
Occurrence of Scale Insects in Olive Groves in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

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Abstract

Scale insects are considered major pests of olive world. Thus, diverse olive orchards were monitored in the municipalities of Santana do Livramento, Bagé, Candiota, Pelotas, Cachoeira do Sul and Rio Grande, RS, since November 2010, aiming to detect the occurrence and the species that affect the crop in Rio Grande do Sul, namely: *Saissetia oleae*, *Saissetia coffeae* and *Quadraspidiotus perniciosus*. The first two occurred in all orchards while the third occurred only in the Rio Grande orchard, in plants with more than 40 years of age. These scales weaken the olive tree due to suction from the plant sap, however the main damage is related to a decrease in photosynthesis by the appearance of sooty mold caused by the fungus *Capnodium* sp. This is the first record of these three species of scale insects on olive trees in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.