



It is concluded that the most important mite in the cestodes transmission to goats of the Tetecalitla zone is *Scheloribates* sp.

***SCHIZOTETRANYCHUS HINDUSTANICUS* (HIRST) (ACARI: TETRANYCHIDAE), NEW SPIDER MITE PEST DAMAGING CITRUS IN VENEZUELA, SOUTH AMERICA.**

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The Citrus Nest-Webbing Mite (CNWM), *Schizotetranychus hindustanicus* (Hirst), was originally described in 1924, from specimens collected in Coimbatore, South India. This is the first report of this species for Venezuela and the Americas.

The CNWM was observed on severely damaged leaves and fruits of *Citrus* plants, grown in gardens, as well as in commercial and experimental orchards at the state of Zulia, in western Venezuela.

The female body is oval but flattened; with stubby legs; the body length, including rostrum, is 430 μ . Adults and immature stages are yellowish or yellowish green with dark internal spots along the body sides; legs I, II and gnathosoma are of amber coloration. The male is pear-shaped, yellowish but paler than the female, with typical distinct red eyes.

The females spin circular fine webs of ca. 1 mm of diameter under which they lay the eggs. The emerging larvae and the nymphs feed upon the cells and tissue protected by the web, whereas the adults remain or not under the nest-webbing for feeding. Adults actively move on the leaves or fruits, whereas the immature stages, even though move fast when disturbed, prefer to settle under the web spinned by the female.

The damage is distinguished as circular whitish spots of the size of the nest-webs, mainly on the upper surface of the leaf, first appearing along the main veins and later extending to the rest of the leaf surface. On the fruit, the female spins the web on the concavities or depressions of the rind, being the damage similar to that of the leaves, but the fruit becomes uniformly silvered and hard in texture, when the infestation is all over the fruit.



The sudden appearance of this species along with generalized severe damages to *Citrus* apparently due to unchecked and well adapted high populations, suggests a recent introduction of this pest to the region. Up to date, the CNWM has been reported only from Southern India on *Citrus* plants.

Taxonomic characters of *S. hindustanicus* are given, as well as comparisons with other *Schizotetranychus* species also described from *Citrus* for the old world.

***BREVIPALPUS PHOENICIS* (GEIJSKES)
(ACARI: TENUIPALPIDAE) ON GUAVA
FRUITS, (*PSIDIUM GUAVA* L.), AND
THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
STYLAR END ROT DISEASE, CAUSED
BY *DOTHIORELLA* SP., ASEXUAL
STAGE OF *BOTRYOSPHERIA*
DOTHIDEA.**

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Brevipalpus phoenicis and the stylar end rot disease caused by *Dothiorella*, asexual stage of *Botryosphaeria dothidea*, are serious pests of guava in the northwestern region of Zulia state, Venezuela. Both, the mite and the fungus damage the apical end of the fruit and their highest infestations (mite and fungus) occur at the same time of the year, probably exists a relationship among these two pests.

The mite population fluctuations and the mite density during the growth of the fruit, as well as the incidence of the mite and the disease on ripen fruits were studied in the lab and field, in a commercial orchard located in Mara Co.

Populations of *B. phoenicis* were monitored weekly, from March to August, 2000, field mite countings were done on 21 to 146 fruits from 10 guava plants, resulting 6 peaks of more than 15 mites/fruit.

The mite density with regard to the growth of the fruit was studied from March to June 2000. Field mite countings were done from 121 fruits of 28 plants, during 14 continuous weeks of the growth of the fruits, starting with blossoms of 2 weeks old. In the first 8 weeks of growth of the fruits the mean mite densities were from 0 to 50 mites/fruit, but in the last two weeks the density increased from 50 to 250 mean mites/fruit.

The relationship between the injuries inflicted by the mites with the manifestation of the stylar end rot disease was studied from June to August, 2000. A total of 275 ripen fruits, were harvested and taken to the lab to observe the disease symptoms or manifestation