

DYNAMICS AND SAMPLING OF MIRIDS (HEMIPTERA: MIRIDAE) IN AVOCADO IN FLORIDA

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Flower feeders, such as mirids *Dagbertus fasciatus* (Reuter), *Rhinacloa* sp. and *D. olivaceous* (Reuter) contribute to excessive flower drop and reduction of fruit set in Florida. Several studies on the dynamics and sampling of these pests were conducted in South Dade County by collecting mirids from thirteen avocado varieties. The effectiveness of a beating sampling technique was compared to the use of sticky traps as monitoring tools. Relationship between avocado flower variety and avocado phenology was determined. Mirid seasonality in different flowering crops and plants in Florida showed that mirids are polyphagous as they feed on inflorescences of other fruit crops such as mango, weeds i.e., *Schinus* and palms throughout the year.