

A STUDY OF THE DIVERSITY OF WHITEFLY-TRANSMITTED GEMINIVIRUS IN THE "SUBMEDIO" OF SAN FRANCISCO VALLEY - BRAZIL USING PCR. F.Q. DE P. SILVEIRA,¹ H.G.C ROCHA,¹ M.F. LIMA,², L.V. RESENDE³, A.C. DE ÁVILA,¹ & I.C. BEZERRA¹. (¹EMBRAPA Hortaliças CP 218, 70359-970 Brasília-DF; ²EMBRAPA Semi-Árido BR 428 km 152, 56300-000; ³ IPA CP 1022 CEP 50.761-000) Um estudo da diversidade de geminivírus transmitido por mosca-branca na região do Submédio São Francisco usando PCR.

Geminiviruses are recognized as a threat to vegetable production in many tropical and subtropical areas. In 1997, crop losses up to 100%, due to whitefly-transmitted geminivirus, were recorded in 9 areas within the Submedio São Francisco basin (PE/BA-BR), which is the main production area of processing tomato in Brazil. PCR methods have been widely used for detection and to determine the genetic variability of geminiviruses. Degenerated primers were used to amplify DNA fragments of 1.4 e 1.3 kb, corresponding to the full A component of the geminivirus genome using total DNA extracts from infected plants originating from 9 areas of this region. A fragment of 450 bp of the B component was also obtained. Restriction enzyme profiles of the amplified PCR fragments suggest diversity of geminivirus in the region.