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BROAD MITES

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Polihagotarsonemus latus* (Banks)

CLASS: Arachnida

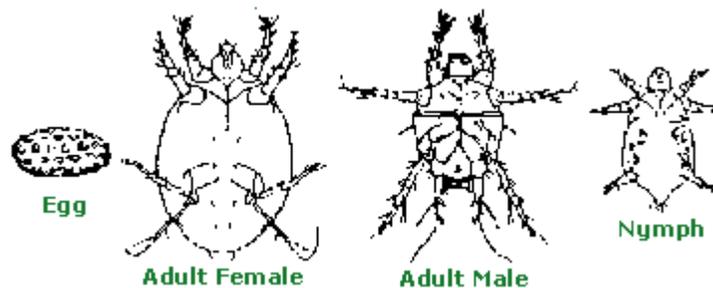
ORDER: Acari

FAMILY: Tarsonemidae



Broad Mites

From: [University of California](#)



Life Cycle

From: [NC Extension](#)

DESCRIPTION

Adults: Broad mites are almost microscopic (less than 0.2 millimeter long). They are translucent and colorless to pale brown. There are four pairs of legs; the last pair in the female ends in a long hair; the last pair on the male ends in a strong claw.

Eggs: The egg is elliptical, translucent, colorless, about 0.08 millimeter long, and is covered by 29 to 37 whitish bumps.

Larvae: The young broad mite has three pairs of legs and is whitish due to minute ridges on the skin. It is about 0.1 millimeter long.

BIOLOGY

Host Plants: Broad mites infest African violet, ageratum, aalea, begonia, dahlia, gerbera, gladiolus, ivy, jasmine, impatiens, lantana, marigold, peperomia, snapdragon, verbena, and innia.

Damage: Infested plants become unthrifty. Leaves curl downward and turn copper or purplish. Internodes shorten and lateral buds break more than normal. This new growth may also be stunted or killed, which forces out additional shoots. Flowers are distorted and fail to open normally. Unless controlled, broad mites usually destroy the commercial value of infested ornamental crops. Broad mites damage flowers and foliage of begonia

and cclamen, and brone the lower leaf surfaces. Broad mites are so small that the are virtuall invisible on the host plant even with a good hand lens.

Life Ccle: Female broad mites la 30 to 76 eggs on the leaf surface over an 8- to 13-da oviposition period. Unmated females la male eggs; mated females usuall la four female eggs for ever male egg. The larvae hatch in 2 or 3 das and emerge from the egg shell to feed. Larvae are slow moving and do not disperse far. In 2 or 3 das, the larvae develop into a quiescent larval stage. Quiescent female larvae become attractive to the males which pick them up and carr them to the new foliage. Males and females are ver active, but the males apparentl account for much of the dispersal of a broad mite population in their fren to carr the quiescent female larvae to new leaves. When females emerge from the quiescent stage, males immediatel mate with them. Males live 5 to 9 das; females live 8 to 13 das.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Cultural control: Broad mites are ver sensitive to heat. Lowering infested plants into water held at 43 to 49°C for 15 minutes will destro broad mites without damaging the plants.

Pesticides: Broad mites are susceptible to various miticides. However, the are more difficult to control in winter than in summer due to lower greenhouse temperatures. For specific chemical control recommendations, consult the [Cooperative E“tension Service](#).

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