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OCCURRENCE OF SCOLYTUS KIRSCHII (COLEOPTERA: SCOLYTIDAE) AND ASSOCIATED PARASITOIDS (HYMENOPTERA: CHALCIDOIDEA) IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL

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Resumo

Scolytus kirschii Skalitzky is known to occur in northern Africa, Europe, Asia and most recently in South Africa, infesting mainly Ulmaceae and Rosaceae trees, and it is considered to be a vector of Dutch elm disease. This is the first record of this species in Brazil, where it was found attacking and killing roughly 30% of a 1.5-ha orchard of 10-year old stressed Prunus salicina trees in Sertão, state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, in March 2005. Stems and branches of attacked trees were taken to the lab, when we verified larvae were parasitized. Adults of five hymenopteran parasitoid species emerged: Cheiropachus quadrum (F.), Rhaphitelus maculatus Walker, Chalcedectus sp. (Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae), Brasema sp. and Eupelmus sp. (Hymenoptera: Eupelmidae). C. quadrum and R. maculatus are well known natural enemies of several scolytids and are spread through the northern hemisphere; both are being recorded in Brazil for the first time. Chalcedectus and Brasema species are mainly Neotropical in distribution and most of them parasitize Coleoptera in dry wood. Eupelmus species are numerous, widespread and are usually larval or pupal, primary or secondary parasitoids of a wide variety of holometabolous insects, most of them concealed in plant tissue. This is also the first association of the five parasitoid species with S. kirschii, which previously had only two Eulophidae (Hymenoptera) in its parasitoid list. C. quadrum was the most frequent species, with 76.4 % of the specimens collected, followed by R. maculatus (16.5 %). Only a few specimens of the remaining species were obtained, all males.

Palavras-chave: Pteromalidae, Eupelmidae, Cheiropachus quadrum, Rhaphitelus maculatus, Prunus salicina