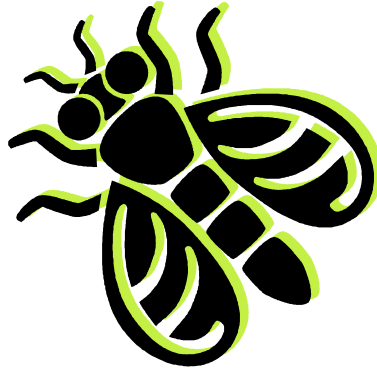


Sexing Fruit Flies- *Drosophila melanogaster*

The male and female phenotypes of *Drosophila* are very different. Once you have had a bit of experience looking at them under the microscope you can easily tell them apart.



1. Gently collect about 10 anaesthetised/ethanized flies using a clean paint brush.
2. Using your naked eye make a prediction to see if you can spot the difference between female and male fruit flies. Discuss your observations with your partner/group.
3. Look closer at the flies by using a hand lens or microscope. Are your prediction correct?
4. Using a paint brush divide your flies into male and female groups. Check with your teacher if you are correct.
5. Draw a female and male fruit fly in the spaces below. Use as much detail as possible.

Male *Drosophila*

Generally smaller body
Flatter abdomen at the base
Large dark strip on the abdomen
Dark hairs on the front leg joints

Female *Drosophila*

Generally larger body
Pointier abdomen
Smaller stripes on the abdomen
No hairs on the front leg joints

