

## RESPONSE OF AMAZONIAN CLONES TO EARLY PUNCTURE TAPPING<sup>1</sup>

Vicente Haroldo F. Moraes<sup>2</sup>

Yields comparable to the first year of half spiral tapping were obtained with an advance estimated in 12 months for tapping Fx 3899, Fx 3810, Fx 3864 and IAN 873 and 24 months for IAN 717, planted one year later in the same plots. Bark bursting ceased after changing to oblique puncturing. The bark healed well in the punctures, showing only a surface scar of suberized bark, 6 to 10 months after tapping. The bark was 13 to 16% thicker than in untapped trees. Except Fx 3899 the clones had a very poor canopy and the girthing was correspondingly small but in the same range of untapped trees. Dryness occurred only in Fx 3899 with an incidence of 10%. In the first 3 months of half spiral tapping after punctures the yield was much higher than of trees not previously puncture tapped.

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<sup>2</sup> Eng<sup>o</sup> Agr<sup>o</sup>. M.Sc. Pesquisador do Centro Nacional de Pesquisa de Seringueira e Dendê - CNPSD/EMBRAPA, Caixa Postal 319, CEP 69.000, Manaus, AM.