

Insects and Mites of Guava, (*Psidium guajava* L.) in commercial orchards of Zulia State, Venezuela.

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Abstract

A taxonomic survey of the insects and mites of Guava, *Psidium guajava* L., was conducted in commercial orchards of Mara, Páez, La Cañada de Urdaneta, Jesús Enrique Lossada, Miranda and Sucre counties of Zulia state, Venezuela, from March 2000 to July 2001. Phytophagous and entomophagous species were collected with entomological nets, aspirators and ethyl acetate killing jars, as well as they were identified and preserved in the collection of the Arthropod Museum of the University of Zulia (MALUZ). Leaves, fruits, flowers and twigs with the insects or mites were brought to the lab for observation and rearing. A total of 47 insect species and 8 mite species were found on this crop, of which 29 and 25 are new reports for the region and for Venezuela respectively. Forty-four species were phytophagous, 10 were predators and 1 was parasitoid. The most common phytophagous species were: *Anastrepha striata* Schiner, *A. obliqua* Macquart, *A. fraterculus* (Wiedemann) (Diptera: Tephritidae); *Capulinia* sp. cercana a *jaboticabae* von Ihering (Homoptera: Eriococcidae); *Veneza zonata* (Pallas), *Fabrictilis gonagra* (Fabricius) (Hemiptera: Coreidae); *Liothrips similis* Bagnall (Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae); *Selenothrips rubrocinctus* (Giard) (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) y *Brevipalpus phoenicis* (Geijskes) (Prostigmata: Tenuipalpidae). The most common predators were 8 species of Coccinellidae, 1 species of Anthocoridae and *Chrysoperla* sp. (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae).

Key words: Phytophagous insects, Plant mites, Arthropods, Tropical fruits crop, *Psidium guajava* L.

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