

# Scolytinae and Platypodinae (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) in Plantations of Para Rubber, *Hevea brasiliensis* Müll. Arg., of Different Ages, in São Paulo Northwest, Brazil

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Para rubber, *Hevea brasiliensis* Müll. Arg. is native to the Amazon basin, but the largest Brazilian plantations are found in southern Brazil. São Paulo state concentrates the largest plantations, mainly in the northwest. Most of the few pests reported to Para rubber are found in their leaves, while trunk and branches are rather rarely attacked. Recently, we recorded several Scolytinae and Platypodinae attacks on rubber trees, usually associated with trunk diseases. The objective of this experiment is to evaluate Curculionidae populations in rubber plantations of different ages, and located in Santana da Ponte Pensa, northwest São Paulo, Brazil. Stand 1 (4 ha) was composed of 25-year old PB 235 trees in the productive phase (tapping started in 1997); site 2 (1 ha) is 4-year old, clone RRIM 600 trees in the immature phase; site 3 (0.5 ha) had also clone RRIM 600 8-year old trees, whose tapping started in less than one year. Site 2 was bordering a 6-ha riparian forest fragment, where traps were also deployed. Beetles are being surveyed since March 2012 with ethanol-baited flight intercept traps in weekly collections. We trapped 20 Scolytinae species, within *Ambrosiodmus* (2 spp.), *Cnesinus* (1 sp.), *Cryptocarenus* (3 spp.), *Hypothenemus* (7 spp.), *Premnobius* (1 sp.), *Xyleborinus* (2 spp.), *Xyleborus* (3 spp.) and *Xylosandrus* (1 sp.). *Euplatypus parallelus* was the only Platypodinae species trapped yet, along with 3 Bostrichidae species, within the genera *Xyloperthella*, *Xylopsocus* and *Rhyzopertha*. On sites 1, 2 and 3 we trapped ca. 55%, 31% and 13%, respectively, while most Bostrichidae were trapped in site 3. Less than 2% of Scolytinae specimens were trapped in the forest fragment. These preliminary results suggest that as trees get older, with a slower growth rate, and receive higher number of tappings, tree stress increases, facilitating an invasion by Scolytinae beetles. *Hypothenemus obscurus*, the most abundant species, was found attacking Para rubber seeds on the ground.

**Keywords:** ambrosia beetles; Bostrichidae; ethanol