

Seasonal Incidence of *Tetranychus neocaledonicus* Andre in Gujarat State

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The red spider mite, *T. neocaledonicus* has been recorded for the first time in Gujarat State as a pest of cotton, *Gossypium hirsutum* L. It was active during October to February on cotton, after which the activity retarded (Bharodia, 1974). A survey was, therefore, carried out to know the sea-

sonal incidence of mite on various host plants during the year 1973-74. Intensity of attack on different host plants was studied by counting adult mites from one square inch area of the leaf surface of ten randomly selected host plants. Mite counts were taken from nine leaves, three each at top, middle and bottom portions of the randomly selected plants at various periods. The survey was started from July, 1973 and completed in March, 1974. The results obtained are presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Seasonal incidence of *T. neocaledonicus* Andre on different host plants (given as total counts from 10 plants taken on one square inch basis per leaf for nine leaves on each plant).

Sr. No.	Name of host	Months							
		July 73	Aug. 73	Sept. 73	Oct. 73	Nov. 73	Dec. 73	Jan. 74	Feb. 74
1	<i>Phaseolus mungo</i>	0.0	0.0	530.33	938.33	*	—	—	—
2	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.0	143.0	59.5	61.5	19.5
3	<i>Solanum melongena</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	60.0	309.25	108.25	0.0	0.0
4	<i>Ipomaea palmata</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	248.33	132.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
5	<i>Hibiscus mutabilis</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	92.67	439.5	91.5	82.0	—
6	<i>Abutilon indicum</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	92.67	272.0	56.0	0.0	0.0
7	<i>Phaseolus trilobus</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	129.33	138.0	—	—	—
8	<i>Ipomaea purpurea</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	70.0	128.0	—	—	—

*(-) Indicate that crops/plants were not available.

The data presented in Table-1 indicate that the mite infestation was observed from the month of September on black gram (*Phaseolus mungo*), while this mite was available on cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*), brinjal (*Solanum*

melongena), railway creeper (*Ipomaea palmata*), Jungli bhinda (*Hibiscus mutabilis*), kaski (*Abutilon indicum*), three lobed kidney bean (*Phaseolus trilobus*) and morning glory (*Ipomaea purpurea*) from October onwards till the crops were

either overmatured or the plants dried up. The highest population was recorded during the month of November on almost all the host plants surveyed. Rahman and Sapra (1946) reported this pest to be causing considerable damage to a number of host plants including important crops like cotton and brinjal in Lyallpur, Gujranwal, Montgomery, Lahore and Sargodha district of the Punjab. Similar trend has also been observed by Khot and Patel (1956) in Poona region.

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