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ERIOPHYID MITES FOUND ON FLORIDA CAMELLIAS

(ERIOPHYIDAE: ACARINA)¹

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INTRODUCTION: Three species of eriophyid mites have been found on camellias in Florida. The camellia bud mite, *Cosetacus camelliae* (Keifer) was found at Ormond Beach in 1960. The yellow camellia rust mite, *Acaphylla steinwedeni* Keifer was found at Gainesville in 1955. The purple camellia mite *Calacarus carinatus* Green was found at Fairvilla, Orange County in 1962. Keifer (1955) published the synonymy of this mite.

DISTRIBUTION: The camellia bud mite occurs in California and Florida. In Florida it has been found at Ormond Beach and Deland. The yellow camellia rust mite occurs in Alabama, California, and Florida. In Florida it has been found at Crescent City, Gainesville, Maitland, Orlando, and Seffner. The purple camellia mite occurs in California, Florida and Georgia. In Florida it has been found at Fairvilla, Gainesville, Hobe Sound, Maitland, Melrose, Oviedo, and Winter Haven.

HOSTS: The camellia bud mite and the yellow camellia rust mite have been reported only from camellias. The purple camellia mite has been reported from snowbush, *Viburnum opulus* Linnaeus, *Camellia japonica* Linnaeus, and *Thea chinensis* Linnaeus.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: The camellia bud mite lives in flower buds under the scales, causing browning of the flower parts and buds. The yellow camellia rust mite is a leaf vagrant occurring principally on the underside. The leaf browning is minor in Florida. The purple camellia mite is a vagrant on both surfaces of the leaves. No injury has been observed, but white cast skins are left on the leaves.

SURVEY AND DETECTION: Look for browning of flower parts, leaves or white cast skins on both sides of leaves.

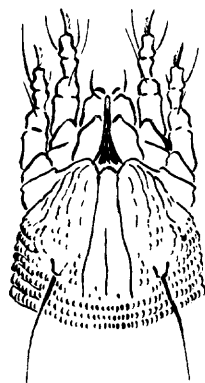
IDENTIFICATION: The camellia bud mite is wormlike and white in color. The dorsal setae arise from tubercles near the rear margin and incline caudad (fig. 1a). The featherclaw is 6-rayed (fig. 1b). The yellow camellia rust mite is spindleform, dark yellow to light orange in color. The short dorsal setae arise from tubercles and are direct cephalodorsad (fig. 2a). The bifurcate featherclaw is 3-rayed (fig. 2b). The purple camellia mite is spindleform, dark purple in color, and coated with white waxy secretion. The dorsal setae are missing (fig. 3a). The featherclaw is 5-rayed (fig. 3b).

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Key to slide mounted specimens

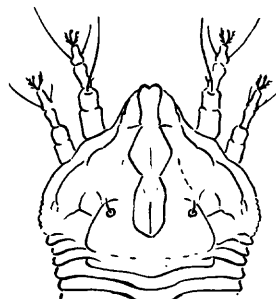
1. Dorsal setae long (fig. 1a).....camellia bud mite
2. Dorsal setae short (fig. 2a).....yellow camellia rust mite
3. Dorsal setae missing (fig. 3a).....purple camellia mite



1a.



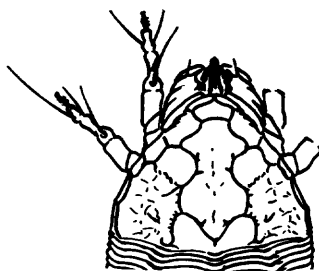
1b.



2a.



2b.



3a.



3b.

LITERATURE CITED

- Keifer, H. H. 1940. Eriophyid studies VIII. Bull. California Dept. Agric. 27:21-46.
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