

TETRANYCHUS RICINUS NOV. SPEC.
A SPIDER MITE OF ECONOMIC
IMPORTANCE IN MOROCCO

SABA F. ⁽¹⁾

In the course of surveying for mites and spider mites on cultivated crops in Morocco, a spider mite was discovered differing markedly in its red color to that of the common brownish - red *Tetranychus cinnabarinus* Boisd.

Description

Color

The female is dark red with contrasting white dorsal setae. Several irregular black spots of various sizes are found dorso-laterally as well as dorsally. The eggs of teneral females have a pink taint but those of fertilized ones are white hyaline. The deuto- and teleochrysalis are slightly pink.

(1) Head, Zoology Dept.-Phytiatrie, Research Div., Ministry of Agriculture, B P. 415, Rabat.

Al-Awamia, 49, pp. 63-67, octobre, 1973.

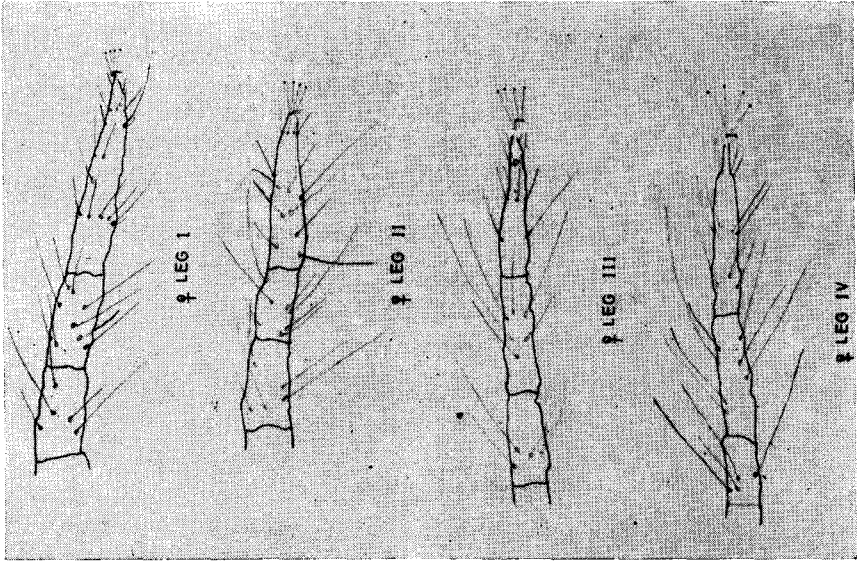
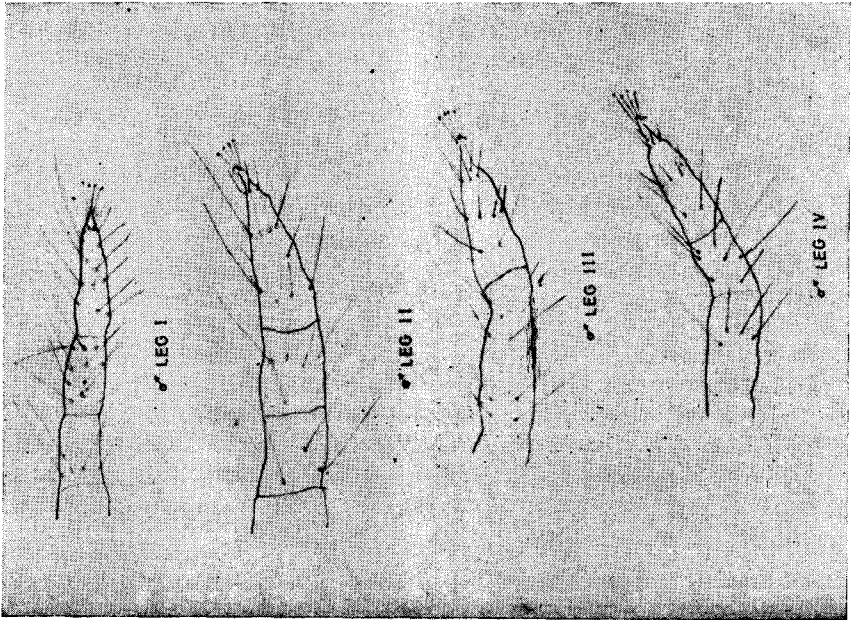


FIG. 1



Measurements

Egg	:	127.5 - 135.0	$\bar{x} = 129$	μ		
♀ teleochrysalis	:	322.5 - 337.5	$\bar{x} = 335.3$	μ		
Female	}	excluding	:	405 - 480	$\bar{x} = 451.1$	μ
		gnathosoma	:	270 - 345	$\bar{x} = 319.5$	μ
Male	:					

Legs and Aedeagus

The first 3 segments of each female and male leg are shown in FIG. 1; the number of setae on each is identical with that of *T. cinnabarinus* (TABLE 1). The aedeagus (FIG. 2) resembles that of the carmin spider mite.

Host plants and distribution

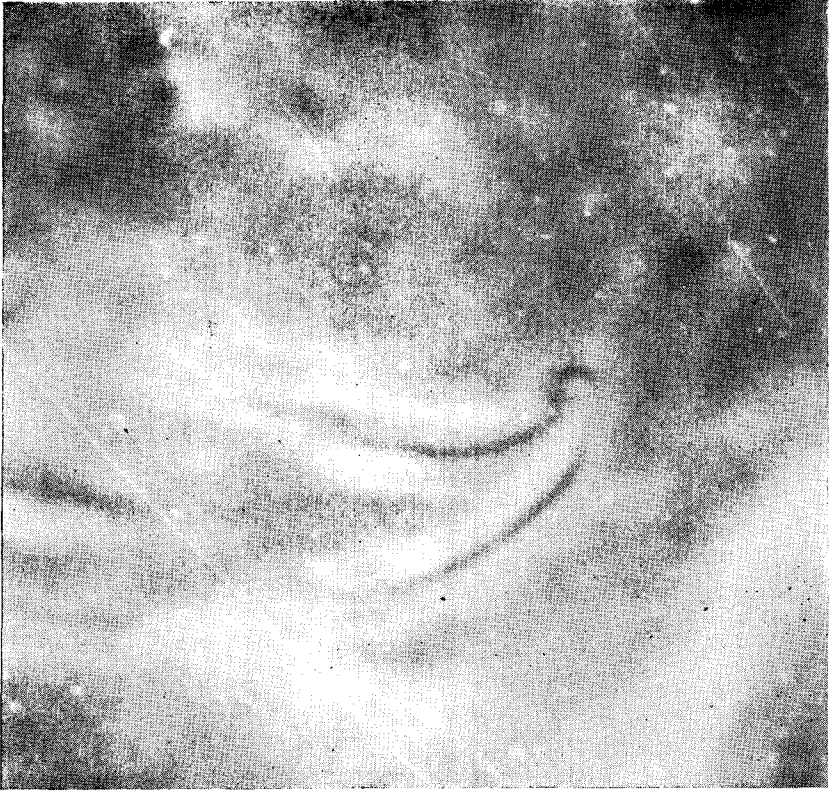
Although first found in May 1972 on melons this species derives its name from castor-oil plant which it infests heavily. *T. ricinus* was collected from plants close to the humid Atlantic coast near Kenitra and Rabat, inland near Marrakech, and to the south-east behind the Atlas mountains, where semi desert conditions prevail (SABA, 1973). The following hosts are known: *Citrullus lanatus* (THUNB.), *Lanata camara* L., *Mentha piperita* L., *Ricinus communis* (L.), *Rose* sp., *Datura metel* L., *Tithonia tagetiflora* (DESF.), *Ipomoea hederacea* (JACQ), and *Saliva splendens* (KER.).

TABLE 1
Number of setae on female and male legs

	Tarsus				Tibia				Genu			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Female	16	15	10	11	10	7	6	7	5	5	4	4
Male	15	13	10	11	12	7	6	7	5	5	4	4

Discussion

This species, once put in alcohol, can hardly be distinguished from *T. cinnabarinus* according to established morphological characteristics employed at present in identification of tetranychids. Both species — *T. cinnabarinus* and *T. ricinus* — form a red tetranychid complex in Morocco that should be further clarified.

FIG. 2

It appears that biological and genetical data may be just as indispensable as morphological characteristics to the taxonomy of certain tetranychids.

Such comparative and genetical studies are underway.

Prototypes of male and female are kept at the U.S. National Museum in Washington D.C.

ملخص

عثر المؤلف خلال دراسة للفراديات المؤدية للنباتات المزروعة ، على نوع جديد أحمر داكن . ويختلف هذا الأخير عن الاصناف (*T. cinnabarinus*) الحمراء القائمة المنتشرة بالمغرب بلونه .
ووصف بعد ذلك هذا الصنف الجديد (*T. ricinus*) وعين المزروعات التي يوديها ، والمناطق التي ينتشر بها .

RÉSUMÉ

Au cours d'une étude sur les acariens nuisibles aux plantes cultivées, un tétranyque rouge foncé était trouvé. Il ne ressemble pas du point de vue couleur à l'espèce brun-rouge très répandue au Maroc - *T. cinnabarinus*.

Cette nouvelle espèce — *T. ricinus* — a été décrite. Ses plantes hôtes et sa distribution ont été signalées.

RESUMEN

En el curso de un estudio sobre los acaros nocivos a las plantas cultivadas se ha encontrado un tetranychus de color rojo oscuro. Bajo el punto de vista color no se parece a la especie *T. cinnabarinus* muy esparcida en Marruecos.

Esta nueva especie — *T. ricinus* — ha sido descrita. Sus plantas-huespedes y su distribución han sido señaladas.

REFERANCES CITED

- SABA, F. — 1973. Les acariens nuisibles aux plantes cultivées au Maroc. — *Al-Awamia*, 49, Rabat.