

Stem caterpillars (Lepidoptera) in African mahogany (*Khaya* spp.) in southeastern Brazil

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African mahogany has been intensively planted in Brazil in the last few decades. Reports on pests have been few, sporadic and of little importance so far. We report here for the first time caterpillars developing in stems of *Khaya grandifoliola* and *Khaya senegalensis* in Brazil. We collected pupae and waited until emergence of adults, which were determined as *Caphys biliniata* (Stoll, 1781) (Pyralidae, Chrysauginae), *Ectomyelois muriscis* (Dyar, 1914), *Hypsipyla grandella* (Zeller, 1848) (Pyralidae, Phycitinae), and *Pyroderces rileyi* (Walsingham, 1882) (Cosmopterygidae). All caterpillars were found associated with stem cankers. Caterpillars spin threads of white silk, which is packed with frass. *Ectomyelois muriscis* and *H. grandella* were found feeding underneath cankers on the bark of trees, while the other species apparently were feeding on the cankers. Pupation occurred inside cankers or between canker and tree bark, and pupae were protected by a dense cover of silk. *Hypsipyla grandella* was recorded in São Roque de Minas (SRM), Capinópolis (CP) and Alpercata (state of Minas Gerais), *E. muriscis* in SRM, Alpercata, Governador Valadares (GV), CP (Minas Gerais) and Garça (state of São Paulo), *C. bilineata* in SRM, and *P. rileyi* in CP. Alpercata and GV plantations were of *K. senegalensis*, while the remainder were of *K. grandifoliola*. All species are known to attack plant species, except for *C. bilineata*, whose known food source so far is excreta from nestlings. *Hypsipyla grandella* is the feared mahogany shoot borer, which was unusually found attacking only stems, not shoots. In Alpercata *H. grandella* caterpillars were seriously damaging their attacked trees, by girdling them. We also found some natural enemies of these caterpillars, namely *Brachymeria subrugosa* Blanchard, 1942 parasitizing pupa of *H. grandella*, *Venturia* sp. (Ichneumonidae, Campopleginae) parasitizing pupa of *C. bilineata* and a Spongiphridae species preying on *E. muriscis* caterpillars.

Palavras-chave: *Hypsipyla grandella*; stem canker; Pyralidae

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