

Curculionidae (Coleoptera) in Chayote (*Sechium edule*) in Eastern São Paulo, Brazil

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Chayote is a climbing vine, native to Mexico and Guatemala. In Brazil, the state of São Paulo is its largest producer. It is mainly cultivated in the hills of the Serra da Mantiqueira, and usually in small areas. In the last few years, growers were facing constant problems caused by beetle borers. The objective of this research was to determine the species associated with damage to chayote. We examined material from three properties (P). P1 was in Amparo (22°44'41.93"S 46°43'22.23"W), with a planted area of 1.25 ha, plants were 4-yr old, attacks started in the summer of 2012, and with losses topping 40% plants. P2 was in Monte Alegre do Sul (22°44'19.31"S 46°39'06.80"W), cropped area was 5.12 ha, plants were 6-yr old and attacks also started the summer of 2012. P3 was also in Amparo (22°43'55.69"S 46°44'17.34"W), area of 1.5 ha, 4-yr old plants, and that over the years experienced frequent and intense attacks. We collected attacked stem material from the properties in January 2013, March 2013 and April 2014, respectively. In all properties the chayote conduction system is the pergola. In P1 we found *Hypothenemus* sp., *Dendrocranulus* spp. (Curculionidae, Scolytinae), *Phymatophosus squameus* (Curculionidae, Cryptorhynchini) and two Cerambycidae species, in P2 one Cerambycidae and *Theoborus villosulus* (Scolytinae), while in P3 *Hypothenemus* spp. (3 species), one Cerambycidae species and *P. squameus* were identified. *Dendrocranulus* were the most abundant beetles, seconded by *P. squameus*, and responsible for the reported damage. There were six morphotypes of *Dendrocranulus*, where it appears that *D. major*, *D. costalimai* and *D. melaenus* were represented. Cerambycidae species were already reported causing damage to chayote, and *S. squameus* was already reported in this plant, in Brazil. Even though there are reports of *Dendrocranulus* causing damage to chayote in Central America, this is the first report of these beetles causing economic damage in Brazil, same as for *S. squameus*.

Keywords: Cerambycidae, economic damage, Scolytinae.