

INFLUENCE OF *Baculovirus anticarsia* ON THE GROWTH RATE AND SURVIVAL OF SOME NONTARGET AQUATIC ORGANISMS.

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Recently, microbial pest control agents (MPCAs) have been worldwide used to reduce chemical pesticide use and to diminish the high risk of those compounds in the environment. Among various MPCAs, the nuclear polyhedrosis virus *Baculovirus anticarsia* is widely used in Brazil in the biological control of the velvet bean caterpillar. Although literature data do not show adverse effects of baculoviruses to nontarget organisms, it is necessary to evaluate their toxicity or pathogenicity in order to study the environmental risk of those products and to register the formulations in the Brazilian Environmental Regulatory Agency - IBAMA. In the present work, the influence of a *Baculovirus anticarsia* formulation was evaluated to measure the consequences in the growth rate of the green algae *Selenastrum capricornutum*, the duckweed *Lemna valdiviana* and the microcrustacean *Daphnia similis*. The survival of the fish *Hyphessobrycon scholzei* exposed during 28 days was also evaluated. No significant adverse effects ( $P > 0.05$ ) were observed in the test organisms which were exposed to 1-1000 times the maximum calculated pesticide concentration following a direct application to 15 cm layer of water.