CHEMICAL CONTROL OF LEPIDOPTERAN MANGO FLOWER FEEDERS AT SÃO FRANCISCO RIVER VALLEY, BRAZIL[1]

F.R. Barbosa[2], M.E. de C. Gonçalves[3], E.A. de Souza[2], W.A. Moreira[2], J.A. de Alencar[2] and F.N. P. Haji[2]

[1]Financial support of CNPq and Banco do Nordeste.
[2]Embrapa Semi-Árido, BR 428, km 152, C.P. 23, 56300-970, Petrolina, PE, Brazil, flavia@cpatsa.embrapa.br
[3]Universidade Federal do Ceará/CCA, C.P. 12168, 60356-001, Fortaleza, CE, Brazil, manoeleneas@zipmail.com.br

Lepidopteran flower feeders are important inflorescence pests of mangoes in the region of the Submedio São Francisco River Valley, northeastern Brazil. With the objective of verifying the efficiency of five insecticides on the control of these pests, studies were carried out under field conditions, in an irrigated area of Petrolina county, Pernambuco State, Brazil. The experiment was run in a randomized complete block design, with six treatments and four replicates. The treatments (mL c.p./100 liters of water) were: thiacloprid 480 SC (7.5); lambda-cyhalothrin 5 CS (50); lufenuron 50 CE (75); *Bacillus thuringiensis* (100); trichlorfon 500 (300) and the control (untreated check). There were twelve plants of mango, cv. Tommy Atkins, per treatment and each plant was subdivided in quadrants. Evaluations were done at 7, 14, 21, 28, 35 and 42 days after the first application, by observing the presence of the insects in four inflorescences/plant. The sprays were performed every time caterpillars were observed in 50% or more of the sampled inflorescences. The average efficiencies of the insecticides were calculated using the Abbott formula, according to the average percentage of infested inflorescences. The average efficiencies of the products were: *B. thuringiensis* – 56.14%; trichlorfon – 66.75%; lambdacyhalothrin – 59.13%, thiacloprid – 47.66%, and lufenuron – 41.29%.