

Plant extracts for pest control in avocado crops. An effective alternative, friendly with pollinators and without risk of chemical residues.

C. Chacón Guerrero¹, L. Garcia Garcia¹

¹. Area de Investigación y Desarrollo, Ecoflora Agro. Envigado, Colombia.

Avocado crops are growing in Colombia as well in other Latam countries, most of areas for exportation purposes. Pests as red mites, thrips, mealybugs are common in Latam crops, and in Colombia other pests as *Monalonia velezangeli* (Hemiptera), *Phyllophaga obsoleta* (Coleoptera) and *Stenoma catenifer* (Lepidoptera), generate important loses close to the harvest. Ecoflora Agro has develop an IPM program based on plant extracts as a main strategy to control the most important pests in avocado crops. Sub lethal effects included in Ecoflora's plant extracts, avoid the pest population establishment by anti-feeding and anti-egg laying effects, and lethal effects by contact help to reduce population safety without resistance risk. In this case study on commercial avocado crops, is demonstrated that use of plant extracts is as effective as conventional chemical programs for controlling the most important pests and can be applied during harvest season, eliminating the risk of chemical residues for exportation purposes. One of the most important benefits of the use of Ecoflora's plant extracts, is that population of bees and pollinators is not affected by plant extracts, as well other beneficial as predators and parasitoids, as can be demonstrated in this work.