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Subscriptions: Year 2022 (Volume 62): 450 €
http://www1.montpellier.inra.fr/CBGP/acarologia/subscribe.php
Previous volumes (2010-2020): 250 € / year (4 issues)
Acarologia, CBGP, CS 30016, 34988 MONTFERRIER-sur-LEZ Cedex, France
ISSN 0044-586X (print), ISSN 2107-7207 (electronic)

The digitalization of Acarologia papers prior to 2000 was supported by Agropolis Fondation under
the reference ID 1500-024 through the « Investissements d’avenir » programme
(Labex Agro: ANR-10-LABX-0001-01)

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Some new records of spider mites (Acari, Tetranychidae) from Syria

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(Received 08 December 2016; accepted 19 January 2017; published online 17 May 2017; edited by Alain Migeon)

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ABSTRACT — Five species of Tetranychidae are reported in this study, two species and three species from subfamilies, Bryobinae and Tetranychinae, respectively. Two species, Petrobia (Petrobia) latens (Muller) and Bryobia rubrioculus (Scheuten) from Bryobinae while, the other three species, Amphitetranychus viennensis (Zacher), Eotetranychus carpini (Oudemans) and Eotetranychus hirsti Pritchard & Baker represent Tetranychinae.

KEYWORDS — Bryobia; Petrobia; Amphitetranychus; Eotetranychus; Syria

INTRODUCTION

Of over 1275 described species of spider mites in the world, only 11 species have been reported from Syria (Kady, 1964; Barbar, 2013, 2014, 2016; Zriki et al., 2015). The Syrian mite fauna is poor owing to limited work in this branch of acarology. The identification of Syrian mites associated with plants started with Kady (1964) from a quarantine station in Egypt, with the report of Panonychus ulmi on imported apple from Syria. Most of the recent mite faunal studies were restricted to agro-ecosystems with field crops, orchards and wild plants (Barbar, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016; Kerhili et al., 2015; Zriki et al., 2015). This report is a part of annual survey of plant-associated mites carried out at Latakia Center of Agricultural Research, General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research in Syria.

The aim of this report is to make official documentation of some important spider mite species. Many species are already known from the neighboring countries and five species of spider mites are reported as new records in this study.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A small twig of the plant (cultivated or wild) was plucked and examined using a 10X hand lens for the presence of spider mites. Plant materials with mites were placed in polyethylene bags with proper labeling. The label contained details like name of the host, date of collection, location details (GPS data) and collector. The plant samples were then brought to the laboratory for further examination. The samples were processed within 2-3 days and those which could not be processed were stored in a refrigerator at 10°C-15°C and processed within next two days. Mite specimens were mounted in Hoyer’s medium for further taxonomic identification. Males of subfamily Tetranychinae were mounted in lat-
eral position for examination of aedeagus, a very important character for species level identification (Pritchard and Baker, 1955). All microscopic slide mounts were maintained at Latakia Center of Agricultural Research.

RESULTS

Five species of spider mites (Tetranychidae) were collected in this study. The systematic positions of the species were recorded along with the collection data.

Sub-family Bryobinae

_Bryobia rubrioculus_ (Scheuten, 1857)

This species reported from Lebanon on _Malus domestica_ and _Prunus domestica_ (Dosse 1963, Dosse and Musa, 1967). This species is distributed worldwide and reported from 63 countries on 66 species of host plants a majority of them belonging to family Rosaceae. In the present study, this species was found associated with the buds of the _Prunus domestica_ and relatively in huge members at the bases of leaves, feeding and causing discoloration on the upper surface of the leaf.

Material examined — 11 females, ex. _Prunus domestica_, coll. Mahran Zeity, Qalaat Mahalibeh, Latakia, (35°30’13.6″N, 36°05’03.6″E) September, 2016.

_Petrobia_ (Petrobia) _latens_ Muller

This species is polyphagous, reported from more than 115 host plants has worldwide distribution.


Sub-family Tetranychinae

_Eotetranychus carpini_ (Oudemans) (Figure 1, a)

This species is yellowish-green in colour. It was reported from Lebanon on _Prunus_ sp. Also reported on 40 host plants from 27 countries in two major regions of Nearctic and Palearctic (Migeon and Dorkeld, 2006-2016). This species is reported from Syria on _Ostrya carpinifolia_, as reported from France and Italy (Duso et al., 2004; Migeon et al., 2007). This species causes serious damage to leaves of _Ostrya carpinifolia_ due to feeding by large number of individuals.

Material examined — Four males and six females, ex. _Ostrya carpinifolia_, coll. Mahran Zeity, Qalaat Mahalibeh, Latakia, (35°30’08.5″N, 36°05’01.0″E), May 2016.

_Eotetranychus hirsti_ Pritchard & Baker (Figure 1, b)

This species is reported from neighboring countries of Syria. So far this species reported from five countries on seven host plant species in the world. _Eotetranychus hirsti_ type locality is Coimbatore, India 1926. Zeity (2015) reported this species from down surface of _Ficus_ leaves in Bangalore and Raichur, Karnataka, India, more often associated with rust fungus and caused discoloration of leaves. Individuals of mite colony move out towards the fruit region and cause blistering on the fruit skin due to feeding/damage by huge mite population.

Material examined — Five males and seven females, ex. _Ficus carica_, coll. Ayman Halloum, Al Qutayfah, Damascus countryside (33°42’36.9″N 36°33’54.7″E), August, 2016.

_Ampitetranychus viennensis_ (Zacher) (Figure 1, c)

This species bordeaux-red in color inhabits down surface of leaves with low population and without a distinct web. It was reported from neighboring country Lebanon by Dosse and Musa (1967) on _Prunus_ sp. and _Malus domestica_.

_Ampitetranychus viennensis_ is reported on 51 host plants species from 38 countries distributed in Oriental and Palearctic regions (European countries). Majority of host plants are under botanical family Rosaceae and genera like _Crataegus_, _Cydonia_, _Malus_ and _Prunus_.

Material examined — Four males and 8 females, _Prunus domestica_ (cultivar Stanley), coll. Mahran Zeity, Qalaat Mahalibeh, Latakia (35°30’13.5″N, 36°05’01.9″E), August 2016.
DISCUSSION

This is a brief documentation of knowledge about spider mites of Syria. This short communication added five species of Tetranychidae so far unknown from Syria. Further studies are to be carried out on the fauna of Acari from Syrian region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research, Damascus, Syria for logistic support during the study.

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da) in Italy and France with redescription of *Eotetranychus fraxini* Reck, new record for Italy and Western Europe — Zootaxa, 1509: 51–60.


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