

AvoResearch



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AVOCADO THRIPS AND THEIR NATURAL ENEMIES



Avocado thrips,
Scirtothrips perseae



An adult female
Frankliniothrips n. sp.



A larval
Frankliniothrips n. sp.



The predatory mite
Euseius hibisci



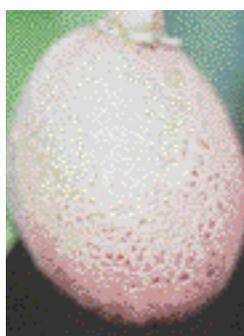
A minute pirate bug,
Orius sp.



A predatory green
lacewing larva



Elongate scars on large avocados
result from partial feeding damage to
young fruit by avocado thrips



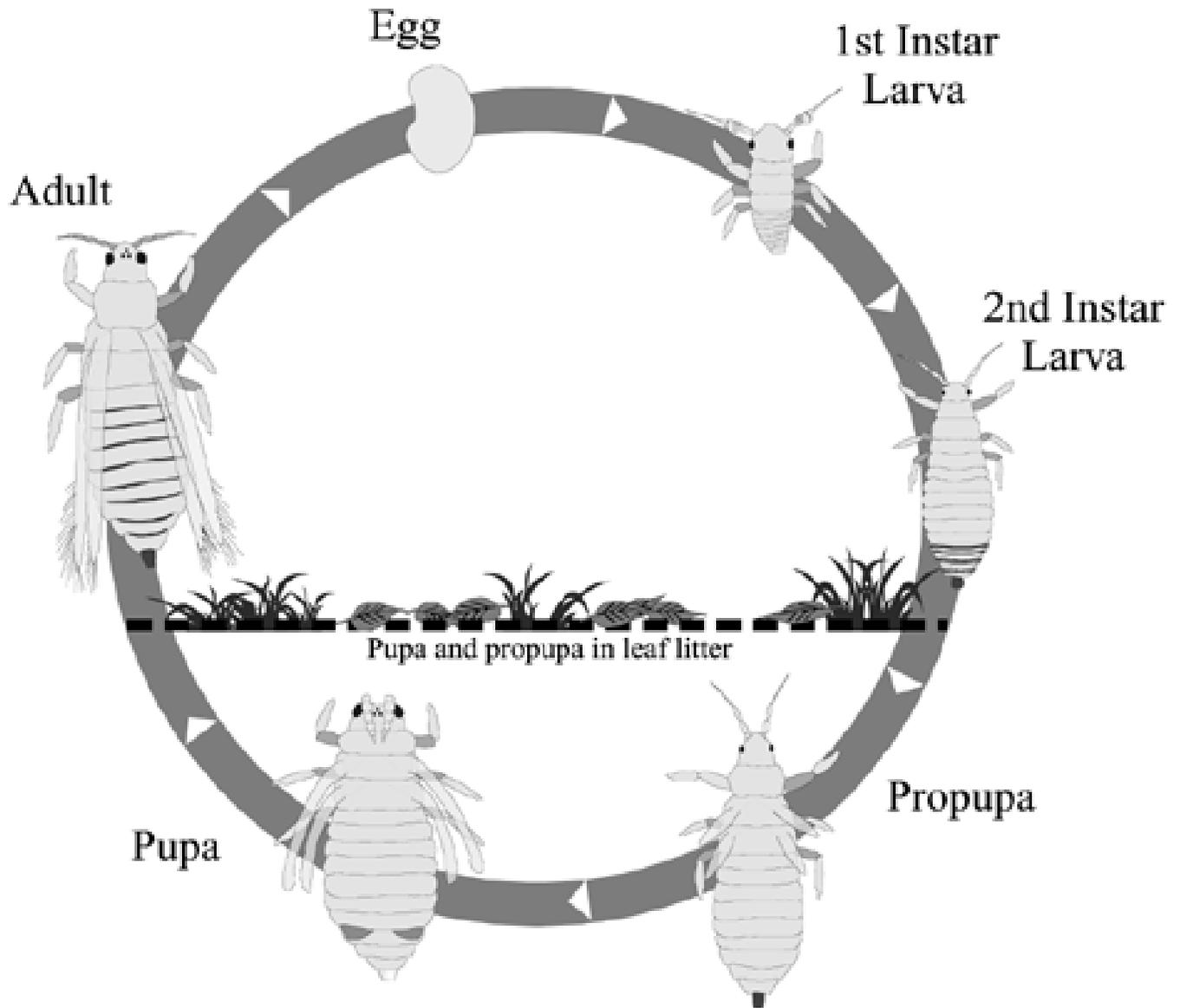
Alligator skin on immature
fruit caused by avocado
thrips feeding



Avocado Thrips

(*Scirtothrips perseae* Nakahara [Thysanoptera: Thripidae])

Life Cycle



BIOLOGY OF AVOCADO THRIPS

Avocado thrips has six distinct life stages. Females lay eggs inside young leaves or fruit. Two larval stages subsequently develop and feed on young leaves or fruit. The two pupal stages are non-feeding and complete pupation development either in cracks or trees or in leaf duff below trees. Adults, which emerge from the pupal stage, feed on leaves and fruit, and can fly.

Laboratory studies have indicated that avocado thrips larvae and adults exhibit highest survivorship, longevity and fecundity at moderately cool temperatures (67-76°F). Moderately hot temperatures (86°F) cause high larval mortality and reduced adult longevity.