

PHYTOPHAGUS MITE FAUNA OF IRAN

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Introduction:

In most parts of the world where commercial crops culture is practiced, the damage caused by mites to plants represents a major problem. The study of mites constitutes comparatively new field in all the countries of the world especially in Iran.

At the present, the damage caused by mites to agricultural crops in Iran presents some new aspects of problem to the ministry of Agriculture and to plant growers.

Even to the world Acarologists, mites comprise a difficult problem and to them the control of these small creatures is considered to be one of the complicated and important operations of crop production.

The unjustified usage of many chemicals especially chlorinated compounds in the past has resulted in killing beneficial insects and mites and in some instance the existing biological balance in a crop area has been destroyed, with the result that mites hitherto of minor importance rapidly have developed into primary importance.

The economical importance of mites as serious pests came to attention in Iran when many agricultural crops such as cotton, citrus, palms, vegetables and fruit trees were heavily infested and damaged, but due to the smallness of these creatures, their existence were unidentified.

On the other hand, due to the resistance attained in mites to chemicals used, the successful control measures were not easily accomplished.

To fulfill the needs of attaining some knowledge on mites and best means of control measures, the Acari lab, since its establishment, has been most successful, and so far, the biology, population fluctuations and methods of control of some of the harmful species of mites have been studied.

The present publication is prepared with an attempt to simply list the species of mites that occur in Iran, collected and identified within the past ten years from different regions on different crops.

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Before entering into the presentation of mite fauna of Iran, a diagnostic classification of the *Acarina* may be followed:

Phylum:	<i>Arthropoda</i>
Subphylum:	<i>Chelicerata</i>
Class:	<i>Arachnida</i>
Order:	<i>ACARINA</i>
Family:	(over 300 families).

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