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Studies on mass production of *Phytoseiulus persimilis* Athias-Henriot in greenhouse conditions

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ABSTRACT

Phytoseiulus persimilis is one of the most important natural enemies of *Tetranychus urticae* Koch. Mass prodution conducted on five bean seedling (Kantander var.) sown in pots and infested with 100 *T. urticae*. After ten days they were inoculated with five predatory mites.

Fourteen days later the predatory mites were harvested with the average of 60 predator/leaf or 500 to 600 predators per pot, under 25±5°C, 65±5 RH and 16:8 (L:D)photoperiod in laboratory. Suitable predator-prey ratio for initial inoculation in pots was to be 1:20. The minimum treshold of humidity for *P. persimilis* egg maintenance were 60% and the rate of egg to egg development was 0.154 Day^{-1} under current experimental conditions. Therefore it seems that mass prodution of the predatory mite is easily practicable under plastic tunnels in damp air of the north of Iran.

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