

## Rediscovery and redescription of *Tetranychus gigas* (Acari, Prostigmata, Tetranychidae)

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### Abstract

*Tetranychus gigas* Pritchard & Baker, 1955 is redescribed from paratypes and from Brazilian specimens collected from soybean.

**Key words:** Acari, Tetranychidae, *Tetranychus gigas*, redescription, Brazilian fauna

### Introduction

The family Tetranychidae, the spider mites, comprises one of the most specialized groups of plant feeding mites. Some spider mites infest a wide range of plant hosts while others appear to be rather host specific. They have a unique ability to disperse and exploit new feeding sites very quickly. For this reason they can inflict severe effects on agricultural and horticultural crops, often resulting in economic losses.

In the present paper we report the rediscovery of *Tetranychus gigas* Pritchard & Baker, 1955 and redescribe the species.

*T. gigas* was first described from 2 males and 6 females collected from cotton from Sahuarita, Arizona, USA, and 12 males and 36 females from cotton from Crosby County, Texas, USA. The only additional report on this species is from Tuttle, Baker & Abbatiello (1974) who reported *T. gigas* from *Parthenium incanum* HBK from Torreon, Mexico. Baker & Tuttle (1994) provided the botanical name of the host plant of the type material as *Gossypium hirsutum* (upland cotton). The occurrence of *T. gigas* on *Cucurbita* sp. given in Bolland *et al.* (1998) is probably a mistake.