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Comparison of initial development of rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) cultivars

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Workshop Information

I Workshop of Plant Biology (I Workshop de Biologia Vegetal) was held in the Bioscience Institute – UNESP, campus of Rio Claro, Brazil, during August 20 and 21, 2012. Workshop was a scientific event organized by Post-graduate students from that Institute aiming to integrate Post-graduate and Graduate students from different areas related to Plant Biology (Anatomy, Ecology, Evolution, Morphology, Physiology, and transitional areas) from different Universities. Workshop Organization offered a large number of speaking activities, scientific discussions, and extra short-courses to improve the knowledge and formation of students in Plant Biology.

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The rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis Muell. Arg. ex. Adr. Juss*) development is influenced by regional conditions of cultivation, especially in the young stage. In this study, biometric, physiological and productive characteristics were evaluated for the cultivate PR 255 and RRIM 937, compared to RRIM 600 (check), to the most used in rubber tree cultivation, in the first 9 months after planting (MAP), in São José do Rio Preto, SP. The photosynthetic pigment concentrations showed not significantly differences at 4 and 8 MAP. The paid in values of gas exchange, for the whole study period, showed significantly lower only for stomatal conductance in PR 255. At 9 MAP, the cultivate PR 255 achieved lower height than the check, a trend that should be maintained as the relative rates of growth (measured at intervals of 3 months) showed not significantly differences among the cultivates. However, both stems diameters measured 50 cm above the ground, similarly their relative rates of growth were not significantly different among cultivates. The dry matter production, leaf area and carbon accumulation did not differ significantly. The rubber tree yield was statistically similar between check and the other two cultivates, but it was statistically higher for PR 255 than for RRIM 937. So, during this period, with the exceptions indicated, RRIM 937 and PR 255 showed similar performance to that of RRIM 600, which was promising for the diversification of cultivates used.

Review process and quality of English writing is responsibility of Workshop Scientific Committee.