

FIRST COLLECTION OF BROWN CITRUS APHID (HOMOTERA:
APHIDIIDAE) IN QUINTANA ROO, MEXICO

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The brown citrus aphid, *Toxoptera citricida* (Kirkaldy), primary vector of citrus tristeza virus, has been present in Belize since 1996 (Halbert 1996). During the first week of April, 2000 we surveyed commercial and dooryard citrus in central regions of the state of Yucatan, Mexico from Merida south to Oxkutzcab and Tzucucab close to the border with Quintana Roo without detecting BCA. We then extended our search eastward into northern portions of the state of Quintana Roo where the aphid was rumored to be present. Our first positive detection occurred at km 255 on highway 30 in the town of Santo Domingo, about 30 miles west of Cancun. A single roadside sweet orange tree was observed with heavy growth of sooty mold on some branches. Closer examination revealed large numbers of aphid cadavers adhering to terminal twigs. Several live brown citrus aphid colonies were subsequently discovered some 40 meters distant on a flushing mandarin orange tree. Voucher specimens were sent to

Dr. S. Halbert of Department of Plant Industry, Gainesville, FL for confirmation. We then proceeded northward to inspect some small commercial and subsistence citrus groves around Kantunilkin but did not find any evidence of recent aphid activity. However, it should be noted that the entire region was nearing the end of a dry season with very little new growth on citrus trees available for aphid colonization. We did find evidence of some previously heavy aphid populations and some live aphids on dooryard trees in the town of Leona Vicario, also on highway 30. These are the first confirmed collections of brown citrus aphid in Mexico.

SUMMARY

Brown citrus aphid, *Toxoptera citricida*, is recorded for the first time in Mexico from the state of Quintana Roo.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Florida Agricultural Experiment Station Journal Series No. R-07528.

REFERENCES CITED

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