MG 80 **A technique for the laboratory rearing of Thaumastocoris peregrinus (Hemiptera:Thaumastocoridae)**

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The recent introduction of *Thaumastocoris peregrinus* in Brazil has caused significant losses in eucalyptus production. This insect pest promotes decrease in the photosynthetic ratio, partial or total defoliation, and mortality of eucalyptus trees. Biological control with eggs of the parasitoid *Cleruchoides noackae* is an alternative that is being considered for controlling this pest. The aim of this study was to develop a simple method for rearing *T. peregrinus* in laboratories to ensure its egg production for *C. noackae* multiplication. Bouquets of 6–8 new *Eucalyptus benthamii* shoots were used as rearing units for the insects; each shoot had approximately 8 pairs of leaves. The cut ends of the shoots were secured using a foam plug and the shoots were placed within water-filled 500-mL Erlenmeyer flasks. The insects were reared in a climatized room maintained at a temperature of 25°C, relative humidity (RH) of 60%, and photoperiod of 12 h. New bouquets were introduced weekly and were kept in the building next to the one housing the infested shoots until use. When the shoots in the old bouquets dried, the insects migrated to the new bouquets that were now kept beside the old bouquets. When the shoots in the old bouquets dried completely and contained only egg masses, new shoots were added to the bouquets; this procedure made it possible to obtain nymphs. The new shoots were then grouped to form a new bouquet for rearing the insects. The methodology proposed in this study was found to be favorable for rearing insects in all growth phases and permitted the maintenance of *T. peregrinus* individuals in the laboratory for one year.