

Agronomical performance of 'Piemonte' mandarin grafted on several rootstocks in the Brazilian Coastal Tablelands

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Abstract – The objective of this work was to evaluate the agronomical performance of 'Piemonte' mandarin grafted on 11 rootstocks grown under the edaphoclimatic conditions of the Coastal Tablelands, in the state of Sergipe, Brazil. The following combined agronomical parameters were evaluated: vegetative growth, abundance of phytophagous mites, plant yield, drought tolerance, and physicochemical quality of fruit. 'Piemonte' mandarin had the best productive performance when grafted on 'Santa Cruz Rangpur' lime, 'Red Rough' lemon, 'Sunki Tropical' mandarin, and 'Riverside' citrandarin, and it was more tolerant to drought when grafted on 'Santa Cruz Rangpur' lime and on the LVK x LCR-010 hybrid. Rootstocks did not affect pest population levels. 'Piemonte' mandarin grafted on 'Santa Cruz Rangpur' lime and 'Red Rough' lemon produced lower-quality fruit. The 'Indio' and 'San Diego' citrandarins, the HTR-051 hybrid, and 'Swingle' citrumelo have potential for high-density plantings. 'Sunki Tropical' mandarin and 'Riverside' citrandarin are a good option for the diversification of rootstocks in orchards in the agroecosystem of the Brazilian Coastal Tablelands.

Index terms: *Citrus*, cohesive soils, fruit quality, planting density, phytophagous mites, yield efficiency.

Desempenho agrônômico da tangerineira 'Piemonte' enxertada em diversos porta-enxertos nos Tabuleiros Costeiros

Resumo – O objetivo deste trabalho foi avaliar o desempenho agrônômico da tangerineira 'Piemonte' enxertada em 11 porta-enxertos cultivados nas condições edafoclimáticas dos Tabuleiros Costeiros, no Estado de Sergipe. Os seguintes parâmetros agrônômicos combinados foram avaliados: crescimento vegetativo, abundância de ácaros fitófagos, produção, tolerância à seca e qualidade físico-química de frutos. A tangerineira 'Piemonte' apresentou o melhor desempenho produtivo quando enxertada nos limoeiros 'Cravo Santa Cruz' e 'Rugoso Vermelho', na tangerineira 'Sunki Tropical' e no citrandarin 'Riverside', e se tornou mais tolerante ao déficit hídrico quando enxertada no limoeiro 'Cravo Santa Cruz' e no híbrido LVK x LCR-010. Os porta-enxertos não influenciaram o nível populacional de pragas. A tangerineira 'Piemonte' enxertada nos limoeiros 'Cravo Santa Cruz' e 'Rugoso Vermelho' produziu frutos de qualidade inferior. Os citrandarins 'Indio' e 'San Diego', o híbrido HTR-051 e o citrumelo 'Swingle' apresentam potencial para plantios adensados. A tangerineira 'Sunki Tropical' e o citrandarin 'Riverside' são uma boa opção para a diversificação de porta-enxertos em pomares no agroecossistema dos Tabuleiros Costeiros.

Termos para indexação: *Citrus*, solos coesos, qualidade de frutos, densidade de plantio, ácaros fitófagos, eficiência produtiva.

Introduction

The cultivation and consumption of mandarins and their hybrids is growing worldwide (FAO, 2015). The rising consumption of fresh mandarins is owed to its easy peeling and splitting, combined with its nutraceutical properties and flavor (Wu et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2014). China is the world's leading

producer of mandarins, with approximately 15 million tons, most of which for the domestic market. Brazil ranks third, with a production of around 1 million tons of fruit (FAO, 2015). Brazilian mandarin orchards are predominantly found in the Southeastern and Southern regions, and the states of São Paulo, Minas Gerais, Paraná, and Rio Grande do Sul are the main producers.

Overall, mandarins grown in Brazil are grafted on 'Rangpur' lime (*Citrus limonia* Osbeck) (Silva et al., 2013), which is the main rootstock cultivar being used across the Northeastern region. In the state of Sergipe, 'Rough' lemon (*C. jambhiri* Lush.) is also used as a rootstock, but to a lesser extent than 'Rangpur' lime. In the Brazilian Coastal Tablelands, which lie along the coastline and are characterized by cohesive soils with low water availability during part of the year, new rootstock and scion cultivars have been investigated in order to promote varietal diversification (Moraes Filho et al., 2011; Martins et al., 2014). Among these cultivars, 'Piemonte' mandarin is a hybrid that has been highlighted for its potential to produce high-quality fresh fruits in Northeastern Brazil (Passos et al., 2013). This mandarin results from the crossing between 'Clementine' mandarin and 'Murcott' tangor, and it is characterized by short to medium size, late fruit maturation, and orange-red colored pulp, with seeds (Almeida & Passos, 2011).

The rootstock plays a key role – in combination with the scion cultivar – on several characteristics of the plants, such as growth, plant and fruit development, maturation, precocity, yield, fruit quality, and tolerance to drought, pests, and diseases. Under the same conditions, some rootstocks excel in certain aspects (Schäfer et al., 2001); therefore, adaptation and proper selection studies are pivotal for indicating cultivars for specific regions (Auler et al., 2008). The need to diversify rootstocks in the Brazilian citrus industry and to increase production efficiency through higher planting densities has brought attention to dwarfing rootstocks, which induce small scion size (Bastos et al., 2014). This diversification is also required in order to obtain higher production and fruit quality, besides the possibility of extending the harvest period (Silva et al., 2013).

Regarding phytotechnical problems, citrus orchards in the Northeastern region of Brazil are attacked by a variety of pests, including: the citrus rust mite, *Phyllocoptruta oleivora* (Acari: Eriophyidae); the Texas citrus mite, *Eutetranychus banksi*; and the spider mite, *Tetranychus mexicanus* (Acari: Tetranychidae) (Moraes & Flechtmann, 2008; Mendonça & Silva, 2009; Teodoro et al., 2014). This shows the importance of evaluating whether citrus rootstocks affect pest populations. For instance, lower population levels of the leprosis mite *Brevipalpus phoenicis* (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) were found on 'Pêra' sweet orange grafted on 'Sunki' mandarin, when compared with 'Cleopatra' mandarin

(*C. resnyi* hort. ex Tanaka) and 'Rangpur' lime (Andrade et al., 2013).

The objective of this work was to evaluate the agronomical performance of 'Piemonte' mandarin grafted on 11 rootstocks grown under the edaphoclimatic conditions of the Coastal Tablelands, in the state of Sergipe, Brazil.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was implemented in 2008 in a Haplic Acrisol, according to WRB/FAO, at the experimental station of Embrapa Tabuleiros Costeiros, located in the municipality of Umbaúba, in the Coastal Tablelands of the state of Sergipe, Brazil (11°22'37"S, 37°40'26"W, at 109 m above sea level). The Coastal Tablelands run along the Brazilian coastline and are characterized by cohesive soils, with low water availability during part of the year and low organic matter (Cintra et al., 2009; Martins et al., 2016). The climate, according to Köppen's classification, is As – rainy tropical with a dry summer (Prudente et al., 2004). During the experiment, the average annual temperature was 24.6°C, relative humidity was 83%, and rainfall was 1,315 mm, according to data collected from the local meteorological station. Plants were spaced at 5.0x3.0 m (666 trees per hectare) and were conventionally managed without irrigation, except in the driest months, from December to March 2008–2010, when each plant received irrigation with 3 L of water weekly. Management practices included fertilization, control of pests, diseases, and weeds, as well as pruning, after harvest.

The experiment consisted of 'Piemonte' mandarin grafted on: 'Santa Cruz Rangpur' lime; common 'Rangpur' lime; 'Red Rough' lemon; 'Orlando' tangelo (*C. paradisi* Macfad. x *C. tangerina* Tanaka); 'Sunki Tropical' (*C. sunki* Hort. ex Tanaka) mandarin; 'Swingle' citrumelo [*C. paradisi* x *Poncirus trifoliata* (L.) Raf.]; 'Indio', 'Riverside', and 'San Diego' citrandarins (*C. sunki* x *P. trifoliata*); and the HTR-051 (*P. trifoliata* zygotic hybrid) and LVK x LCR-010 (*C. volkameriana* Pasq. x *C. limonia*) hybrids, generated in the citrus breeding program of Embrapa Mandioca e Fruticultura. The experiment was conducted in a randomized complete block design, with four replicates and two trees per plot.

Evaluations were conducted for four subsequent harvests, from 2011 to 2014, by measuring, in May, plant height, trunk diameters of rootstock (DA) and scion

(DB), relationship between the trunk diameter below and above the grafting line (RDBDA), canopy volume, drought tolerance, annual yield, cumulative yield, yield efficiency, and fruit physicochemical quality.

Plant height was measured from the base of the trunk, close to the soil, up to the top of the plant using a ruler. Canopy volume (CV) was calculated with the equation $CV = (\pi/6) \times PH \times DR \times DP$, in which CV is the canopy volume (m^3), PH is the plant height (m), DR is the canopy diameter along the row, and DP is the canopy diameter in the direction perpendicular to the row (Cantuarias-Avilés et al., 2011). DB and DA were measured using a caliper rule placed 10 cm above and below the grafting point; they were used to obtain the RDBDA by the quotient between DB/DA. Drought tolerance was visually assessed in the canopy of each tree during the driest months, from December to April 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014, and was classified as adapted from Stuchi et al. (2000): 1, susceptible to drought, with wilt, yellowing, and leaf drop; 2, moderate drought tolerance, showing intermediate wilt, yellowing, and no leaf drop; and 3, tolerant to drought, with no visual symptoms.

Fruit from all plants were counted and weighed in each harvest. With the data of yield and planting density, productivity for each cultivar was estimated in $Mg\ ha^{-1}$. Cumulative yield comprised the period from 2011 to 2014. Yield efficiency was estimated by the quotient between the production of fruits per plant (kilogram per tree) and the canopy volume (square meter per tree), according to Auler et al. (2008).

Fruit quality was evaluated in the 2014 and 2015 harvests by collecting six fruits per plant. The height, diameter, and shell thickness (mm) of fruits were measured with a digital caliper. For this, fruits were weighed and the juice content (JC) was estimated with the equation $JC = [(juice\ mass/sample\ mass) \times 100]$. Juice mass was obtained by the difference between sample weight and bagasse mass (peel, seeds, and other fragments retained in the sieve). Total soluble solids (TSS), expressed in °Brix, were measured using a digital refractometer Palette PR-32α (Atago Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan), with values corrected to 20°C.

Titrate acidity (TA) was determined with a semiautomatic burette with 0.1 mol L^{-1} NaOH solution (titrant) and a phenolphthalein indicator, with the results expressed in grams of citric acid per 100 mL of juice (%), as described in the physicochemical methods for food

analysis (Instituto Adolfo Lutz, 2008). The ratio was determined as the quotient between TSS and TA.

The content of vitamin C was estimated with the oxidation-reduction volumetric technique, using 0.002 mol L^{-1} potassium iodate (KIO_3) solution and 1% starch indicator solution (Zenebon et al., 2008) as the standard titrant. Vitamin C content was expressed in milligrams per 100 mL of juice. Industrial income (RI) (Auler et al., 2008) was estimated with the expression $RI = 660/TI$, in which TI is the technological index obtained as juice content $\times$ TSS $\times$ 40.8 divided by 10.000, which is equivalent to the amount of SST in the juice (kg) in an industrial standard box of citrus (40.8 kg). Industrial juice yield (IY) was estimated with the equation $IY = 660/TI$. Except for fruit yield, which was analyzed throughout the years using repeated measures analysis of variance (Anova), followed by Scott-Knott tests, the remaining data were subjected to one-way Anova, followed by Scott-Knott tests, at 5% probability.

The effect of rootstocks was also assessed on the following three key pests of citrus in the studied region: the citrus rust mite, *P. oleivora*; the Texas citrus mite, *E. banksi*; and the spider mite, *T. mexicanus*. The number of adults of these pest mites was counted monthly, from June 2011 to February 2013; however, data from August and September 2011 were not included in the analyses. For *P. oleivora*, two randomly-chosen fruits were evaluated per plant, totaling six fruits per rootstock in each assessment, and the mites were counted in a 1-cm² area. Only fruit located in the external part of the plant were taken, since this region is the most attacked by *P. oleivora* (Mendonça & Silva, 2009). The number of adults of *E. banksi* and *T. mexicanus* was recorded in four randomly-collected leaves per tree, totaling 12 leaves per rootstock in each evaluation. Repeated measures Anova, followed by post-hoc Fisher tests, was conducted to assess the effect of rootstocks on the number of *P. oleivora*, *E. banksi*, and *T. mexicanus*, removing variance explained by time, as evaluations were carried out monthly.

Results and Discussion

The dry season in the Northeastern region of Brazil lasts from November to March (Souza et al., 2008), and the studied rootstocks affected the drought tolerance of 'Piemonte' mandarin (Figure 1). For instance, when grafted on the LVK $\times$ LCR-010 hybrid and on 'Santa

'Cruz Rangpur' lime, it showed the highest tolerance to drought, contrasting with the results for the combinations with 'Orlando' tangelo, 'Swingle' citrumelo, and 'San Diego' citrandarin, which showed symptoms such as leaf wilting, yellowing, and shriveling, as well as a slight drop of old leaves. Water deficiency symptoms in citrus are commonly observed in the coastal region of the states of Bahia and Sergipe (Souza et al., 2008), even when using the rootstock 'Rangpur' lime, which is known to induce tolerance to drought in a wide range of scion cultivars (Donato et al., 2007; Cunha Sobrinho et al., 2013).

Citrus trees subjected to water stress have virtually all aspects of growth and development affected, which could result in changes in their anatomy and morphology (Soares et al., 2015). The 'Santa Cruz Rangpur' lime is a natural bud mutant selected by Embrapa Mandioca e Fruticultura; however, there is little information about its effect on scion cultivars (Pompeu Junior & Blumer, 2006). Seedlings of 'Star Ruby' grapefruit (*C. paradisi*) and acid lime clones of 'Tahiti CNPMF-01' [*C. latifolia* (Yu. Tanaka) Tanaka], when grafted on 'Santa Cruz Rangpur' lime, showed adequate scion development under conditions of water stress in a greenhouse (Soares et al., 2015). Nunes et al. (2006) found high rates –

above 60% – of mycorrhizal colonization (FMA) in the LVK x LCR-010 hybrid, showing that the interaction of the rootstock with FMA may be important for the adaptation of the plant to biotic and abiotic stresses. It is noteworthy that 'Rangpur' lime stands out for its production, agronomical characteristics, and drought tolerance (Pompeu Junior & Blumer, 2011; Cunha Sobrinho et al., 2013). Cunha Sobrinho et al. (2013) also reported that 'Sunki Tropical' mandarin has good drought tolerance, which is in alignment with the results presented here. Prudente et al. (2004) observed that 'Rough' lemon suffers greater stress during periods of drought or increased demand for water, compared with 'Rangpur' lime, in the region of the Coastal Tablelands of the state of Sergipe.

'Red Rough' lemon, 'Rangpur' lime, 'Orlando' tangelo, and 'Swingle' citrumelo had the highest diameters below the grafting line (rootstock diameter), and, among them, the first and the second ones had the highest diameters above the grafting line (scion diameter) (Table 1). 'Fremont' mandarin ['Clementine' mandarin x 'Ponkan' mandarin (*C. reticulata*)], grown in the state of São Paulo, had a higher trunk diameter when grafted on 'Orlando' tangelo, in comparison with 'Rangpur' lime and 'Swingle' citrumelo as rootstocks (Núñez et al., 2007). Stuchi et al. (2008) evaluated the combination of some scion mandarins and rootstocks also in the state of São Paulo and observed that 'Swingle' citrumelo reduced the size of most scion cultivars and could be indicated for high-density orchards; conversely, 'Orlando' tangelo induced the formation of large-sized trees. Tazima et al. (2013) found that 'Okitsu' Satsuma mandarin [*C. unshiu* (Swingle) Marcow.] on 'Swingle' citrumelo had the largest rootstock trunk diameter, leading to the greatest difference between the RDBDA.

The difference between trunk diameters in scion and rootstock combinations may be an indicative of incompatibility (Stenzel et al., 2005; Tazima et al., 2013). Regarding the relationship between rootstock and scion cultivars, 'Piemonte' mandarin grafted on 'Swingle' citrumelo had the highest RDBDA value. The expected gain in performance of the scion cultivar is a function of the rootstock and of the affinity of both tissues (Schäfer et al., 2001). Although the obtained results do not show incompatibility issues, they may reflect the canopy development trend (Stenzel et al., 2005; Lima et al., 2014), highlighting the need for studies on symptoms of incompatibility (Pompeu Junior & Blumer, 2009).

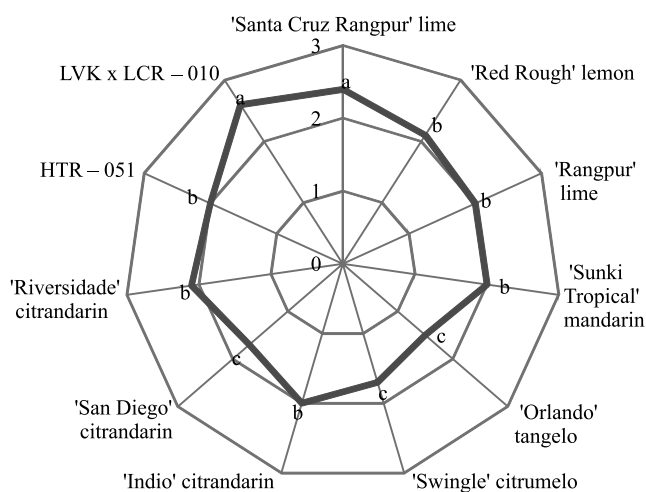


Figure 1. Means for drought tolerance (DT) of 'Piemonte' mandarin grafted on different rootstocks in the Brazilian Coastal Tablelands, from December to April 2011–2014. Equal letters indicate that DT means do not differ significantly by Scott-Knott tests, at 5% probability. DT values ranged from: 1, susceptible to drought; to 3, tolerant to drought.

Regarding plant height, 'Piemonte' mandarin grew higher in combination with common 'Rangpur' lime than when grafted on the remaining rootstocks. In contrast, it achieved small heights when grafted on 'Swingle' citrumelo. According to Auler et al. (2008), the vigor of the scion cultivar is directly affected by the rootstock. Tree size is important for planning new orchards because, with small trees, there is a possibility of increasing planting density per area, enabling the producer to have a faster return of the investment.

The largest canopy volumes of 'Piemonte' mandarin were obtained with 'Red Rough' lemon, common 'Rangpur' lime, 'Santa Cruz Rangpur' lime, and 'Sunki Tropical' mandarin as rootstocks, whereas the smallest canopy volumes were obtained with HTR-051 and 'Swingle' citrumelo as rootstocks, followed by the 'Indio' and 'San Diego' citrandarins. This shows that these rootstocks can be used to increase 'Piemonte' mandarin plant density in orchards.

Small tree size is a desirable feature for facilitating the implementation of management practices and harvest, besides allowing increasing planting density for greater productive efficiency (Silva et al., 2013; Lima et al., 2014). It should be pointed out that the citrandarins are hybrids of mandarins with trifoliolate orange (*P. trifoliata*) that have tolerance to diseases and form small-sized trees

(Pompeu Junior & Blumer, 2011). 'Swingle' citrumelo reduced the size of most scion cultivars, indicating the possibility of its use in increasing plant density (Stuchi et al., 2008). Conversely, 'Orlando' tangelo induced large-sized scion canopies (Stuchi et al., 2008).

The combinations with 'Santa Cruz Rangpur' lime, 'Red Rough' lemon, and 'Riverside' citrandarin exceeded 70 Mg ha⁻¹ of the accumulated yield (Table 1). 'Piemonte' mandarin grafted on LVK x LCR-010, 'Sunki Tropical' mandarin, common 'Rangpur' lime, and the 'Indio' and 'San Diego' citrandarins also had high cumulative yields of 68.4, 69.1, 61.2, 57.6, and 55.1 Mg ha⁻¹, respectively.

For most of the rootstocks, higher yields of 'Piemonte' mandarin were attained in 2013 (Table 1). These results agree with others showing 'Piemonte' mandarin, along with others scion cultivars, as new alternatives to orchard varietal diversification in Northeastern Brazil (Caputo et al., 2012; Cunha Sobrinho, et al., 2013; Passos et al., 2013). Cunha Sobrinho et al. (2013) reported that the 'Indio' and 'Riverside' citrandarin rootstocks promote more production and vigor than common 'Rangpur' lime grafted on orange trees. Regarding productive efficiency, the following rootstocks stood out: the 'Indio' and 'San Diego' citrandarins, HTR-051, and 'Swingle' citrumelo. The small size and high productive efficiency of 'Piemonte' mandarin grafted on these rootstocks show

Table 1. Trunk diameter of the evaluated rootstock (DA) and scion (DB) cultivars, relationship between the trunk diameter of the rootstock and scion below and above the grafting line (RDBDA), as well as plant height (PH), canopy volume, annual and cumulative yields (CY), and yield efficiency (YE) of 'Piemonte' mandarin, planted in the Brazilian Coastal Tablelands, during four harvest years, from 2011–2014⁽¹⁾.

Rootstock cultivar	DA	DB	RDBDA	PH (m)	Canopy volume (m ³)	Yield (kg ha ⁻¹) ⁽²⁾				CY	YE (kg m ⁻³)
	----- (cm) -----					2011	2012	2013	2014		
Santa Cruz Rangpur lime	87.53b	76.67b	1.15c	2.28b	8.35a	16,625bBC	15,775bC	22,603bA	18,983bB	73,986a	6.5b
Red Rough lemon	94.02a	85.40a	1.11c	2.30b	9.17a	18,913aB	12,576cC	23,173bA	18,630cB	73,292a	5.1c
Common Rangpur lime	91.49a	82.94a	1.10c	2.45a	8.73a	13,567dB	9,428fC	22,875bA	15,415gB	61,285d	6.3b
Sunki Tropical mandarin	89.09b	77.93b	1.15c	2.14c	7.71a	18,765aA	17,087aA	19,803cA	13,530hB	69,186c	5.5b
Orlando tangelo	92.30a	76.55b	1.20b	2.10c	6.44b	10,667fBC	7,491hC	16,103eA	11,530jB	45,792g	5.8b
Swingle citrumelo	93.80a	60.74d	1.59a	1.76e	3.61d	6,904hC	6,824iC	18,473dA	12,496iB	44,698h	7.2a
Indio citrandarin	70.07d	61.56d	1.15c	1.90d	8.35a	12,947eBC	10,765dC	18,043dA	15,889fAB	57,645e	7.7a
San Diego citrandarin	83.51b	70.76c	1.19b	1.97d	5.68c	14,838cB	9,957eC	12,200gBC	18,137dA	55,132f	7.2a
Riverside citrandarin	88.23b	75.03b	1.18b	2.10c	5.14c	16,642bB	15,310bB	23,220bA	16,665eB	71,837b	6.4b
HTR-051	78.91c	64.91d	1.21b	1.90d	3.94d	5,887iB	8,008gB	14,407fA	11,757jA	40,059i	7.7a
LVK x LCR-010	84.41b	77.15b	1.10c	2.26b	6.47b	8,946gC	11,140dC	29,013aA	19,385aB	68,484c	6.1b
Means	-	-	-	-	-	13,155C	11,306D	19,992A	15,674B	-	-
CV (%) Plot	9.7	9.2	7.6	6.8	21.0	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	5.7	15.2
CV (%) Split-plot	-	-	-	-	-	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	-	-

⁽¹⁾Rootstock means followed by equal letters, lowercase in the columns and uppercase in the rows, do not differ by repeated measures analysis of variance (Anova) and by Scott-Knott tests, at 5% probability. ⁽²⁾Year means followed by equal letters, uppercase in the rows, do not differ by repeated measures Anova and Tukey tests, at 5% probability. CV, coefficient of variation.

the potential of these materials for increasing planting density in orchards.

The productive efficiency characterized by the mass of fruits per canopy volume also reflects the need for small trees, enabling greater productivity per acreage (Cantuarias-Avilés et al., 2011, 2012). As previously mentioned, reducing the size of the plant is an important feature for easing management and cultivation (Lima et al., 2014). Therefore, it is evident that, with the same growing conditions, the productive performance of 'Piemonte' mandarin is a function of the combination between scion and rootstock.

Regarding the physicochemical quality of the fruit, significant differences were observed only in 2014 (Table 2). Fruit diameter and peel thickness were only affected by 'San Diego' citrandarin and the LVK x LCR-010 hybrid. Regarding TSS, the highest values were obtained with the HTR-051, 'Swingle' citrumelo, 'Orlando' tangelo, 'Rangpur' lime, 'Sunki Tropical' mandarin, and the 'Riverside', 'Indio', and 'San Diego'

citrandarin rootstocks. Mandarins with high TSS contents are considered of better quality (Cantuarias-Avilés et al., 2010; Silva et al., 2013). As for TA, three categories were observed: high total titratable acidity (TTA) levels, from 0.75 to 0.78%, for 'Rangpur' lime, 'Swingle' citrumelo, and the 'San Diego', 'Indio', and 'Riverside' citrandarins; low TTA levels, of 0.6 and 0.55% for 'Santa Cruz Rangpur' lime and 'Red rough' lemon, respectively; and intermediate TTA levels, from 0.68 to 0.72% for the remaining rootstocks. The lowest juice percentages were obtained with common 'Rangpur' lime, 'Santa Cruz Rangpur' lime, 'Red Rough' lemon, and LVK x LCR-010. The juice yields obtained here were higher than those described in other studies (Silva et al., 2009, 2013; Tazima et al., 2013), even accounting for differences among rootstocks. Regarding the TI, the same rootstocks that showed the highest TSS contents had the highest TI values, except common 'Rangpur' lime, which did not differ from those with lower TI. Mandarins, when grafted on 'Rough' lemon and

Table 2. Diameter, height, skin thickness, total soluble solids (TSS), titratable acidity (TA), vitamin C content, TSS/TA ratio, juice content (JC), and technological index (TI) of 'Piemonte' mandarin fruit grafted on different rootstocks in the Brazilian Coastal Tablelands, in the 2014 and 2015 harvests⁽¹⁾.

Rootstock cultivar	Diameter ----- (mm)	Height ----- (mm)	Skin thickness ----- (mm)	TSS (°Brix)	TA (%)	Vitamin C (mg L ⁻¹)	TSS/TA ratio	JC (%)	TI (kg of TSS per box) ⁽²⁾
2014 harvest									
Santa Cruz Rangpur lime	83.33b	71.67a	2.38b	8.83b	0.60c	42.77a	14.89a	50.00b	1.80b
Red Rough lemon	81.67b	71.33a	2.65b	8.63b	0.55c	43.09a	15.85a	51.60b	1.82b
Common Rangpur lime	83.33b	68.33a	2.13b	10.20a	0.77a	41.79a	13.44a	48.33b	2.01b
Sunki Tropical mandarin	81.00b	69.00a	2.10b	9.97a	0.70b	41.95a	14.27a	61.00a	2.48a
Orlando tangelo	81.67b	69.33a	2.49b	9.70a	0.69b	38.31a	14.13a	58.00a	2.30a
Swingle citrumelo	81.00b	70.67a	2.15b	10.33a	0.78a	39.68a	13.21a	59.00a	2.49a
Indio citrandarin	77.67b	72.67a	2.31b	10.60a	0.75a	40.93a	14.14a	56.13a	2.43a
San Diego citrandarin	94.67a	72.00a	2.10b	10.57a	0.76a	39.47a	14.00a	60.67a	2.62a
Riverside citrandarin	81.33b	69.67a	2.45b	10.70a	0.75a	40.08a	14.27a	57.33a	2.50a
HTR-051	85.00b	71.33a	2.19b	10.90a	0.72b	41.11a	15.19a	58.67a	2.62a
LVK x LCR-010	81.00b	70.00a	3.49a	9.03b	0.68b	46.60a	13.40a	51.00b	1.88b
CV (%)	3.6	3.2	19.0	5.6	5.9	6.0	8.2	4.6	9.2
2015 harvest									
Santa Cruz Rangpur lime	88.57a	65.27a	1.92a	11.80a	0.92a	45.73a	15.83a	55.71a	2.20a
Red Rough lemon	87.71a	66.16a	2.01a	10.60a	0.90a	46.26a	15.13a	54.53a	2.01a
Common Rangpur lime	82.02a	66.38a	2.67a	11.27a	0.72a	46.44a	19.23a	55.17a	2.13a
Sunki Tropical mandarin	86.79a	65.13a	1.96a	11.63a	0.91a	51.99a	15.83a	52.66a	2.45a
Orlando tangelo	85.05a	64.20a	1.92a	11.70a	0.92a	47.43a	13.33a	56.51a	2.23a
Swingle citrumelo	87.62a	64.17a	1.90a	11.50a	0.90a	47.46a	14.80a	59.00a	2.21a
Indio citrandarin	91.55a	65.89a	2.04a	11.70a	0.93a	47.28a	15.03a	57.40a	2.29a
San Diego citrandarin	91.53a	67.95a	2.03a	11.63a	0.91a	44.57a	15.43a	56.61a	2.10a
Riverside citrandarin	84.65a	63.20a	1.64a	12.13a	0.90a	48.02a	14.53a	57.98a	2.38a
HTR-051	87.49a	65.67a	2.06a	11.70a	0.92a	47.80a	15.63a	56.35a	2.32a
LVK x LCR-010	88.18a	66.05a	2.52a	11.20a	0.87a	45.41a	16.87a	53.50a	2.05a
CV (%)	3.6	3.0	17.3	3.9	9.0	7.5	10.14	4.6	10.3

⁽¹⁾Means followed by equal letters, in the columns, do not differ significantly by Scott-Knott tests, at 5% probability. ⁽²⁾kg of TSS per box is of 40,8 kg. CV, coefficient of variation.

'Rangpur' lime, tended to produce low-quality fruits, characterized by low contents of TSS, TA, and TI.

Regarding phytotechnical constraints, plant resistance to pests is one of several strategies of integrated management programs (Gallo et al., 2002; Chacón et al., 2012), contributing to keep pest infestations below economic levels (Gallo et al., 2002; Vendramim & Guzzo, 2012). However, the obtained results showed that the rootstocks did not affect the population levels of the evaluated pest mites (Figure 2): *P. oleivora* ($F_{10,22} = 0.999$; $P = 0.473$), *E. banksi* ($F_{10,22} = 0.747$; $P = 0.674$), and *T. mexicanus* ($F_{10,22} = 0.985$; $P = 0.483$). These results contrast with those of Silva et al. (2016), who reported that natural infestations of *P. oleivora* and *T. mexicanus* on the 'Pêra' and 'Valência Tuxpan' sweet oranges were affected by the analyzed rootstocks, in some periods of the year, in the state of Sergipe. These results indicate the effect of some genotypes on the population densities of these pests. Moreover, Andrade et al. (2013) showed that the number of the leprosis mite, *B. phoenicis*, on 'Pêra' sweet orange was also affected by rootstocks, in the state of São Paulo; where lower population levels of *B. phoenicis* were found on 'Pêra' sweet orange grafted on 'Sunki' mandarin, in comparison with 'Cleopatra' mandarin and 'Rangpur' lime.

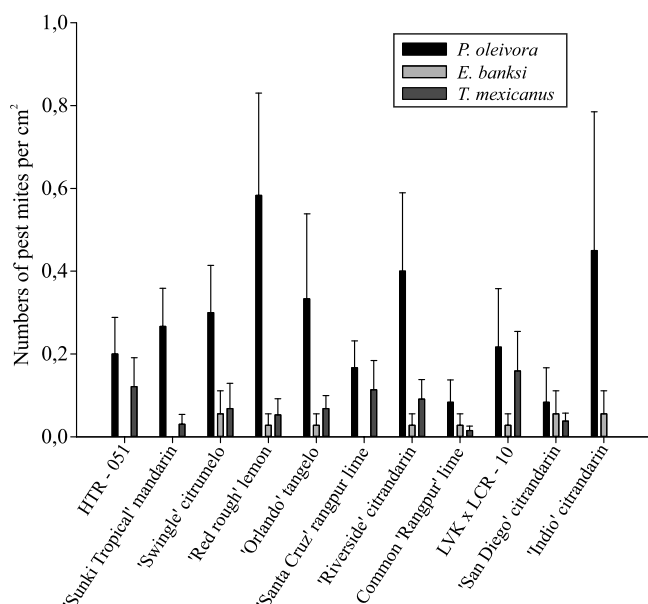


Figure 2. Population levels of the pest mites *Phyllocoptruta oleivora*, on fruits, and *Eutetranychus banksi* and *Tetranychus mexicanus*, on leaves, on 'Piemonte' mandarin grafted on different rootstocks in the Brazilian Coastal Tablelands. Vertical bars represent means+standard error.

Conclusions

1. The common 'Rangpur' lime, 'Santa Cruz Rangpur' lime, 'Red Rough' lemon, and 'Sunki Tropical' mandarin rootstocks provide more vigorous plants, whereas common 'Rangpur' lime, 'Santa Cruz Rangpur' lime, and the LVK x LCR-010 hybrid confer great drought tolerance to 'Piemonte' mandarin.

2. 'Piemonte' mandarin grafted on 'Santa Cruz Rangpur' lime, 'Red Rough' lemon, 'Sunki Tropical' mandarin, and 'Riverside' citrandarin shows good production performance.

3. The low size and high yield efficiency of 'Piemonte' mandarin on the 'Indio' and 'San Diego' citrandarins, HTR-051 hybrid, and 'Swingle' citrumelo rootstocks show their potential for high-density plantings.

4. The evaluated rootstocks do not affect the population levels of the pest mites *Phyllocoptruta oleivora*, *Eutetranychus banksi*, and *Tetranychus mexicanus* on 'Piemonte' mandarin.

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