

CHARACTERIZATION OF 'HASS' AVOCADO PROLEPTIC AND SYLLEPTIC SHOOT PROPORTION IN VALPARAISO REGION, CHILE

J. E. Salvo¹ and J. P. Martínez¹

¹: Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias, Investigación y Desarrollo. Chorrillos 86, La Cruz, Region of Valparaíso, Chile. e-mail: jsalvo@inia.cl

Proleptic and sylleptic shoot development was studied to characterize canopy architecture of Hass avocado (*Persea americana* Mill.) in two provinces of Chile. Sylleptis and proleptis rates at orchards with different ages were evaluated in Petorca and Quillota provinces in 2005-06 season. Forty trees were randomly selected to each orchard to this study. Number of branches, whose main shoots were proleptic or sylleptic types, was evaluated. Only branches that were accessible around the tree below 2 m high were considered. In general, it was observed that Quillota and Petorca display sylleptic rates lower than proleptic, and that there are differences in both shoot type ratio between these provinces as well. Moreover, it was observed that proleptis rates increase at older age range. It was concluded that proleptic and sylleptic shoot proportion is a useful parameter to show differences among avocado orchards in this region as effect of age and location of the orchard. Further research is required to know how agronomic management may affect such differences.