

**DISTRIBUTION OF *SAISSETIA OLEAE* (OLIV.) ON THE OLIVE TREE CANOPY IN THE NORTH-EAST OF PORTUGAL**

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The black scale, *Saissetia oleae* (Oliv.), is one of the most important components of the pest complex on olive trees. The aim of this work was to analyse the distribution of the several developmental stages of the insect on olive tree in the North-east of Portugal. The experimental work was carried out, consecutively from April 1997 to December 1999 and from April to October of 2001 to 2003, in two groves located near Mirandela (North-east of Portugal). The groves were unsprayed for several years and non-irrigated. Ten trees, selected at random per grove, were used for sampling and eight twigs of two years old were collected on a biweekly basis, between April to October and monthly, between November to March, from each of the four cardinal points of each tree and inside and outside of the canopy. In each branch 20 leaves and 20 cm of branch were randomly selected. Samples were examined in the laboratory under a binocular microscope and the insects were counted and classified by developmental stage (first, second and third larvae and young and ovipositing females). The results showed that the larval stages preferred the leaves than the branches; however the young and ovipositing females were significantly more abundant in the last ones. Also the insect preferred the lower surface of the leaves. In general, all *S. oleae* developmental stages were more abundant inside the canopy. No significant differences were observed of different developmental stages with the cardinal position in the trees.

black scale, olive tree, distribution.