TRIPS (THYSANOPTERA) IN HASS AVOCADO ORCHARDS (*PERSEA AMERICANA* MILLER) IN MICHOACÁN, MÉXICO

A-84

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Trips can produce fruit deformation during development affecting their quality and hampering commercialization in the export market. In order to study the species present, trips were collected in three commercial orchards of Hass avocados in the State of Michoacan, "El Durazno" (2.300 masl), "La Loma" (1.940 masl) and "El Meson" (1.580 masl). The three orchards are geographically located close to 19°24' NL and 102°01' WL. The samplings were made during a 22 months period (June-1997 to September-1999), that included the months with the highest quantity and diversity of trips in these orchards; the samplings were made from the inflorescences, the bunches of small fruits and the new foliage. A total of 652 specimens were identified in the three orchards, 33.13% in "El Durazno", 25.77% in "La Loma" and 41.10% in "El Meson". Eleven genera were found: *Franklinothrips, Heterothrips, Caliothrips, Aroratrhips, Exophtalmothrips Frankliniella, Leucothrips, Scolothrips, Scirtothrips, Neohydatothrips* and *Leptothrips* and a total of 53 species. From the genus *Frankliniella*, 27 species were registered; those were the most frequently found in El Durazno, particularly *F. fallaciosa, F. occidentalis, F. brunnescens, F. invasor, F. curiosa, F. cephalica, F. bruneri* and *F. minor*. Another important genus was *Scirtothrips* with 12 species. In this case, *S. perseae* was the most frequently present in La Loma. There were four species from *Neohydatothrips*, where *N. burungae* and *N. signifer* were found frequently in the three orchards. *Heterothrips mexicanus*, *Arorathrips mexicanus*, *Exophtalmothrips sp.*, *Leucothrips furcatus*, *L. piercei*, *Caliothrips phaseoli* and *C. Punctipennis* were also collected. Regarding predator species *Franklinothrips lineatus, Scolothrips sexmaculatus* and *Leptothrips mcconnelli* were identified and *S. sexmaculatus* was found in the three orchards.