
Occurrence of Caterpillar of the Olive Tree, *Palpita forficifera* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) in Olive Groves in the State of Rio Grande do Sul

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Keywords: Caterpillar, Pyralidae, Olive Pest, Monitoring.

Abstract

The caterpillar of the olive *Palpita forficifera* is a major pest of the olive world. This caterpillar damage to the cultivation of olive trees due to their eating habits to eat leaves, especially young shoots, and may eat fruit if it is infested. We monitored several olive orchards in the cities of Santana do Livramento, Bagé, Candiota, Cachoeira do Sul, Rio Grande and Pelotas, since November 2010, aiming to detect the time of occurrence and the damage to olive shoots as affecting photosynthesis is decreased leaf area, as well as olive production for next year. Therefore, it is necessary, the constant monitoring and development of this pest control strategies such as product registration for its chemical control, and the use of natural enemies for biological control because it represents significant losses in production caused by this caterpillar.