

AN ERIOPHYID MITE, ERIOPHYES BUCERAS CROMROY, FROM BLACK OLIVE<sup>1</sup>

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**INTRODUCTION:** ERIOPHYES BUCERAS CROMROY WAS DESCRIBED BY H. L. CROMROY IN 1954 FROM BLACK OLIVE, BUCIDA BUCERAS, IN RIO PIEDRAS, PUERTO RICO. THE HOLOTYPE IS IN THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE COLLECTION. THIS IS THE ONLY ERIOPHYID MITE FOUND ON BLACK OLIVE IN FLORIDA.

**DISTRIBUTION:** PUERTO RICO AND FLORIDA ARE THE ONLY LOCALITIES WHERE THIS MITE HAS BEEN REPORTED. IT PROBABLY IS FOUND IN THE TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AREAS WHERE THE HOST PLANT GROWS.

**HOST:** APPARENTLY THIS MITE IS HOST SPECIFIC TO BLACK OLIVE, BUCIDA BUCERAS (FIG. 1), IN FLORIDA AND IN PUERTO RICO.

**ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE:** ACCORDING TO CROMROY, THIS MITE CAUSES FOUR DISTINCT TYPES OF INJURY TO THE TREE IN PUERTO RICO. THESE ARE DEFORMATION OF THE FRUIT, ERINEUM ON THE LEAVES, AND TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF GALLS. THE ONLY DAMAGE NOTED IN THE FLORIDA INFESTATIONS IS THE ERINEUM AND LEAF DEFORMATION (FIG. 2). KELTHANE HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR THE CONTROL OF THIS MITE BY THE FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE. THIS PLANT IS USED AS AN ORNAMENTAL IN FLORIDA, AND THE MITE DAMAGE CAUSES UNSIGHTLY LEAVES.

**DESCRIPTION:** THE BODY OF THE ADULT (FIG. 3) IS ROBUST AND A PALE WHITE. THE DORSAL SETAE ON THE DORSAL SHIELD (FIG. 4) POINT UPWARD AND CENTRAD. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 50 ABDOMINAL RINGS THAT ARE ENTIRELY MICROTUBERCULATE (FIG. 5). THE EMPEDIUM IS FIVE-RAYED (FIG. 6).



FIG. 1.  
HEALTHY LEAF.

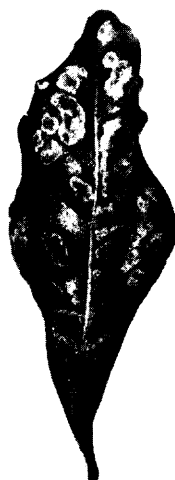


FIG. 2.  
LEAF DAMAGE.

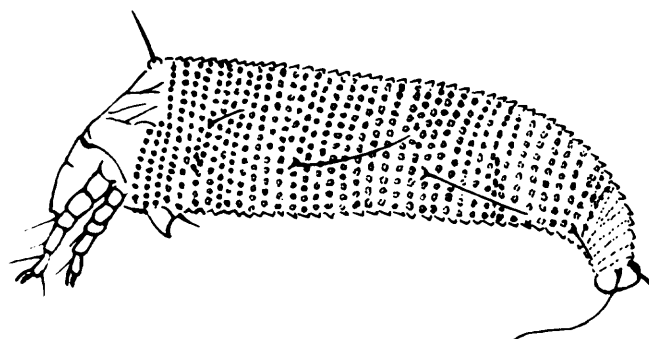


FIG. 3. ADULT ERIOPHYES BUCERAS CROMROY

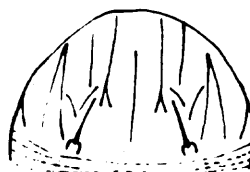


FIG. 4.  
DORSAL  
SHIELD.



FIG. 5.  
MICROTU-  
BERCULES.



FIG. 6.  
FEATHER  
CLAW.

**REFERENCE:**

CROMROY, H. H., 1958. A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE PLANT MITES OF PUERTO RICO. JOUR. AGRIC., UNIV. OF PUERTO RICO. 42(2):39-144.

<sup>1</sup>CONTRIBUTION No. 89, ENTOMOLOGY SECTION