

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON MITES (ACARI) ASSOCIATED WITH
Lantana camara L. IN THE NEOTROPICAL REGION

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ABSTRACT

Six species of phytophagous mites of *Lantana camara* L. from the neotropical region are discussed. A revision of the literature on the subject is given.

Lantana camara L. (Verbenaceae) is a neotropical plant of no economic importance, being sometimes used as an ornamental in this area. This plant has been introduced to South Africa and Australia intended as an ornamental and there it developed into a serious plague.

One of us, K.L.S.H., traveling through South and Central America on the search for natural enemies of *Lantana*, collected a certain number of mites, which were identified by the senior author, by Dr. H. H. Keifer, California, USA, and by Dr. Evert E. Lindquist, Agriculture Canada.

We thought it best to bring the literature up to date and report on our findings, even though we probably hardly scratched the surface of the mite fauna of *Lantana*.

1. Family ERIOPHYIDAE

1.1. *Rhynacus kraussi* Keifer, 1962 - Studies B-5: 1.

This mite was described from Cali, Colombia, and is probably an undersurface vagrant on the leaves.

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- 1.2. *Eriophyes lantanae* Cook, 1909 - Est. Centr. Agron., Cuba, 2 Inform. Anual, 143-146.

This species was originally described from Cuba; it has also been found in Florida, USA and in Piracicaba, São Paulo Brazil (Flechtmann, in press). This mite causes a distortion of the flower buds and flowers, producing a mass of very small green leaves. They are often very large. On the leaves it causes little crinkle galls which can be seen on both sides of the leaves.

2. Family TETRANYCHIDAE - spider mites.

- 2.1. *Tetranychus desertorum* Banks, 1900 - Tech. Bull. U.S. Dept. Agr. Div. Entomol. 8: 76.

This is a widespread species throughout South, Central and North America, and many plants are known to be subject to infestations.

KLSH collected this species from *Lantana* from Chile; Tucuman, Argentina; Palmira, Colombia; and San Salvador. The females of this mite are dark red in color, the males and immatures yellow; they develop on the undersurface of median to old leaves, spinning a considerable amount of webbing. Heavy infestations result in leaf bronzing and early leaf drop.

- 2.2. *Tetranychus armipenis* Flechtmann & Baker, 1970 - Ann. Entomol. Soc. Amer. 63(1): 162.

The females of this species are identical to *T. desertorum*. It has been collected from *Lantana* and from *Sida* in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The *Lantana* plants showed corky growth on stems, and main veins of leaves, which may have been due to mite attack.

3. Family TENUIPALPIDAE - false spider mites.

- 3.1. *Brevipalpus obovatus* Donnadieu, 1875 - Rech. Serv. Hist. Tetranych. : 116.

This is a flat red mite which is to be found mainly along the main veins of the leaves, on both sides. No noticeable damage was observed. This mite was taken from *Lantana* in Piracicaba, São Paulo, Brazil.

- 3.2. *Brevipalpus trinidadensis* Baker, 1949 - Amer. Midl. Nat. 44(2): 381.

This species is only known from the original description, from St. Augustine, Trinidad, on *Lantana* sp.

From regions other than the neotropical, *Tetranychus ludent* Zacher, 1913, has been reported from *Lantana* from California, USA (Pritchard & Baker, 1955); *Brevipalpus glymma* Pritchard & Baker, 1958, from a wild lantana from Homestead, Florida, USA, and *Proctolaelaps lobatus* De Leon, 1963 (Ascidae), from *Lantana involucrata* and *Lantana camara* from Key Largo and Coral Gables, Florida, USA; this latter species was also collected by KLSH from *L. camara* in Australia.

LITERATURE CITED

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A NEW SPECIES OF PHANEROPTERINE FROM NORTH AMERICA
(ORTHOPTERA-TETTIGONIIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

The species is similar to *Scudderia furcata* Brunner from which it differs in having the lateral borders of the pronotal disc yellowish, the cerci not acuminate and the subgenital plate passing much beyond the tip of the anal process.

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Scudderia williamsi sp. n.

Viridis. Caput vertice convexo, fastigio obtuso a fastigio frontis secto, oculis rotundatis, magnis, fronte lutescenti, nitida. Discus pronoti subplanus, marginibus lateralibus luteis, antice rectus, postice rotundatus, lobi deflexi angulatim inserti, perpendiculares. Elytra venis radialibus parum sinuosis, lutescentibus, campo praeradii laxo reticulato. Femora posteriora subtus ad marginem internum spinulis nigris tribus instructa. Processus analis parte basali inferne nigro-nitida, lobis apicalibus luteis, nitidis, crassissimis, apice rotundatis, subtus nigro-nitidis. Cerci incurvi, apice obtusi. Lamina subgenitalis versus apicem attenuata, obtuse carinata, apice angulatim incisa, processum analem valde superans.

Longitudo corporis	20,0 mm
Longitudo pronoti	5,2
Longitudo elytrorum	30,0
Longitudo femorum post	24,0

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