

## TALK IV / IV:

### MANAGEMENT OF *LINEPITHEMA MICANS* (FOREL, 1908) (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE) IN VINEYARDS IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL

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*Linepithema micans* (Forel, 1908) (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) is the main ant species responsible for dispersal of *Eurhizococcus brasiliensis* (Wille, 1922) (Hemiptera: Margarodidae), a soil scale that damages grapevines in southern Brazil. To control this scale on grapevines, winegrowers apply the neonicotinoid insecticides thiamethoxam and imidacloprid, primarily through drenching. This practice has been effective for many years, although with some limitations, particularly the presence of toxic wastes in the fruits and the risk of environmental contamination. One alternative to reduce scale infestation in vineyards is the control of dispersive ants. Due to the predominance of *L. micans* in infested areas and its potential as a dispersive agent, implementation of a management program for *E. brasiliensis* would also involve the control of the scale by reducing ant populations in vineyards. For *L. micans*, different insecticides incorporated in different attractive substances were evaluated in a greenhouse and field for use as toxic bait, demonstrating that ant control in vineyards results in a significant reduction of the population of *E. brasiliensis* in new plantations.