

Article

A new species, *Aceria neopaederiae* (Acari: Eriophyidae), infesting *Paederia foetida* L. (Rubiaceae) in Thailand, Hong Kong and Singapore

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Abstract

The new species, *Aceria neopaederiae* infesting leaves of *Paederia foetida* L. (Family Rubiaceae) in Thailand, Hong Kong and Singapore, is described herein. The mite produces small, round to irregular galls, often fused, on both leaf surfaces. The complete descriptions of both males and females, including line drawings and SEM photographs were provided.

Key words: Eriophyidae, Skunkvine, Stinkvine, *Aceria neopaederiae*, *Paederia foetida*

Introduction

Paederia foetida L. (Family Rubiaceae), formerly known as *P. scandens* Lour., *P. chinensis* Hance and *P. tomentosa* Blume, is a wood climbing plant or twining vine-like shrub, native to eastern and southern Asia (Zheng *et al.* 2004; Langeland *et al.* 2008). Several common names were given to this plant such as skunk vine, stinkvine and Chinese fever vine (Langeland *et al.* 2008). This particular plant releases a strong sulfur odor when its leaves or stems were crushed or bruised (Zheng *et al.* 2004).

Since *P. foetida* is a fast-growing shrub and has wide-ranging adaptability to different light, soil, and salt conditions (Langeland *et al.* 2008), hence, it can be found in many countries such as China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and Thailand (GRIN 2011). *Paederia foetida* can be a severe weed in some countries such as the United States where it was introduced into Florida by the United States Department of Agriculture before 1897 as a potential fiber plant. Unfortunately, by 1916 it was already “a troublesome weed” around the Brooksville Field Station (Morton 1976) and was considered as an economically important weed in 1977 (Reed 1977).