

THRIPS SPECIES (TYSANOPTERA) AND THEIR POPULATION DYNAMICS ON AVOCADO 'HASS' IN NAYARIT, MEXICO

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The study was conducted during two years in two 'Hass' avocado orchards (La Yerba and Emiliano Zapata), in the state of Nayarit. Avocado trees were grown under rainfed conditions (annual rainfall =1225 mm; mean annual temperature = 22.7 °C). The objectives were: to know the thrips species associated to leaves and inflorescence, and to determine their population dynamics. The identified thrips species were: Family Aeolthripidae, *Aeolothrips major* Bailey, *Erythrothrips durango* Watson and *Franklinothrips vespiformis* (D. L.Crawford) Family Phlaeothripidae, *Pseudophilothrips perseae* (Watson) and *Leptothrips mcconelli* (D. L.Crawford). Familia Thripidae, *Frankliniella minor* Moulton. The predator species *Erythrothrips durango* Watson, *Franklinothrips vespiformis* (D. L.Crawford) and *Leptothrips mcconelli* (D. L.Crawford), along with the phytophagous species *Pseudophilothrips perseae* (Watson), were recorded for the first time in avocado in Nayarit. In La Yerba, the highest thrips population occurred in June (2.09 thrips/leaf). In E. Zapata this peak was reached in July (4.10 thrips/leaf). The highest thrips populations occurred during periods of high temperatures or during flowering, and vegetative growth, while lowest ones were recorded during the summer rain period. Thrips population was 60 % significantly higher in E. Zapata than in La Yerba.