

# Aplonobia histricina (Berlese, 1910)

## Material examined

specimens not examined

## Taxonomy

Subfamily Bryobiinae

Tribe Hystrichonychini

## Common Name

Sour-sob mite

## Distribution

+Australia, \*Italy, South Africa

## Taxonomy Changes

*Tetranychopsis histricina* Berlese 1910

*Aplonobia histricina* (Berlese) Pritchard & Baker 1955

*Aplonobia oxalis* Womersley 1940, synonymy Pritchard & Baker 1955

## Diagnosis

Female

- dark reddish in colour
- all dorsal setae approximately 120 long
- dorsal setae about as long as distances between them
- dorsum with regular striae
- peritreme expansion ovate

## Hosts

\**Oxalis pes-caprae*, *Oxalis* sp. (Oxalidaceae), *Pyrus communis* (Rosaceae), *Sphaeralcea ambigua* (Malvaceae)

## Similar Taxa

*Aplonobia citri* Meyer 1974

## Biology

In many localities, the mite occurs on Sour-sob (*Oxalis cernua*), a noxious weed in Australia, probably introduced from the Mediterranean Region. Its feeding turns the leaves yellow and withered. This species has also been collected on fruit trees. The eggs are laid in clusters under bark and twigs lying on the ground.

## References

\*Berlese, A. (1910) Lista di nuove specie e nuove generi di acari. *Redia* **6**: 242-271

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+Gutierrez, J. and Schicha, E. (1983) The spider mite family Tetranychidae (Acari) in New South Wales. *International Journal of Acarology* **9**: 99-116

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Pritchard, A.E. and Baker, E.W. (1955) A revision of the spider mite family Tetranychidae. *Pacific Coast Entomology Society Memoirs* **2**: 1-472

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## Notes

In 1910, Berlese described *Tetranychopsis histricina* from fruit trees in NSW, collected by Froggatt. Then Womersley (1940) described a new genus and species *Aplonobia oxalis* from *Oxalis* in South Australia and from peach trees in NSW. Womersley indicated that his species was similar to another species that had been recorded on fruit trees in Australia by Froggatt, *Tetranychopsis histricina* Berlese 1910.

Pritchard and Baker (1955) introduced a new combination, redescribed the troublesome *Aplonobia histricina* (Berlese) and made *Aplonobia oxalis* a synonym of *Aplonobia histricina*. However, Gutierrez and Schica (1983) examined some of Womersley's original material and felt that the specimens from *Oxalis* were *A. histricina*, but the specimens from peach were in fact *A. citri* Meyer-Smith. Gutierrez and Schica (1983) believe that both species occur in Australia, but a detailed revision of the genus is needed to confirm this.

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