

MG 81 Effects of different species of Eucalyptus, leaf surfaces, and honeydew excretion on the survival of *Thaumastocoris peregrinus* (Hemiptera: Thaumastocoridae) adults

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Thaumastocoris peregrinus can cause great damage to eucalyptus plantations. The present study aimed to compare the production of honeydew and the survival of male and female individuals of *T. peregrinus* on the adaxial and abaxial surfaces of the leaves of *E. benthamii* and *E. dunnii*. The insects were individualized in foliar discs (diameter, 4.9 cm) and maintained in petri dishes (diameter, 5 cm) at a temperature of 25°C, relative humidity of 70% ± 10%, and a photoperiod of 12 h. The number of honeydew droplets in each foliar disc and the survival of the insects were evaluated and observations were recorded every 48 h, for 6 consecutive evaluations. The foliar discs were changed during each evaluation period. The average number of honeydew droplets produced by *T. peregrinus* depended on the *Eucalyptus* species used. The liquid excretion and insect survival obtained from the foliar discs of *E. benthamii* were greater than those obtained from *E. dunnii*. The differences in the excretion ratio may be related to differences in the consumption of the sucking insects. The results suggest that *E. benthamii* is a better option for use as feed for *T. peregrinus* than *E. dunnii* is, although factors other than those examined in this study are also probably related to this preference.