SUMMARY

Aiming to investigate the effect of the fungus Beauveria bassiana on the moulting of larvae and on the survival of nymphs of the tick Rhipicephalus sanguineus, 450 engorged larvae were exposed to two isolates of B. bassiana (747, isolated from ants and 986, isolated from ticks) in different could concentrations (104, 106 and 108). Two control groups were formed by 150 engorged larvae that were immersed in a solution of Tween 80 in distilled water. The percentages of moulting decreased when the concentrations increased. Mortality of engorged larvae exposed to the higher concentrations reached 100%. The survival of the nymphs (hatched from the engorged larvae) from the control group and the group exposed to the isolate 747 at a concentration of 104 were similar (93% and 92%, respectively), 15 days after the ecdysis. At the concentration of 106 of the isolate 747, the survival of nymphs was 11%, while at the higher concentration (108) no nymphs hatched since larval mortality was 100%. The same result occurred at the concentrations of 106 and 108 of the isolate 986, in which no nymphs emerged, since the mortality of larvae was also 100%.