Oligonychus palus
Beard 2008

Material examined

types

Taxonomy

Subfamily Tetranychinae
Tribe Tetranychini

Common Name

None

Distribution

*Australia (NT)

Taxonomy Changes

None

Diagnosis

Female

- empodia I-IV = curved claw (Figs 1b-4), often with minute dorsal spur visible (Figs 2, 3)
- pregenital striae longitudinal, with some oblique striae laterally (Figs 5, 6, 8c)
- tarsus I with the sockets of four tactile setae proximal to and one solenidion proximal to, or overlapping with, the socket of the proximal duplex seta (Fig. 1a)
- tarsus II with the socket of three tactile setae and one solenidion proximal to, and one tactile seta overlapping with, the socket of the duplex seta
- peritreme ending in simple unexpanded bulb (Fig. 7)
- most dorsal striae transverse, except oblique to longitudinal, often irregular, between opisthosomal setae f1-f1 and f1-f2 (Figs 8-12)
- spinneret of palp one and half to twice as long as wide, with pointed tip
- chaetotaxy for legs I-IV:
  - femora 10, 6, 4, 4
  - genua 5, 5, 4, 4
  - tibiae 10(1+0), 7, 6, 7
- pale green

Male

- empodium I = bifid claw, ventral and dorsal claws subequal in length; ventral claw stout, dorsal claw slender (Figs 1c, 13)
- empodia II-IV with slender dorsal claw of equal length to proximoventral hairs (Figs 1d, 13)
- peritreme ending in slightly expanded simple bulb (Fig. 7)
- spinneret of palp twice as long as wide
- tarsus I with the sockets of four tactile and two/three solenidia proximal to the socket of the proximal duplex seta (one of the three solenidia often overlapping the duplex seta, hence two/three solenida proximal) (Fig. 1e)
- chaetotaxy for legs I-IV:
  - femora 10, 6, 4, 4
  - genua 5, 5, 4, 4
  - tibiae 13(4+0), 7, 6, 7
- aedeagus dorsally directed, with somewhat sinuous dorsal projection; no anterior projection; dorsal projection is short straight neck that bends posteriorly to form short, weakly tapering finger-like projection; dorsal margin of shaft at 45° angle to ventral margin, abruptly bent dorsally to form an acute angle at base of dorsal projection (Figs 14-16)
- pale green with yellow tinge

Hosts

*Musa sp.* (Musaceae)

Similar Taxa

*Oligonychus turbellii* Beard & Walter 2003

*Oligonychus sapienticolus* Gupta (1976)

Biology

Mites were found in small populations on the underside of the host's leaves, mainly along the main middle vein. Little webbing is produced and their feeding causes yellow-white speckling that turns more yellow and can be seen from the top of the leaf.

References


*Gupta, S.K. (1976) Contribution to our knowledge of tetranychid mites (Acarina) with descriptions of three new species from India. *Oriental Insects* 10: 327-351*

Notes

Fig. 11. Oligonychus palus adult female (paratype), detail of oblique striae between dorsal setae f1-f1, and irregular longitudinal and transverse striae between f1-f2.

Fig. 12. Oligonychus palus adult female (paratype), detail of transverse striae between dorsal setae f1-f1, and irregular oblique between f1-f2.

Fig. 13. Oligonychus palus adult male holotype - detail of empodia I, II, IV.

Fig. 14. Oligonychus palus adult male holotype and paratypes - detail of aedeagus (at different focal points).

Fig. 15. Oligonychus palus adult male holotype (top left) and paratypes - detail of aedeagus.
Fig. 16. Oligonychus palus adult male (non-types) - detail of aedeagus.