

Influence of thinning on Platypodinae (Curculionidae) attacks to African mahogany in Minas Gerais, Brazil

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African mahogany in Brazil is an alluring alternative as species for reforestation, due to the high value of their timber. However, they are prone to attack by a number of insect pest species, and forestry practices might influence on their population. Thinning is a common practice, providing fast diameter growth of remaining trees. We report here the influence of thinning on the attacks of *Euplatypus parallelus* to standing *Khaya grandifoliola* in Nova Porteirinha, state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. This was a 35.7 ha site planted Feb2009 (15°41'1.99 "S 43°17'44.48" W). Thinning started in 13Nov2017 and following bucking (delimiting and cutting tree into logs), limbs were chipped with a grinder. By the end of the month, the grinder was out of order for 13 days, but thinning continued. Heavy rains in December slowed down log removal from the plantation and limb chipping, creating a backlog of these in the field. From 12Dec until 19Dec thinning was suspended, in an attempt to remove all previously cut logs and chip limbs left unfragmented. In 26Dec thinning resumed, when 10 standing trees attacked by *E. parallelus* were found. Three days later, this number raised to 70. On 5Jan2018 thinning was suspended again, in order this time to chip all backlog of limbs, which was completed in 11 days. A new survey was then done, when 266 trees were found attacked. Thinning activity resumed in 12Jan2018 and until it was concluded, in mid May2018, just two trees were attacked (end of March and beginning of May). In Jan2018, 20 ethanol-baited flight intercept traps were placed in the beginning, middle and end of the direction of the thinning area to monitor for beetle activity, in weekly trappings. Until May2018, *E. parallelus* were trapped in low numbers, and there were no significant differences in catches among older to more recently thinning areas within the stand. Results stress the importance of chipping limbs to minimize risks of attacks by *E. parallelus* to African mahogany.

Palavras-chave: damage; monitoring; *Euplatypus parallelus*

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