

PARACALACARUS PODOCARPI K., AN ERIOPHYID OF PODOCARPUS<sup>1</sup>

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**INTRODUCTION:** PARACALACARUS PODOCARPI K. IS A NEW GENUS AND NEW SPECIES DESCRIBED BY H. H. KEIFER FROM FLORIDA ON PODOCARPUS IN 1962. TO DATE IT HAS BEEN FOUND ONLY IN FLORIDA. THIS IS THE ONLY ERIOPHYID FOUND ON PODOCARPUS SP. IN FLORIDA.

**HOST:** THIS MITE HAS BEEN FOUND ON PODOCARPUS MACROPHYLLA, PODOCARPUS MACROPHYLLA VAR. MAKI, AND PODOCARPUS SP.

**ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE:** THIS MITE FEEDS ON THE TERMINAL GROWTH WHERE IT CAUSES STUNTING IN THE GROWTH OF NEW LEAVES (FIG. 1C) AND SCARRING OF THE TERMINAL TWIGS AND MIDRIB OF MATURING LEAVES (FIG. 1B). THE SCARRED LEAF AREAS TURN DARK BROWN. NORMAL TERMINAL GROWTH IS SHOWN IN FIG. 1A.

**DISTRIBUTION:** THIS MITE IS FOUND ONLY IN FLORIDA IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: APOPKA, CRESCENT CITY, DAYTONA, HAWTHORNE, HOLLY HILL, HUNTINGTON, JUNO BEACH, MACCLENNY, OCALA, ORMOND BEACH, SAFETY HARBOR, SEFFNER, AND TAMPA.

**CONTROL:** NO TESTS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED FOR THE CONTROL OF THIS MITE, BUT KELTHANE OR CHLOROBENZILATE HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED AT THE SAME RATE AS USED ON CITRUS BY THE FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE.

**DESCRIPTION:** THIS MITE IS LIGHT YELLOW AND ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE CITRUS RUST MITE. IT IS NOT RELATED TO THE CITRUS RUST MITE. KEIFER (1962) STATED THAT IT IS MORE CLOSELY RELATED TO THE GENUS CALACARUS, BUT PARACALACARUS HAS NO FEMORAL SETAE, LACKS THE REAR PATELLAR SETA, AND HAS A WEAK DORSAL TROUGH ABOUT 4/3 TERGITES BACK FROM REAR SHIELD MARGIN OF THE MIDDORSAL RIDGE (FIG. 2B). IT IS A VAGRANT. THE FEATHERCLAW IS FOUR-RAYED (FIG. 2A).

**REFERENCES:**

KEIFER, H. H. 1962. ERIOPHYID STUDIES B-8. BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY, CALIF. DEPT. AGR., 20 P.

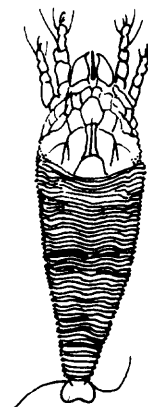


FIG. 1A. NORMAL TERMINAL GROWTH. FIG. 1B. DISCOLOR-ED TERMINAL GROWTH. FIG. 1C. STUNTED TERMINAL GROWTH.

FIG. 2A. FEATHERCLAW.

FIG. 2B. ADULT.

<sup>1</sup>CONTRIBUTION No. 76, ENTOMOLOGY SECTION