

## A new red spider mite from the African oil palm from Brazil (Acari: Tetranychidae)

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### Abstract

*Tetranychus palmarum* **sp.nov.**, a new red spider mite from the African oil palm, is described and figured.

**Key words:** “dendê”, *Elaeis guineensis*, tetranychid, taxonomy

### Introduction

“Dendê”, the African oil palm, *Elaeis guineensis* Jacq., is a well established culture in Northeastern and Northern Brazil. Recently a mild attack by a red spider mite in young palms in green- and screenhouses in Pará, Brazil was observed. This spider mite species, new for Science, is herein described and figured.

### Results

#### *Tetranychus palmarum* **sp.nov.**

(Figs. 1–14)

**Diagnosis:** This species is the third to be included in group 7 of *Tetranychus* species as defined by Flechtmann and Knihinicki (2002), that is, female with dorsohysterosomal striae longitudinal between members of setae  $e_1$  and  $f_1$ , forming a diamond shaped pattern, tarsus I with four tactile setae proximal to proximal duplex setae and empodium with a conspicuous dorsomedian spur, together with *T. tchadi* Gutierrez and Bolland, 1973. The spinneret of the female of the new species is distinctly different from that of *T. tchadi* (only half as long as thick); in the male the spinneret of the n.sp. is thin and three times as long as broad, while in *T. tchadi* it is as long as broad. The n.sp. is distinctive by the shape of the aedeagus: the axis of the head of the aedeagus and of the shaft are almost parallel; the head of the aedeagus has a median rounded elevation and the posterior angulation is longer and more acute than the anterior angulation (two angulations fine in *T. tchadi*).

**Male:** (n = holotype + 9 paratypes). (Measurements of holotype followed by the range from paratypes in parentheses, and refer to the lengths of the structures unless stated otherwise). Idiosoma 301 (268–326), including rostrum 412 (389–419; (186–216) widest. Gnathosoma: spinneret slender, twice as long as broad. Peritreme hooked distally.

Dorsum: dorsal body setae:  $v_2$  49 (45–58), (54–58) part;  $sc_1$  93 (84–105), (65–75) apart;  $sc_2$  75 (67–84);  $c_1$  89 (75–91), (56–58) apart;  $c_2$  86 (75–93);  $c_3$  82 (70–91);  $d_1$  82 (75–93), (58–66) part;  $d_2$