Ambrosia beetle (Curculionidae) monitoring in an avocado orchard in Jardinópolis, São Paulo state, Brazil

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In some avocado producing countries, species of Scolytinae (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) are vectors of *Fusarium* sp. and *Raffaelea lauricola*, causing high losses to producers. In Brazil, Scolytinae attacks are observed in avocado orchards in São Paulo state (SP), and associated with diseases. The objective was to compare the population of Scolytinae in two avocado orchard stands in Jardinópolis in SP, one where trees had low incidence of diseases (site A1), and another one where many trees were infested with gummosis (*Phytophthora*) and Fusarium dieback (*Fusarium*) (site A2). Site A1 trees (21°0'8.7''S 47°44'22.38''W) were planted in November 1998, and site A2 trees (21°0'12.10"S 47°44'13.59"W) were planted in October 2009, both variety Geada. We installed five flight intercept traps (modified from ESALQ-84 model), baited with 96% ethanol, in each site, to monitor for the targeted beetles. Trapping frequency was once every two weeks, and results are based on collections between July 2015 and June 2016. We trapped 54 species of Scolytinae (Curculionidae), seven of Bostrichidae, and 13 of Cerambycidae. One species each in Cleridae and Histeridae, predators, were also trapped. The majority of the most abundant Scolytinae species and total Cerambycidae were significantly more trapped in A2, while there were no differences for total Bostrichidae. Diseased trees are known to release more ethanol, which is attractive to the targeted species. Moreover, diseased trees are also more susceptible to beetle attacks in their colonization process. It was not possible though to establish a relationship between beetle presence/abundance and incidence of avocado tree diseases on the studied orchard – further studies are necessary.

Palavras-chave: Scolytinae; disease vector; ethanol trap

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