THE PRESENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEXICAN THYSANOPTERA (INSECTA), INHABITING AVOCADO TREES (*PERSEA AMERICANA* MILLER) A-8

R. M. Johansen-Naime[1], A. Mojica-Guzmán[1], A.R. Valle de la Paz[2] y M. Valle de la Paz[3].

[1] Instituto de Biología. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Departamento de Zoología. A.P. 70-153 México. 04510 (Coyoacán) D.F. E. mail.: naime@ibiologia.unam.mx E. mail: aurea@ibiologia.unam.mx

[2] Colegio de Postgraduados en Ciencias Agrícolas. Instituto de Fitosanidad, km 36.5 carretera México-Texcoco. Montecillo, Texcoco. Estado de México. 56230. E. mail: aruthv@yahoo.com

[3] Universidad Autónoma Chapingo. Departamento de Parasitología Agrícola, km 38.5 carretera México-Texcoco. Chapingo. Estado de México. 56230. E. mail: mairelvalle@hotmail.com

The taxonomic and ecologic study of 85 Mexican thysanoptera species inhabiting floral and foliar structures of avocado trees, was carryed out herein. A total of 74 species (87.05%) are phytophagous (on flowers and leaves), ten (11.76%) are natural predators of thrips and acari, whereas one (1.17%) is mycophagous in litter. Of the phytophagous species, 71 belong into the Suborder Terebrantia, Thripidae, in 12 genera as follows: *Arorathrips* (1 sp.), *Aurantothrips* (1 sp.), *Caliothrips* (3 spp.), *Exophthalmothrips* (1 sp.), *Frankliniella* (30 spp.), *Heliothrips* (1 sp.), *Heterothrips* (2 spp.), *Leucothrips* (2 spp.), *Microcephalothrips* (1 sp.), *Neohydatothrips* (6 spp.), *Scirtothrips* (22 spp.) and *Thrips* (1 sp.).

In contrast, only three species belong into Suborder Tubulifera, Phlaeothripidae: *Haplothrips* (1 sp), *Karnyothrips* (1 sp) and *Pseudophilothrips* (1 sp). From the predatory species, seven belong into Suborder Terebrantia, Aeolothripidae*: Aeolothrips* (2 spp.) *Franklinothrips* (3 spp.); Thripidae*: Scolothrips* (2 spp.), whereas three belong into Suborder Tubulifera, Phlaeothripidae: *Leptothrips* (1 sp), *Trybomia* (2 spp.). From the Phytosanitary point of view, only four genera are very important: *Frankliniella* (9 spp.), *Neohydatothrips* (2 spp.), *Scirtothrips* (14 spp.) and *Pseudophilothrips* (1 sp.). The rest of the genera and their species (specially *Frankliniella, Neohydatothrips* and *Scirtothrips*), can be considered as incidental visitors. *Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis* apparently was eradicated from avocado trees in Coatepec Harinas, Mexico. *Franklinothrips orizabensis* Johansen up to the present time become the most important predative species on *Scirtothrips perseae* in California, U.S.A., because its life cycle was finally studied and this allowed the rearing of the species under laboratory conditions; finally it has being successfully liberated within avocado orchards in California, U.S.A.

In the near future, the species number recorded herein, will be increased when several *Frankliniella* and *Scirtothrips* species in process of taxonomic study, will be finally described.