A new red spider mite from the African oil palm from Brazil (Acari: Tetranychidae)

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Abstract

*Tetranychus palmarum* sp.nov., a new red spider mite from the African oil palm, is described and figured.

Key words: “dendê”, *Elaeis guineensis*, tetranychid, taxonomy

Introduction

“Dendê”, the African oil palm, *Elaeis guineensis* Jacq., is a well established culture in Northeastern and Northern Brazil. Recently a mild attack by a red spider mite in young palms in green- and screenhouses in Pará, Brazil was observed. This spider mite species, new for Science, is herein described and figured.

Results

*Tetranychus palmarum* sp.nov. (Figs. 1–14)

Diagnosis: This species is the third to be included in group 7 of *Tetranychus* species as defined by Flechtmann and Knihinicki (2002), that is, female with dorsohysterosomal striae longitudinal between members of setae *e₁* and *f₁*, forming a diamond shaped pattern, tarsus I with four tactile setae proximal to proximal duplex setae and empodium with a conspicuous dorsomedian spur, together with *T. tchadi* Gutierrez and Bolland, 1973. The spinneret of the female of the new species is distinctly different from that of *T. tchadi* (only half as long as thick); in the male the spinneret of the n.sp. is thin and three times as long as broad, while in *T. tchadi* it is as long as broad. The n.sp. is distinctive by the shape of the aedeagus: the axis of the head of the aedeagus and of the shaft are almost parallel; the head of the aedeagus has a median rounded elevation and the posterior angulation is longer and more acute than the anterior angulation (two angulations fine in *T. tchadi*).

Male: (n = holotype + 9 paratypes). (Measurements of holotype followed by the range from paratypes in parentheses, and refer to the lengths of the structures unless stated otherwise). Idiosoma 301 (268–326), including rostrum 412 (389–419; 186–216) widest. Gnathosoma: spinneret slender, twice as long as broad. Peritreme hooked distally.

Dorsum: dorsal body setae: *v₂* 49 (45–58), (54–58) part; *sc₁* 93 (84–105), (65–75) apart; *sc₂* 75 (67–84); *c₁* 89 (75–91), (56–58) apart; *c₂* 86 (75–93); *c₃* 82 (70–91); *d₁* 82 (75–93), (58–66) part; *d₂*