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A MITE, ERIOPHYES ALOINIS (KEIFER)

(ACARINA: ERIOPHYIDAE)[1]

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INTRODUCTION: Keifer (1941) described Eriophyes aloinis from Aloe spinossissima 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 190-220µ long, 45-50µ thick, worm-like, and whitish to purplish in life (fig. 2). Rostrum 29µ long, somewhat down-curved. Shield 40µ long, 50µ wide, median line present to rear, admedians complete (fig. 3); sublaterals distinct, curved, inter-branched; dorsal tubercles 27.5µ apart, on rear margin; dorsal setae 35µ long, projecting backwards. Lengths: forelegs 31µ, tibia 6µ, tarsus 7µ (fig. 4); claw 11µ, attenuate, featherclaw 6-rayed (fig. 5); hindlegs 29µ, tibia 4.5µ, tarsus 6.5µ, claw 10µ (fig. 6). Female genitalia 25µ wide, 18.5µ long, coverflap basally tuberculate with 7 to 9 furrows, seta 10µ 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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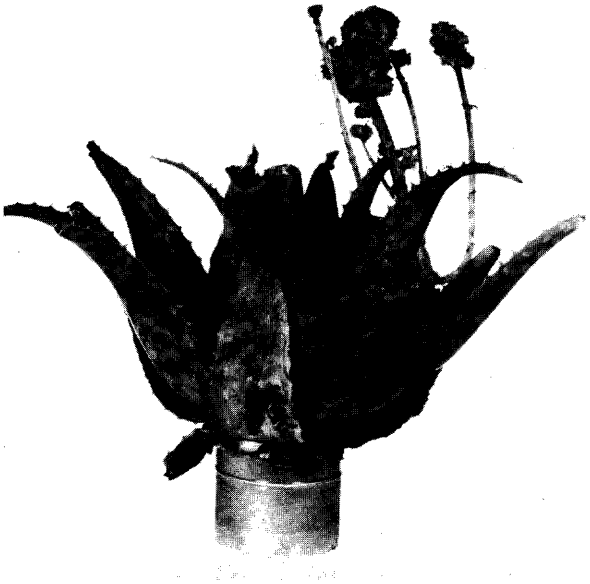

Fig. 1. Eriophyes aloinis (Keifer) feeding damage to aloe blooms.

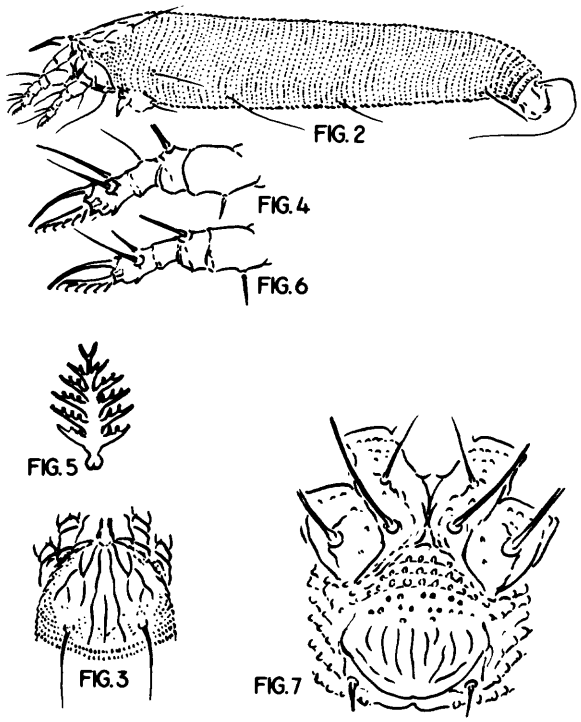

Fig. 2-7. Eriophyes aloinis (Keifer), adult female. Fig. 2. Lateral View. Fig. 3. Delineation of cephalathoracic shield. Fig. 4. Foreleg. Fig. 5. Featherclaw. Fig. 6. Hindleg. Fig. 7. Female genital structures and coxae.