



## **Eotetranychus uncatus Garman, a pest of apple new to the Netherlands (Acari: Tetranychidae)**

by

J. GUTIERREZ and W. HELLE

Centre O.R.S.T.O.M. Nouméa

Laboratory of experimental Entomology, Amsterdam

**ABSTRACT.** — *Eotetranychus uncatus* Garman was collected on apple, in Amsterdam in October 1978. This species, which is a pest of apple and stone fruits in the United States, is reported from the Netherlands and Western Europe for the first time.

For several years *Eotetranychus uncatus* Garman has been known only from the United States: in Massachusetts and Connecticut this species causes injuries to apple and stone fruits, as well as in Utah and Southern California; potential hosts are also birch, hornbeam and linden (Pritchard & Baker, 1955; Jeppson a.o., 1975).

The distribution area of this pest is in fact larger than was thought, as it was identified on white birch in northern Kazakhstan (Wainstein, 1960), on *Juglans ailanthifolia* Carr. in Japan (Ehara, 1970), more recently on apple and plum in Poland (Skorupska, 1976 a, b) and on medicinal plants in India (Lal & Mukharji, 1977). In the Netherlands we collected it on apples in the experimental orchard of the University of Amsterdam, on 10 October 1978.

*E. uncatus* is morphologically close to *Eotetranychus carpini* (Oudemans): the shape of the male aedeagus, the leg chaetotaxy and the striae of the female genital area (*willamettei* type) are similar. The peritremes are however strongly hooked distally in *E. uncatus*, whereas they are straight and ended in a simple bulb in *E. carpini*.

The females of *E. uncatus* are pale yellow to greenish yellow with black spots on each side of the hysterosoma. This spider mite feeds on the undersurface of leaves and spins plentiful webbing. Fertilized females overwinter in clusters under patches of loose bark or in crevices of the trunk of infested trees.

Damaged leaves show light stippled patches and the foliage may have a dusty or lead-coloured appearance. Injuries, early in the growing season, sometimes cause the leaves to "cup" or to "crinkle".

The chromosome number of this species was studied from the Amsterdam strain:  $2n = 6$  (Bolland, Gutierrez & Helle, 1981).

### REFERENCES

- Bolland, H. R., J. Gutierrez & W. Helle, 1981. Chromosomes in spider mites (Tetranychidae -Acari). — *Acarologia* 21, in press.
- Ehara, S. 1970. Four species of the Carpini complex of *Eotetranychus* in Japan (Acarina: Tetranychidae). — *J. Fac. Ed., Tottori Univ., Nat. Sc.* 21 (2): 132-141.
- Jeppson, L. R., H. H. Keifer & E. W. Baker, 1975. *Mites injurious to economic plants*: 1-614, Univ. Calif. Press.
- Lal, L. & S. P. Mukharji, 1977. A contribution to the knowledge of phytophagous mites infesting medicinal plants. — *Sci. & Cult.* 43 (7): 313-316.
- Pritchard, A. E. & E. W. Baker, 1955. A revision of the spider mite family Tetranychidae. — *Mem. Pacif. Cst ent. Soc.* 2: 1-472.
- Skorupska, A., 1976a. The occurrence of mites (Tetranychidae) in apple orchards in Greater Poland (in Polish). — *Prace nauk. Inst. Ochrony Ros'lin* 18 (2): 183-196.
- , 1976b. *Eotetranychus uncatus* Garman a pest of apple and (in Polish). — *Prace nauk. Inst. Ochrony Ros'lin* 18 (2): 197-200

O.R.S.T.O.M. Fonds Documentaire

N°: 1064 ex 1

Cpte: B

Date: 23 MARS 1982

Wainstein, B. A., 1960. Tetranychoid mites of Kazakhstan (with revision of families) (in Russian). — *Trud. nauk. Issled. Inst. Zash. Rast.* 5: 1-276.

B.P. A5, Nouméa, Nouvelle Calédonie  
Kruislaan 302, 1098 SM Amsterdam

---