

**STUDIES ON BIOLOGY AND CHEMICAL CONTROL OF TOMATO
RUSSET MITE, *ACULOPS LYCOPERSICI* (ACARI: ERIOPHYIDAE), IN
VARAMIN**

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Summary

The tomato russet mite, *Aculops lycopersici* (Massee), is one of the important pests of commercial tomato planting in Varamin area. It damages all aerial parts of tomato plants (stems, petals, leaves and fruits). The *Lycopersicon* spp. showed the typical russet stems and leaves. The activity is mostly around the main ribs, in petiole and stem grooves.

Tomato russet mite appeared in July and its population built up in September and October, in Varamin area. Population increase during summer months caused heavy damages and finally death of tomato plants.

The conducted investigation showed that, it takes from egg to adult stage 8 days, at $25 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ and 50 ± 5 RH.

Wind and insects such as *Bemisia* sp., which are abundant in this area, help its spreading and further host infestation in neighbouring tomato fields. Other plants were found to be the host for tomato russet mite.

Experiments with 6 acaricides showed that bromopropylate, sulfur and karathane are the most effective compounds, on this serious pest.

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