

THRIPS INFESTING MANGO VAR CARABAO AND POMELO VAR MAGALLANES IN ATO BELEN'S FARM, LAGUNA, THE PHILIPPINES

Mary Queen R. Bagaoisan¹, Patrick Jhames L. Kho¹, Amerah Tul Kusna A. Macawadib¹, and Cecilia P. Reyes^{1,2}

¹Department of Biology, De La Salle University, Malate, Manila, Philippines 1004

²Center for Research & Publication, Emilio Aguinaldo College, Paco, Manila, Philippines 1007

Correspondence: mary_queen_bagaoisan@dlsu.edu.ph, patrick_kho@dlsu.edu.ph, amerah_macawadib@dlsu.edu.ph, and reyescecilia.p@gmail.com

Ato Belen's Farm is an integrated organic agricultural land situated in San Pablo, Laguna. The farmland produces high quality fruit trees such as mango, pomelo, rambutan, lanzones, and vegetables. The study aimed to identify thrips associated with mango var. Carabao and pomelo var. Magallanes. Ten mango and ten pomelo trees of different ages were randomly selected out of the fifteen trees in the selected study site and were monitored twice a month for thrips infestation from November 2017 to March 2018. Thrips samples were collected from leaves and flowers of the fruit trees by shaking and beating twigs with leaves and flowers on white illustration boards. Representative specimens were preserved in ethanol, cleared, and mounted on slides using Canada balsam and examined under Nikon Eclipse Ci-E model. Findings of the study showed that *Thrips hawaiiensis* (Morgan) was the only species of thrips found infesting mango and pomelo in the selected site at Ato Belen's nine-hectare orchard. *Thrips hawaiiensis* is an invasive, polyphagous species of thrips that was previously reported as pest of banana, mango and vegetables in the Philippines. Pomelo trees recorded the highest number of thrips and that there was a significant difference (p -value < 0.05) in the total number of thrips collected from mango and pomelo. Flowers of pomelo harbored more thrips than leaves and the number of thrips counts were higher between the months of January to March. Moreover, there was a moderately high linear relationship between thrips population on plants and temperature and this finding supports previous studies that development of different life stages of *Thrips hawaiiensis* had significant linear relationship with temperature. Surveillance of thrips on mango, pomelo, and other fruit trees grown in the Ato Belen's Farm is recommended.

Keywords: *Thrips hawaiiensis*, mango, pomelo, Laguna, Philippines