

## Mealybugs (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae) associated with persimmon *Diospyros kaki* L. (Ebenaceae) in Southern Brazil

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Temperate fruit production is an important economic activity in Southern Brazil. In this region, persimmon *Diospyros kaki* L. (Ebenaceae) is grown in small farms for domestic consumption and internal market. Mealybugs are often found in at least 50% of the orchards causing damages on fruits due to the honeydew secretion. However, there is a lack of information about species composition damaging orchards in Southern Brazil. In this work, we present a survey of mealybugs associated with persimmon trees in the Serra Gaúcha Region, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Mealybugs were collected from commercial orchards between 2013 and 2015. Identification was carried out by using morphological features and DNA characterization. The species found infesting fruits, leaves and branches of persimmon trees were: *Anisococcus* sp. n., *Dysmicoccus brevipes* (Cockerell), *D. sylvarum* Williams & Granara de Willink, *D. texensis* (Tinsley), *Ferrisia cristinae* Kaydan & Gullan, *Ferrisia* sp. n., *F. terani* Williams & Granara de Willink, *F. williamsi* Kaydan & Gullan, *Nipaecoccus jacarandae* Williams & Granara de Willink, *Phenacoccus gregosus* Williams & Granara de Willink, *Ph. tucumanus* Granara de Willink, *Pseudococcus meridionalis* Prado, *Ps. nakarahai* Gimpel & Miller, *Pseudococcus* sp. n., *Ps. sociabilis* (Hambleton), *Ps. viburni* (Signoret) and *Pseudococcus* sp. Three of these species are new to science and three are new records for Brazil. *Ph. gregosus* and *Ps. nakaharai* were recorded for the first time in South America. *A. sp. n.*, *D. brevipes*, *Ps. sociabilis* and *Ps. viburni* are the most common mealybugs found in persimmon trees.

Keywords: Coccoomorpha, fruit trees, fauna, new species.