EVALUATION OF PESTICIDE EFFECTIVENESS ON THE CONTROL OF *Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis* (THYSANOPTERA: THRIPIDAE) ON AVOCADO TREES (*Persea americana* Mill)

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The effectiveness of seven pesticides for the control of greenhouse thrips *Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis* was evaluated in two trials carried out in the province of Quillota, Chile, between January and March 2006. The foliage was treated with commercial dosages of: thiamethoxam (Actara 25 WG), mineral oil (Citroliv miscible), imidacloprid (Confidor Forte 200 SL), Thiacloprid (Calipso 480 SC), Spinosad (Success 48), abamectin+mineral oil (Vertimec+Citroliv miscible) and metomil (Lannate 90), the irrigation system was applied with thiamethoxam and a control was maintained with no spraying. Each treatment was replicated 4 times and greenhouse thrips were evaluated in 5 occasions, 1 previous and 4 post-spraying. The density of the pest was registered, in previously-labeled leaves and the percentage of infested leaves in a random extractive sampling. However, due to the high proportion of leaves that dropped naturally, in a second trial the density of the pest was evaluated through the extraction of leaves in soapy water. The neonicotinoids showed an effective control of the pest, achieving a non-detection level at the end of the evaluation period. Thiametoxam was likewise effective in both foliar and irrigation system applications. Metomil initially demonstrated (7 days) a significantly greater effect than the other treatments; however its effect is comparable to the neonicotinoides and abamectin after 60 days of application. Spinosad and mineral oil reduced the population of greenhouse thrips in the leaf, but they did not avoid the colonization of the fruit that was damaged to a level comparable to the control.