

LEPIDOPTEROUS PESTS OF FLORIDA AVOCADO: BIODYNAMICS, MORTALITY FACTORS AND CONTROL

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H. Glenn, J. E. Peña, R. M. Baranowski, and R. Duncan.

Tropical Research and Education Center, UF, Homestead, Florida, USA.

E-mail: jepe@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

The omnivorous loopers, *Epimeces detexta* (Walker), *E. matronaria* (Guenée), *Anacamptodes matronaria* (Guenée) and *Oxydia vesulia transponens* (Walker) (Geometridae) feed on the foliage of avocado and at times on fruits whereas the leafroller, *Caloptilia perseae* (Gracillariidae) causes minor damage to young foliage. Larval development of *E. detexta* and its consumption of foliage were determined. Three orchards were used to determine the population dynamics of the loopers. A larval parasitoid, *Parapanteles* sp., as well as a pupal parasitoid, *Trichospilus diatreae* were collected from specimens held under laboratory conditions. Efficacy of different insecticides was determined on the avocado leaf roller.