SCAB DISTRIBUTION AND THRIPS DAMAGE IN AVOCADO   A-50

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Scab, caused by *S. perseae*, and thrips damage on avocado fruit are some of the main problems of avocado in Mexico. The appearance of the fruit affected by scab and the deformation caused by thrips affect fruit quality. Scab distribution and thrips damage in fruits were studied in 12 points of the top of Hass avocado trees in three orchards in Michoacan, Mexico. Samplings were carried out in 10 trees per orchard, in the four cardinal points, in three strata of the top; high (10 m approximately), middle (5 m) and low (1 to 2.5 m). A split-plot design was used to analyze the density of these two phytosanitary problems in the stratus, orientation and the interaction stratus-orientation in the tree. Thrips were collected monthly from foliar and floral shoots and from young fruits in an orchard. Scab and thrips damage were concentrated in the lowest stratus, north orientation ($\overline{\chi}$ 0.16 y 0.52) in orchard 1 (Table 1), in the middle stratus ($\overline{\chi}$ 0.29 y 0.26) in different orientations in orchard 2, and in different strata and orientations in orchard 3.

Table 1. Mean and standard error for the interaction stratus-orientation of scab and thrips damage in 'Hass' avocado fruits. Michoacán, México. 2000. n = north , s = south, e = east, w = west, h = high, m= middle, l = low

				Orchard 1 ($\overline{\chi}$), std error	Orchard 2 ($\overline{\chi}$), std error	Orchard 3 ($\overline{\chi}$), std error
Interaction	**Orientation-stratus**	**Thrips**	**Damage**	n - l	0.526 (.104)		
				w - m		0.260 (.030)	
				n - m			0.596 (.041)
		Scab		n - l	.162 (.017)		
				s - m		0.292 (.023)	
				w - l			0.823 (.117)

The genera most commonly found were: *Scirtothrips* (51%), *Neohydatotrips* (27%) and *Frankliniella* (21%), mainly adults (86.2%), but also larvae (13.5%) and one pupa (0.3%).