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BLAST PROGRESS ON THE SPIKES OF WHEAT PLANTS FROM TWO CULTIVARS WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF BASAL RESISTANCE TO BLAST¹/Progresso da brusone nas espigas de plantas de trigo de duas cultivares com diferentes níveis de resistência basal à brusone. E. T. SILVA²; M. U. P. ARAUJO²; J. A. RIOS²; D. F. CUNHA²; F. A. RODRIGUES².
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Wheat blast, caused by the fungus *Pyricularia oryzae*, is considered one of the most important diseases affecting wheat and one of the control strategies includes the use of resistant cultivars. This study aimed to investigate the progress of blast on the spikes of plants from two cultivars differing on their level of basal resistance to blast. Plants from cultivars BR 18 and BRS-Guamirim were inoculated with *P. oryzae* at the anthesis growth stage and blast severity on spikes was quantified as the mean proportion of diseased spikelet per spike (diseased spikelets/total spikelets rated $\times 100$). Blast severity was significantly lower on the spikes of plants from cultivar BR 18 (17%) in comparison to plants from cultivar BRS-Guamirim (51%) confirming, therefore, their different response against the infection by *P. oryzae*.

Key words: Fungal disease; Host resistance; *Pyricularia oryzae*.

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