

Composition of the froth secreted by different spittlebug species

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The froth secreted by the spittlebugs protects the immature forms of these pests of pasture and agriculture from environmental damages. Frothes from Deois flavopicta, Mahanarva fimbriolata, Aeneolamia selecta selecta and Deois sp (schach group) were compared for the purpose of establishing differences that could reflect upon control of these insects. The preparations were analyzed with topochemical methods and polarization microscopy. All of them were found to contain structural proteins and proteoglycans. However, the frothes of M. fimbriolata and Deois sp appear to differ from the others in terms of anisotropic properties after staining with alcian blue, especially at pH 1.0. Differences in the acid glycosaminoglycans of these frothes, endowing them with different responses to chemical and biological assays for control of these insects is thus suggested. (FAP/UNICAMP, grant no. 160/86)