

A MITE, ERIOPHYES ALOINIS (KEIFER)

(ACARINA: ERIOPHYIDAE)¹

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INTRODUCTION: Keifer (1941) described Eriophyes aloinis from Aloe spinosissima in North Hollywood, California. He reported that this species was very similar to Eriophyes tulipae (Keifer), but differed in having 1 less ray on the featherclaws, being purplish streaked when full grown, and in details of the submedian shield lines.

DISTRIBUTION: E. aloinis probably can be found wherever aloe and star cactus, Haworthia spp., are grown. Aloe sp. is native to Africa (275 species), Madagascar (42 species), and Arabia (12-15 species) (Willis, 1966). Plants are cultivated and grown in the tropical to subtropical regions out-of-doors and in greenhouses worldwide. Haworthia spp. are also a native to South Africa and are grown in the same regions that Aloe spp. are grown.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: This mite's feeding causes the blooms and base of leaves to develop a wart-like growth (fig. 1).

CONTROLS: The Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida, IFAS, recommends Kelthane 18.5% EC at the rate of 2 teaspoons (9.856 ml) per gallon (3.78 liters) of water or 2 pints (0.946 liters) per 100 gallons (378.5 liters) of water.

SURVEY AND DETECTION: Look for wart-like growth on the blooms of Aloe spp. and Haworthia spp.

DESCRIPTION: Female 190-220 μ long, 45-50 μ thick, worm-like, and whitish to purplish in life (fig. 2). Rostrum 29 μ long, somewhat down-curved. Shield 40 μ long, 50 μ wide, median line present to rear, admedians complete (fig. 3); sublaterals distinct, curved, inter-branched; dorsal tubercles 27.5 μ apart, on rear margin; dorsal setae 35 μ long, projecting backwards. Lengths: forelegs 31 μ , tibia 6 μ , tarsus 7 μ (fig. 4); claw 11 μ , attenuate, featherclaw 6-rayed (fig. 5); hindlegs 29 μ , tibia 4.5 μ , tarsus 6.5 μ , claw 10 μ (fig. 6). Female genitalia 25 μ wide, 18.5 μ long, coverflap basally tuberculate with 7 to 9 furrows, seta 10 μ long (fig. 7).

LITERATURE CITED:

- Keifer, H. H. 1941. Eriophyid studies XI. California Dept. Agric. Bull. 30(2): 205-206, pl. 1.
Willis, J. C. 1966. A dictionary of the flowering plants and ferns. Seventh Edition. Cambridge University Press. 1214 p.

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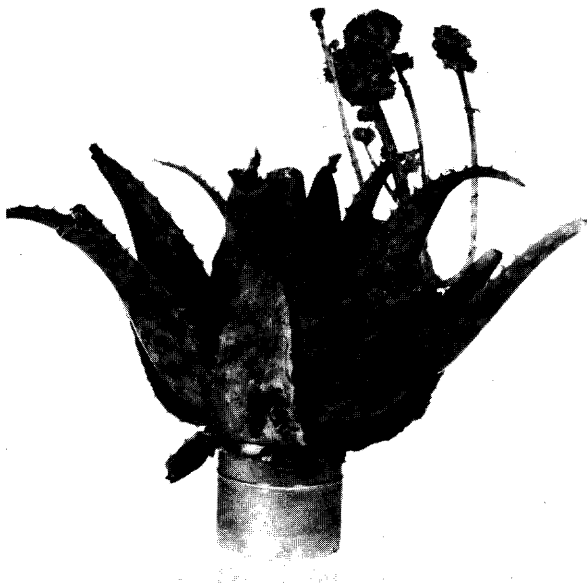


Fig. 1. *Eriophyes aloinis* (Keifer)
feeding damage to aloe blooms.

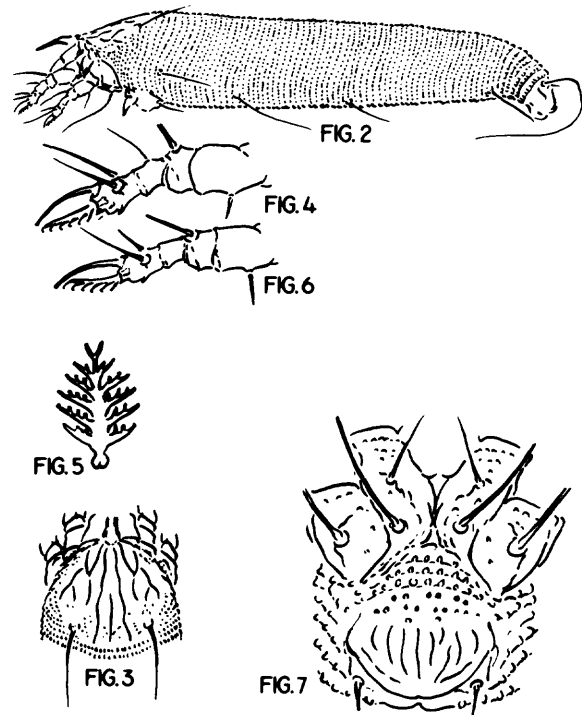


Fig. 2-7. *Eriophyes aloinis* (Keifer),
adult female. Fig. 2. Lateral View.
Fig. 3. Delineation of cephalathoracic
shield. Fig. 4. Foreleg. Fig. 5.
Featherclaw. Fig. 6. Hindleg. Fig. 7.
Female genital structures and coxae.