Loew                        | 47. <i>C.scedelloides</i> Korneyev                 | 67. <i>Terhritis euarestelloides</i> V.Richter  |
| 8. <i>Nitrariomyia lukjanovistshi</i> Rodendorf       | 28. <i>T. serratulae</i> Linnaeus                   | 48. <i>C.venusta venusta</i> Diribek et Diribekova | 68. <i>Terhritis variata</i> Becker             |
| 9. <i>Oedaspis dichotoma</i> Loew                     | 29. <i>T.winnerta</i> Frauenfeld                    | 49. <i>C.obscuripennis</i> Loew                    | 69. <i>T.cometa cingulata</i> Hering            |
| 10. <i>Oedaspis kaszabi</i> Richter                   | 30. <i>Trypeta artemisiae</i> Fabricius             | 50. <i>C.irrorota</i>                              | 70. <i>T.corolla</i> V.Richter                  |
| 11. <i>Orellia blanda</i> Richter                     | 31. <i>T. binotata</i> Zia                          | 51. <i>Dioxyna bidentes</i> Robineau-Desvoidy      | 71. <i>T.femoralis</i> Chen                     |
| 12. <i>Orellia megalopyga</i> Hering                  | 32. <i>Terellia serratulae</i> Linnaeus             | 52. <i>Oxyparna diluta</i> Becker                  | 72. <i>T.hospita</i> V.Richter                  |
| 13. <i>O.ruficauda</i> Fabricius                      | 33. <i>Urophora digna</i> Richter                   | 53. <i>Oxyna sp.aff. guttatatofasciata</i> Loew    | 73. <i>T.oedipus</i> Hendel                     |
| 14. <i>O. Phagocarpus</i> Hering                      | 34. <i>U.ensata</i> Richter                         | 54. <i>Oxyna longicauda</i> Korneyer, sp.n         | 74. <i>T.punctum</i> Becker                     |
| 15. <i>O.trimacula</i> Hering                         | 35. <i>U.mandsshurica</i> Hering                    | 55. <i>O.dracunculi</i> V.Richter                  | 75. <i>Whiteina contingens</i> Becker, comb.n   |
| 16. <i>Phagocarpus permundus</i> Harris               | 36. <i>Urelliosoma atroptera</i> Diribek et Diribek | 56. <i>O.lutulenta</i> Loew                        | 76. <i>Whiteina locwiana</i> Hendel, comb.n     |
| 17. <i>Paroxyna bidentis</i> Robineau-Desvoidy        | 37. <i>Xyphosia miliaria</i> Schrank                | 57. <i>Oxyparna melanostigmata</i> Korneyer, sp.n  | 77. <i>Donara pennula</i> Diribek et Diribekova |
| 18. <i>P.contingens</i> Becker                        | 38. <i>Campiglossa amurensis</i> Hendel             | 58. <i>Oxyparna variabilis</i> Chen                | 78. <i>Gonioxyna paradigma</i> Hering           |
| 19. <i>P.loewiana</i> Hendel                          | 39. <i>C.argyrocephala</i> Loew                     | 59. <i>Paracarphotricha apestris</i>               | 79. <i>Ensina sonchi</i> Linnaeus               |
| 20. <i>P.tessellata</i> Loew                          | 40. <i>C.difficilis</i> Hendel                      | 60. <i>P.pseudoradiata</i> Becker                  | 80. <i>Noeeta alini</i> Hering                  |

Zoologishen Museum, Reichenbachia



# Taxonomy (№670624)

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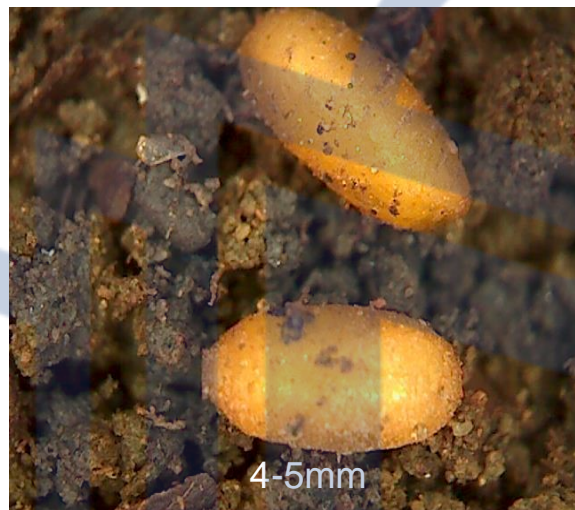
Species: Seabuckthorn fly - *Rhagoletis batava* Hering, 1958

= *Rhagoletis obscuriosa* Kolomiec., 1970

*Rhagoletis batava* was first determined ed by Hering in 1958.

Later determined by Rohdendorf, 1961: Kandybina, 1977:

White & Elson-Harris, 1992, Merz, 2001: Norrbom et al., 1999: Smit, 2010



*a: larva б: pupa, в: adult male, adult female*

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# Research results

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order; (Diptera), family; (*Tephritidae* Newman, 1834),

The species *Philophylla caesio* (Harris, 1780) of the genus *Philophylla* (Persson, 1958) was first discovered in natural sea buckthorn fields.

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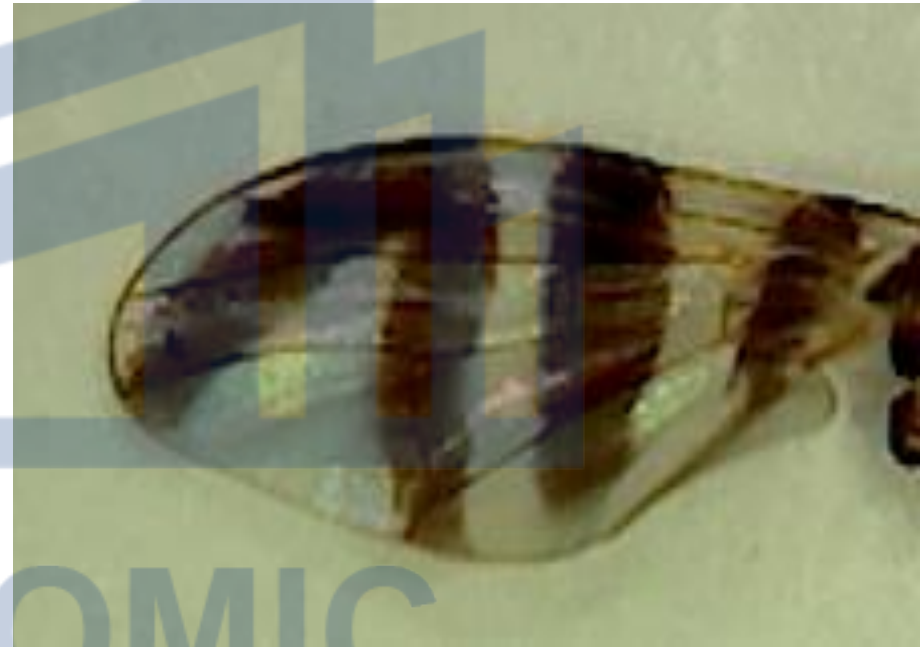
# Species differences

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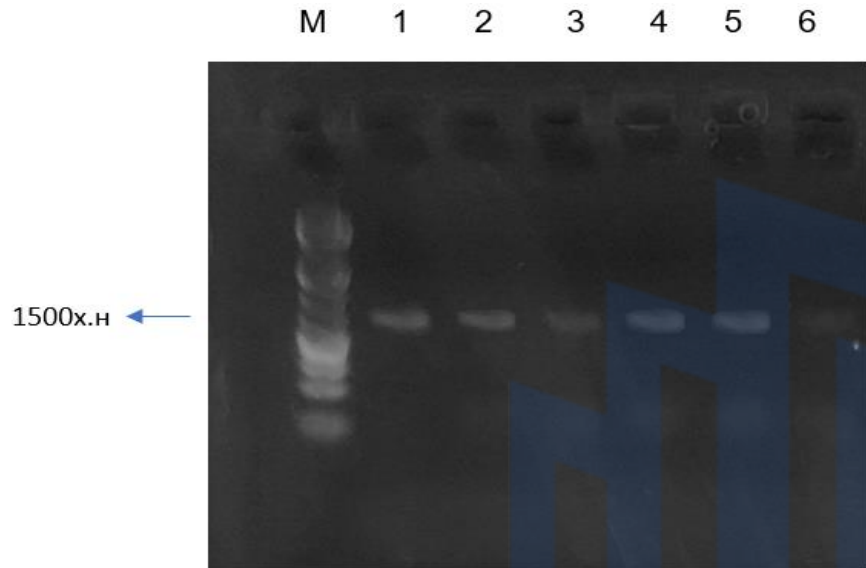
*Philophylla caesio* fly wings and veins/ eScope. Handmicroscope  
photo by B.Munkhtsetseg. .2019.10.10

Zavkhan province. Durvulji. Khar but



*Rhagoletis batava* fly wings and veins. eScope.  
handmicroscope (photos by B.Munkhtsetseg.2019.10.10)

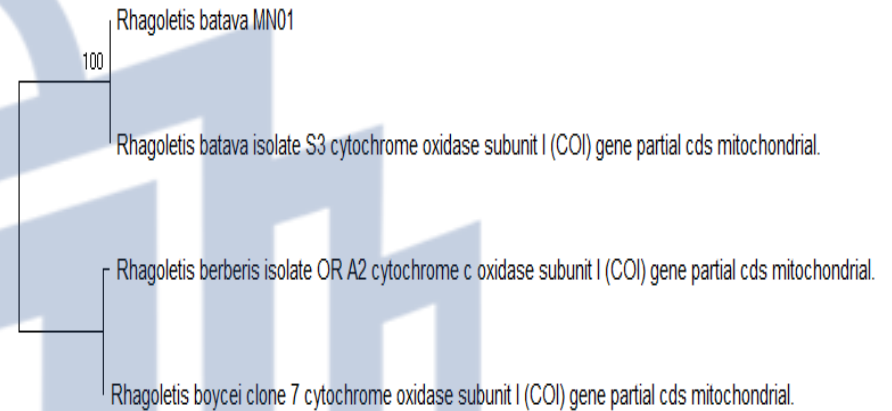
## *Rhagoletis batava*: Phylogenetic tree



M-Маркер 10000х.н, 4-р нүхэнд *Rhagoletis batava* (1500х.н)

C1-J-1718<sup>1</sup> 5' GGAGGATTTGGAAATTGATTAGTTCC, 3'

C1-N-2191<sup>1</sup>-5' CCCGGTAAAATTAA AATATA AACTTC 3'



For comparison, gene MT015673.1 was in cluster 1 with *R. batava* with bank no.

This confirms that it is *R. batava*.

Number registered in Genbank – OL757571 (*R. batava*)

J. Temuujin 2021

In 1970, Kolomyetz considered the Siberian buckthorn fly as a new subspecies. ***RHAGOLETHIS BATAVA OBSCURIOSA*** (KOLOMIEC, 1970)

He believed that the Siberian fly species was a different species that differed in symptoms from the European species, so he made it a subspecies. However, it was not proven that the species spread in Siberia is a subspecies, so it is considered a single species that spread from Siberia to Europe.

The Siberian species is highly adaptable and more aggressive, and several factors are believed to have contributed to its spread to Europe.

Among them: Climate change or humid and warm climate had a favorable effect on reproduction.

It is also related to the increase in the amount of fodder or sea buckthorn cultivation

# Damage

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Usually 1-2 fruits are damaged, but in some cases they feed on up to 5 fruits.  
There are 1-2 larvae per fruit, but up to 4 larvae can occur.

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( B.Munkhtsetseg 2021.09.03)



Fruit damage

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In the first ten days of September 2019, damage caused by sea buckthorn fly larvae was estimated in a 10m<sup>2</sup> area of the Khar but in Durvuljin Sum, Zavkhan province, and the total fruit damage spread to 96.8% of the sea buckthorn reached 85-95%, and the spread of fly larvae reached 63.3% in Ulaan Buraa grove damage had reached 80%

|   | Name of place                       | 10м <sup>2</sup> талбай       |                                      |                 |           |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
|   |                                     | Total number of trees counted | Number of damaged tree by fly larvae | Distribution, % | Damage ,% |
| 1 | Zavkhan. Durvuljin soum. Khar but   | 63                            | 61                                   | 96.8            | 85-95     |
| 2 | Zavkhan. Durvuljin soum. Ulaanburaa | 30                            | 19                                   | 63.3            | 75-80     |

When compared with the damaged fruit and healthy fruit from branches with damaged fruits by sea buckthorn fly larvae, 82.8% of the fruits on average 25 cm long branches were damaged, and 77.2% of the leaves were deformed



2021:2 ha. Sea buckthorn field in ABBA-4 company, Jargalan soum, Khovd province. (N48°00'01.5/E91°35'39.5, д.т.д:1410м)

-From the first ten days of July, the density of the number of flies in the insect sticky trap was 96-101 individuals per trap.



*(B.Munkhtsetseg Khovd, Jargalan. 2021.08.09).*

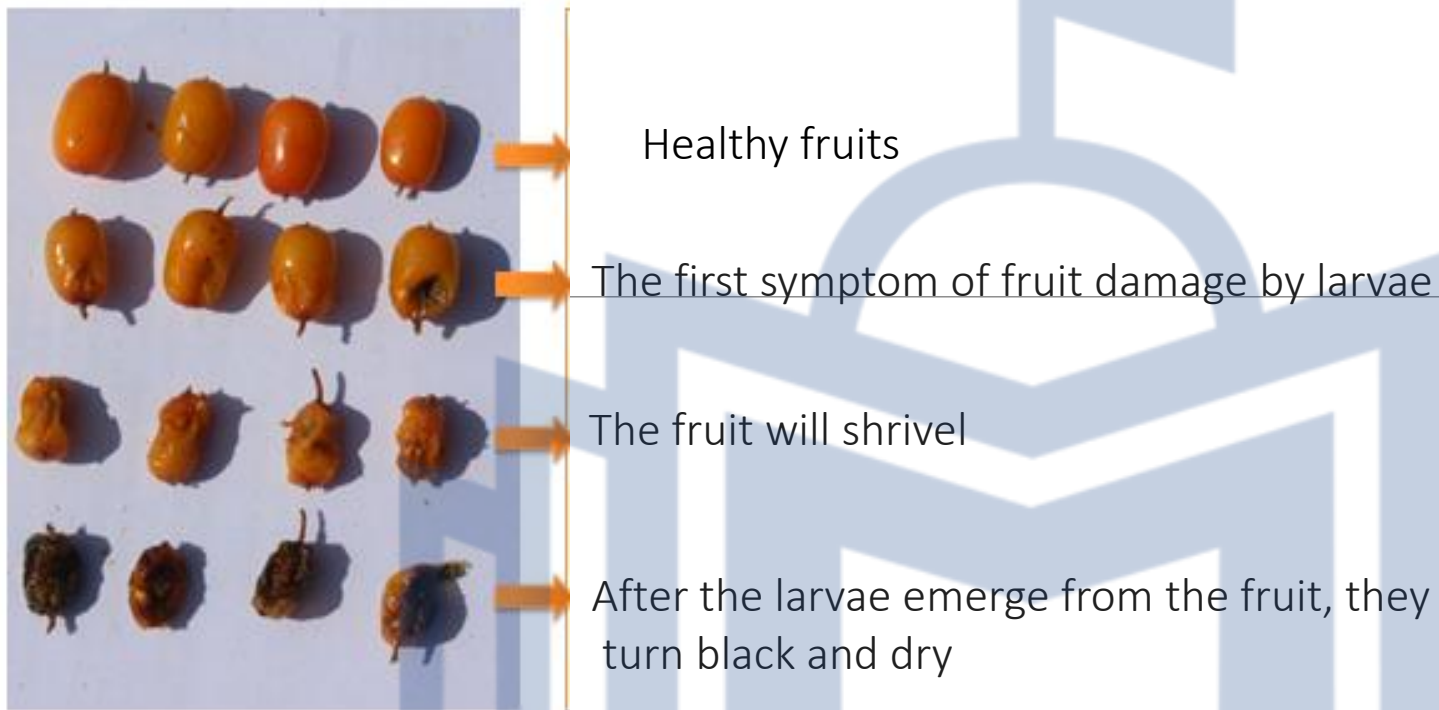
3 replicates were obtained from branches with larval damaged fruits.  
When comparing damaged fruits and healthy fruits, 71.4% of fruits on average 25 cm branches were damaged.



Healthy fruit and damaged fruit were compared

When picking fruits damaged by fly larvae

- Branch 1: Larvae infected fruits, 33 pieces
- Branch 2: Larvae infected fruits, 13 pieces
- Branch 3: Larvae-infected fruit, 42 average = 29.3pieces
- Branch 4: With healthy fruit or control = 41 pieces



Changes in yield weight of fruits with different degrees of damage  
 Inya copt.2009 (Lyubov, Shamanskaya 2015).

| Indicator               | Healthy fruit | Weight loss of damaged fruit, % |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                         |               | 1                               | 10   | 20   | 30   | 40   | 50   | 60   | 70   | 80   | 90   | 100  |
| 100 fruits weight (g)   | 92.7          | 92.5                            | 89.5 | 86.7 | 84.0 | 8.8  | 79.8 | 73.5 | 70.3 | 67.1 | 63.9 | 60.5 |
| Compared to control (%) | -             | 99.7                            | 96.5 | 93.5 | 90.6 | 88.2 | 86.0 | 79.2 | 75.8 | 72.3 | 68.9 | 65.2 |
| Yield loss (%)          | -             | 0.3                             | 3.5  | 6.5  | 9.4  | 11.8 | 14.0 | 20.8 | 24.2 | 27.7 | 31.1 | 34.8 |

-M. A. Prokofieva studies; The sum of effective temperature for pupal development is 312 C and the variation is  $\pm 67.5$ .

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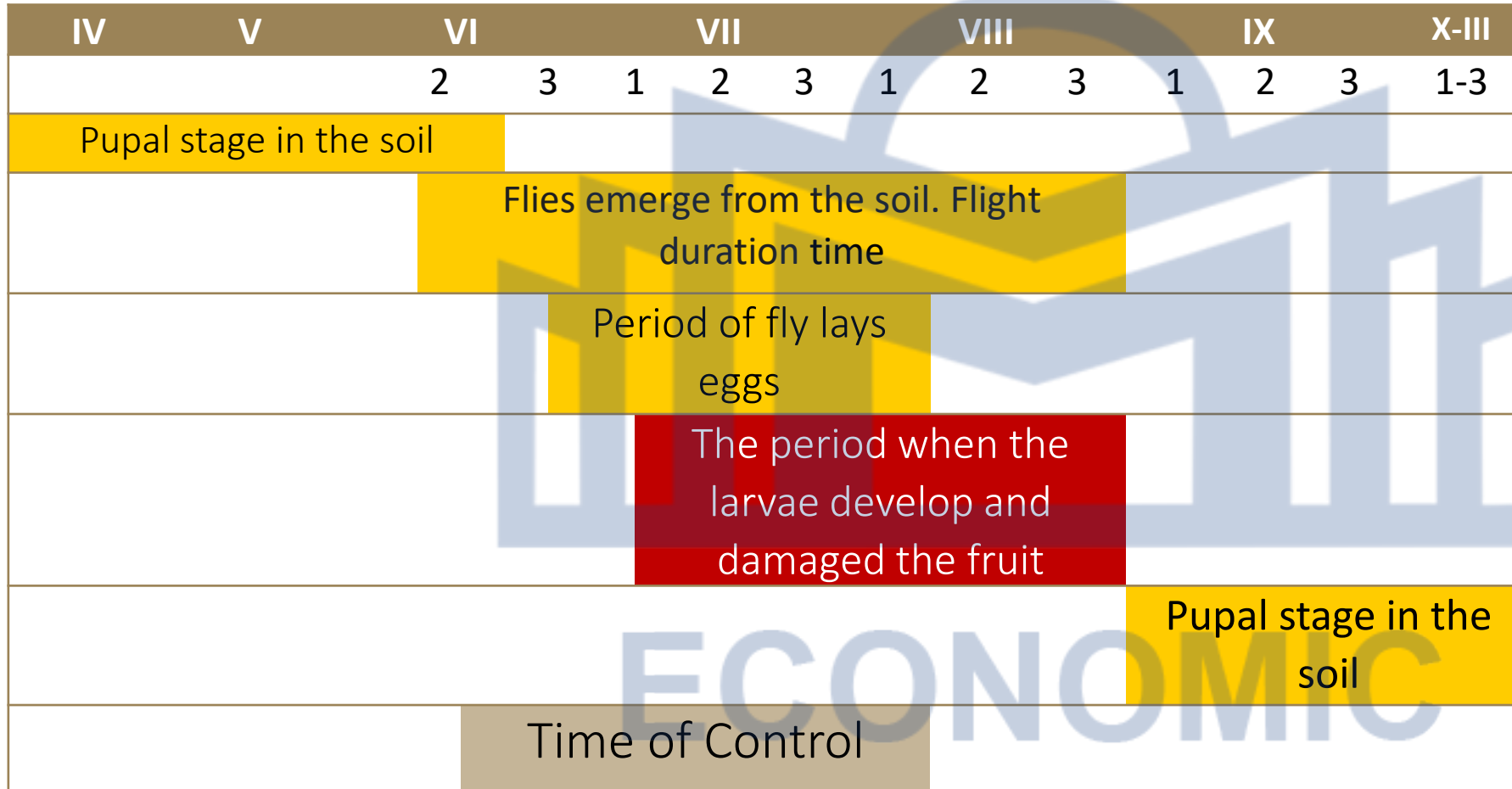
The sum of effective temperature in flight adult fly is 252.1-319C. It was found that the egg laying is 339.5-390.3 C, larval development is 428.3-470.0 C, and one generation give 48-57 days (Zeynalov A.S 2018).

**The early emerge** of flies starts when the spring of the year is warm, the first ten days of June are hot or sunny, and the sum of useful heat is 336-3800C, or June 9-22.

**The mid-term distribution** is that the sum of effective temperature in the middle ten days of 6 months is 271-278 C, or the distribution of flies continues during the cool season.

The end of the 6th month and the beginning of the 7th month are considered to be the beginning of the evening distribution. In that year, the cold period of spring continued, and the sum of useful heat was 250 C.

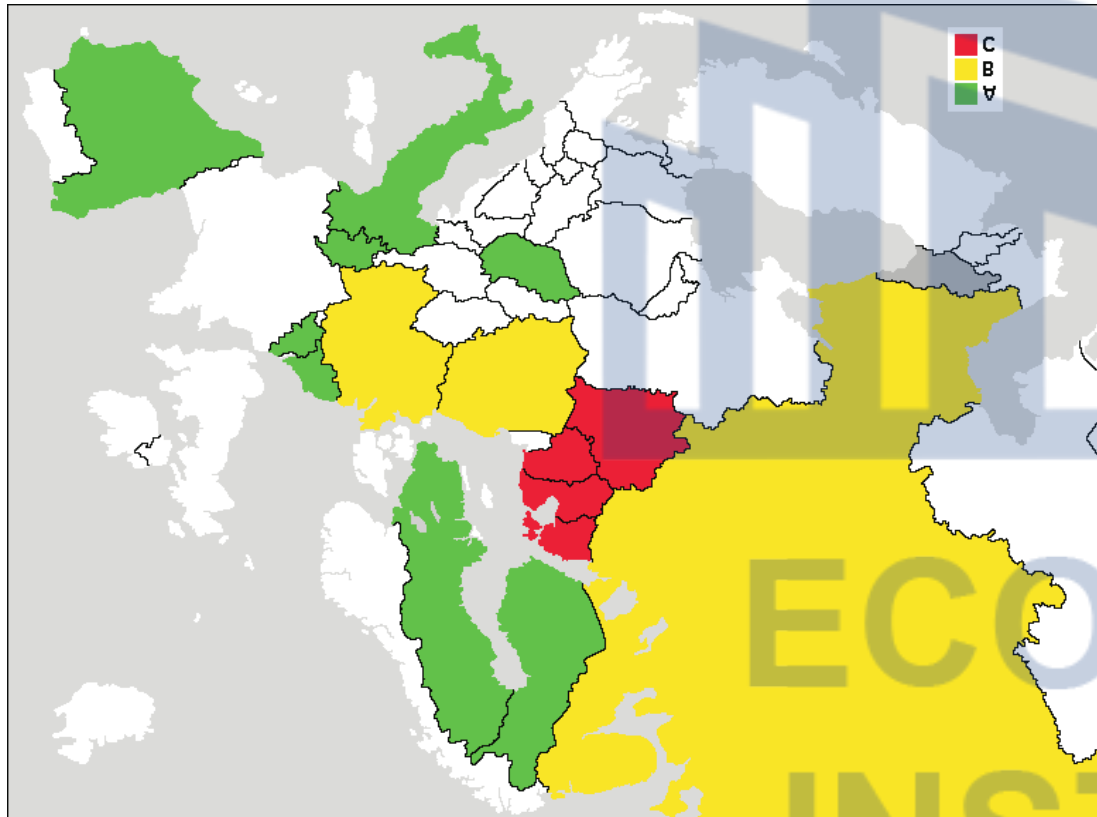
# Phenology



Sea buckthorn flies emerge from the pupa from the third ten days of June and continue their development. From the third ten days of August, they transition to the pupal stage and overwinter.

Seabukhtorn fly developed 1 generation per year in western region of Mongolia

# Distribution



European distribution of the sea buckthorn fly

(A-green: native species,  
B-yellow: possibly alien with native distribution,  
C-red: alien species)

[www.researchgate.net/figure/European-distribution-of-Rhagoletis-batava](http://www.researchgate.net/figure/European-distribution-of-Rhagoletis-batava)

Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, Russia (North Caucasus, Altai, Tuva, Kyrgyzstan (Korneyev V.A, Mishustin R.I, Korneyev S.V 2017). Armenia, Belgium, Belarus, Finland, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the European part of the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, the Netherlands, Turkey, the North and Central Caucasus, the southern mountains of Siberia, Altai and Tuva (Burcu ÖZBEK ÇATAL, Asime Filiz ÇALIŞKAN KEÇE2, Mehmet Rifat ULUSOY 2019)

**Distribution of the sea buckthorn fly:** The fly was first described in the Netherlands (Hering,1958) and was known in a few European countries, but was not particularly harmful. However, it was particularly harmful to sea buckthorn cultivation in Western Siberia and Altai region (Kolomietz, 1970; Shamanskaya, 2006).

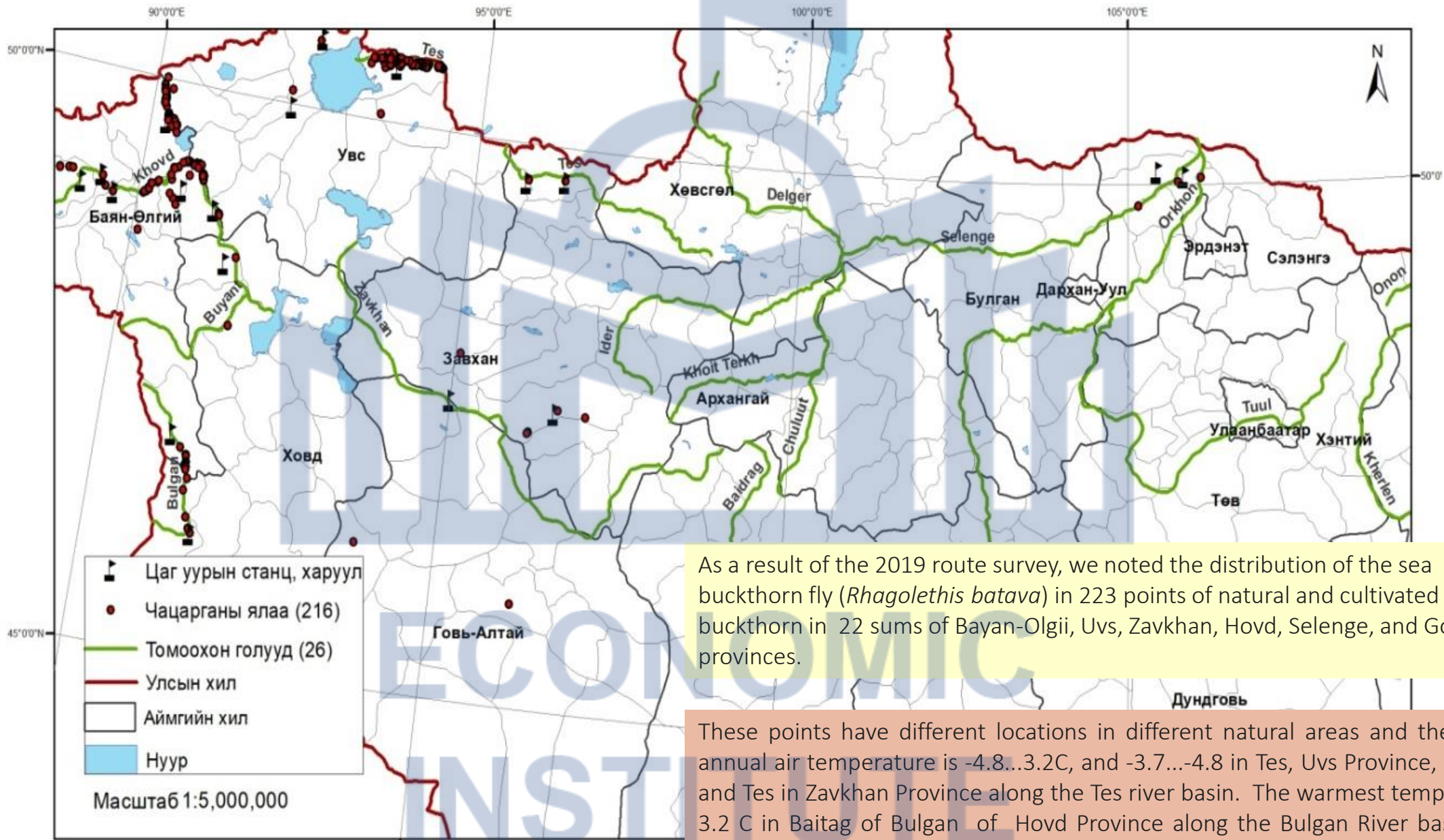
Since 2001, the intensive outbreak of the fly has been observed in the European part of the Russian Federation. Soon, it began to seriously damage crops in Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, and Poland in 2014.

In 2015, it was recorded in the sea buckthorn fields of Estonia and Finland, and it was detected in Hungary during the same year during the monitoring study. This is the basis for confirming that it spread from Siberia to Europe.

## In Mongolia

It is a Palearctic species and is distributed in the depressions of the big lakes of our country, in the forest steppes, in the valleys of large rivers, around the Uvs lake, in the basins of the Kharkhira, Turgani rivers, Hovd rivers, Bulgan rivers, and Zavkhan rivers.

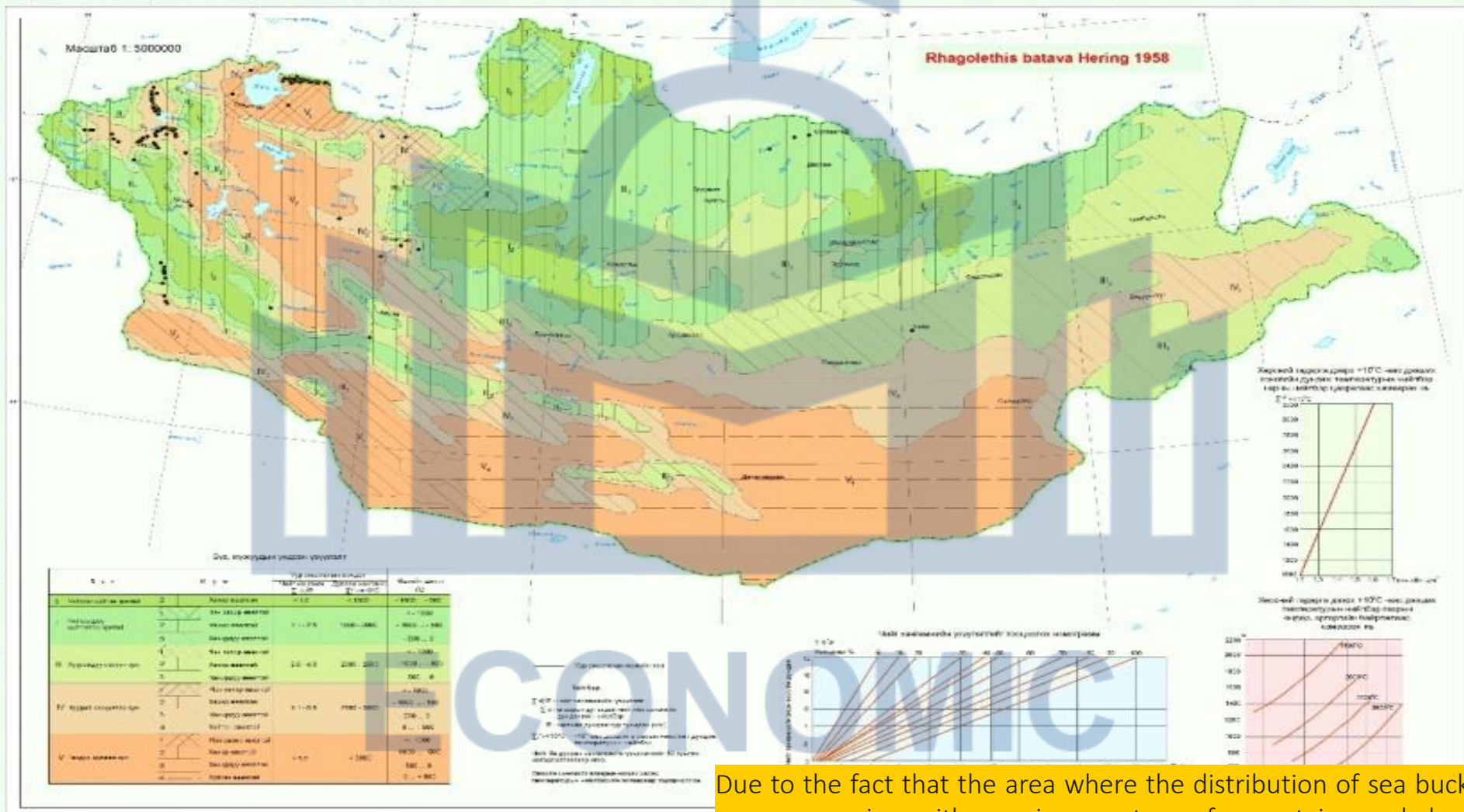




As a result of the 2019 route survey, we noted the distribution of the sea buckthorn fly (*Rhagoletis batava*) in 223 points of natural and cultivated sea buckthorn in 22 sums of Bayan-Olgii, Uvs, Zavkhan, Hovd, Selenge, and Gobi-Altai provinces.

These points have different locations in different natural areas and the average annual air temperature is  $-4.8...3.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and  $-3.7...-4.8$  in Tes, Uvs Province, Bayantes, and Tes in Zavkhan Province along the Tes river basin. The warmest temperature is  $3.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  in Baitag of Bulgan of Hovd Province along the Bulgan River basin, and  $-2.4...1.80^{\circ}\text{C}$  in other.

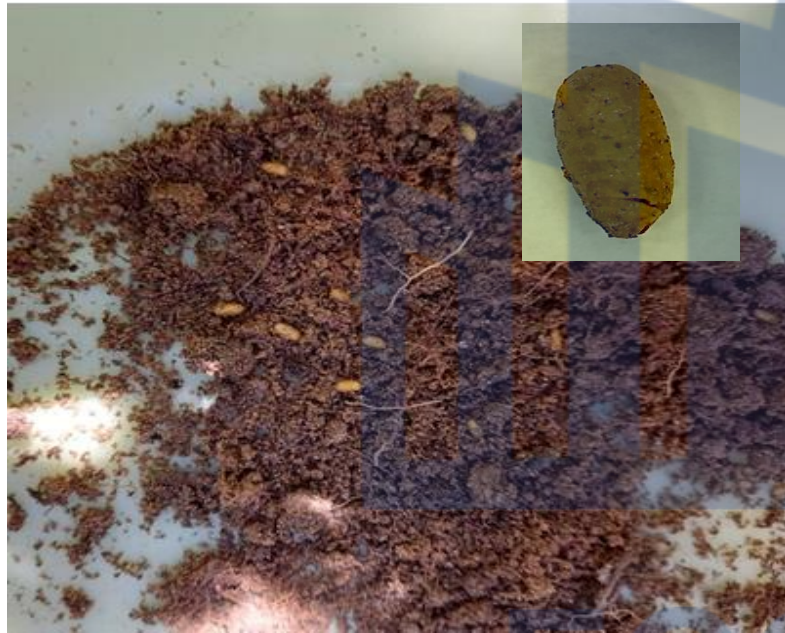
Уур амьсгалын мужлал ба чацарганы ялааны тархалт



Due to the fact that the area where the distribution of sea buckthorn fly is marked covers a region with a unique system of mountains and deserts combined, the amount of rainfall is not uniform, and most of the area is in a dry and cool climate, and some parts are in a cold, humid region

From the field of sea buckthorn cultivated in Jargalan, Hovd province, and Ulagom sum, Uvs province

4125 pupa samples were collected from a total of 30 points in the first ten days of June. - The density of pupae in the soil per 1m<sup>2</sup> area; 25.5 in Uvs province and 22.8 in Hovd province



-When the pupae were placed in the laboratory twice for 60 days (under conditions of 22°C, 60% humidity and normal lighting), 51.7% of the total 4125 pupae matured.

-48.2% of the total number of pupae was reduced.

# Natural enemies

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Order: Hymenoptera  
Family: *Pteromalidae*  
Genus: *Habrocytus*



*Habrocytus* sp..

Order: Hymenoptera  
Family: *Braconidae*  
Genus: *Opius*



*Opius rhagoleticola* Achtleben, 1934

The number of parasites per host insect was 1:1.

# Conclusions

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1. 2 species of *Rhagoletis* fruit fly were noted.
2. *Rhagoletis batava* was identified by PCR and registered in the gene bank .
3. The phenology of the sea buckthorn fly was determined in the western region of Mongolia.
4. We recorded the distribution of the sea buckthorn fly (*Rhagoletis batava*) at 223 points in 22 sum areas of 6 provinces of Mongolia and recorded it on the distribution map.
5. The area where the sea buckthorn fly is distributed is in the dry cooler climate, and in some places it is in the cold humid region.
6. Improved internal quarantine measures are needed to limit the spread of the sea buckthorn fly

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