THRIPS IN DIFFERENT AVOCADO CULTIVARS AND IN WEEDS ASSOCIATED WITH CV. HASS IN COATEPEC HARINAS, STATE OF MEXICO

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This work was carried out at the Experimental Center "La Cruz" of the Fundación Salvador Sánchez Colín, CICTAMEX S. C., in Coatepec Harinas, state of Mexico, from August 2000 to April 2001. Thrip collection was performed by sampling directly from buds, flowers, and small fruits of avocado cvs. Hass, Fuerte, Colín V. 33, native avocado trees (Mexican race), and weeds associated with Hass avocado. A total of 656 thrips were collected. The percentages of insects collected in Hass, Colín V. 33, and Fuerte avocado trees were 40.85, 15, and 12.3%, respectively. The remaining 31.7% of insects were collected in native trees and weeds associated to Hass avocado. Forty-five, 30, 24, and 9 species of the collected thrips were associated with Hass, Fuerte, Colín V. 33, and native avocado trees, respectively. Likewise, nine species were found in all three cultivars. A predator, *Leptothrips mcconnelli* (D. L. Crawford), and the following eight phytophagous species were also found: *Frankliniella bruneri* Watson, *F. difficilis* Hood, *F. minor* Moulton, *F. occidentalis* (Pergande), *Scirtothrips aguacatae* Johansen et Mojica, *S. kupandae* Johansen et Mojica, *S. perseae* Nakajara, and *Neohydatothrips signifer* (Priesner). Nineteen species belonging to seventeen genera and nine families were found in weeds associated with Hass avocado. Weeds showing the greatest presence of thrips were *Taraxacum officinale* Weber, *Aldama dentata* Key&Lex, and *Oenothera roseae* L. Hérit ex Ait. Thirty-one thrip species, belonging to the genera *Scirtothrips*, *Frankliniella*, and *Exophthalmothrips*, were found in these weeds. Of the total number of thrips found, twenty-three species were observed for the first time in Coatepec Harinas, state of Mexico, and their taxonomic description is currently in progress.