

Discovery of *Tenuipalponychus* (Acari: Tetranychidae) in Malaysia and description of a new species

YUSOF OTHMAN¹ & ZHI-QIANG ZHANG²

¹ Crop Protection and Plant Quarantine Division, Department of Agriculture, Jalan Gallagher, 50840 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; e-mail: yusof@pqdoa.moa.my

² Landcare Research, P.B. 92170, Auckland, New Zealand; ZhangZ@landcareresearch.co.nz

Abstract

The genus *Tenuipalponychus* Channabasavanna & Lakkundi (Acari: Tetranychidae) is recorded for the first time from Malaysia. *Tenuipalponychus rosae* Yusof & Zhang **sp. nov.** is described from females collected on *Rosa chinensis* from Cameron Highlands, Pahang, Malaysia. A key to world species of *Tenuipalponychus* is provided.

Key words: Acari, Tetranychidae, *Tenuipalponychus rosae*, new species, Malaysia

Introduction

Spider mites (Acari: Tetranychidae) are among the most important pests of economic plants worldwide. Over 1190 species have been described around the world (Bolland et al. 1998). The tetranychid fauna of Malaysia, however, is poorly studied. Ehara and Tho (1988) report 17 species belonging to seven common genera: *Eutetranychus* Banks, *Aponychus* Rimando, *Stylophoronychus* Prasad, *Panonychus* Yokoyama, *Schizotetranychus* Trägårdh, *Oligonychus* Berlese and *Tetranychus* Dufour. This paper adds a rarely collected genus *Tenuipalponychus* Channabasavanna & Lakkundi to the tetranychid fauna of Malaysia.

The genus *Tenuipalponychus* was erected by Channabasavanna & Lakkundi (1977) for *T. citri* Channabasavanna & Lakkundi, 1977 described from *Citrus sinensis* in India. The genus was monotypic until Aguilar et al. (1991) described the second species, *T. tabebuiae*, from *Tabebuia ochracea* (Bignoniaceae) in Brazil and Costa Rica. In this paper, we describe the third species from *Rosa chinensis* in Malaysia.