Scolytinae and Platypodinae (Curculionidae) associated with *Tectona grandis* L.f. dieback in Ecuador

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Teak, *Tectona grandis*, is native to southern Asia, and has a very valued timber. Introduced in Ecuador in 1950, today there are ca. 50000 ha of teak plantations in the country. Ecuador exports over 98% of its harvested timber. In 2017, approximately 166 thousand cubic meters were exported, worth 36 million US. Ecuadorian teak growers are currently reporting death of trees due to a disease and large number of beetle borers in their plantations. The objective of this experiment was to correlate trees with initial symptoms of dieback with beetle species. Diseased trees from 9 provinces were felled and dissected, two from the Amazonian region and another seven from the Ecuadorian coastal region, in 13 cities. We selected trees attacked by borers and with 2/3 of crown still alive. The basal two meters of each tree were cut and put in emergence cages in the Laboratorio de Protección Vegetal of the Universidad Técnica de Babahoyo to collect emerged beetles. The pathogen was identified in the Laboratorio de Fitopatología of the Universidad Técnica de Manabí, as *Ceratocystis fimbriata*. Three Platypodinae and 13 Scolytinae species were recovered. Most Scolytinae species were in the subtribe Xyleborina, genera *Coptoborus* (3 species), *Premnobius* (1 species), and *Xyleborus* (8 eight species) corresponding to over 90% of all specimens recovered. The other Scolytinae were in the subtribe Cryphalina, with a single species of *Hypothenemus*. Platypodinae was represented in low numbers and in twos genera, *Euplatypus* (2 species) and an undetermined genus/species. This is the most comprehensive checklist of ambrosia beetles associated with teak in Ecuador. Further studies are necessary to determine the role of these species in vectoring *C. fimbriata* in teak.

Palavras-chave: ambrosia beetles; teak; Ceratocystis fimbriata

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