

NATURAL ENEMIES OF THE AVOCADO LACE BUG, *Pseudacysta perseae* (HETEROPTERA: TINGIDAE) IN FLORIDA, USA

J. Peña¹, R. Duncan¹, W. Roltsch², R. Gagné³ and F. Agudelo¹

¹University of Florida, Tropical Research and Education Center, Homestead, FL, USA
e-mail: jepe@ifas.ufl.edu

²California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, CA., USA

³USDA, ARS, USDA, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA

Past studies in Florida have demonstrated that the avocado lace bug, (ALB), *Pseudacysta perseae* (Heteroptera:Tingidae) has several natural enemies. Two egg parasitoids, *Oligosita* spp.(Hymenoptera: Trichogrammatidae) and a unidentified mymarid (Hymenoptera: Mymaridae), the predators, green lace wing, *Chrysoperla rufilabris* (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae) and a predaceous mirid, possibly, *Hyaliodes vitripennis* (Heteroptera: Miridae). Both the green lace wing and the predaceous mirid, caused at least 30% reduction of nymphs and eggs. During 1996-1998 the egg parasitoid *Oligosita* spp., was the most frequent during the first major peak of *P. perseae*. However, recent surveys conducted between 2005 and 2007 suggest that the mymarid, *Erythmelus* spp., might be more important than *Oligosita* spp. Besides these parasitoids, the current predators, *Paracarniella cubana* (Heteroptera: Miridae), *Stethoconus praefectus* (Heteroptera: Miridae) and a new genus and undescribed species of Cecidomyiidae appear to be the major predators of this pest. In other countries where *P. perseae* has been found, i.e., Cuba, Dominican Republic, there has not been any reports of parasitoids of this lace bug. We report the population dynamics of the pest and its natural enemies and discuss the potential of each of them in Florida, USA