

## DAMAGE CHARACTERISTIC

Both nymphs and adults are destructive stages of the pest. They are numerous along ribs of the underside of the leaflet. They damage the leaflet by sucking the plant sap. In young palms or seedlings, the damage started from the tip of the leaflet as tiny lesions, which later discolor and dries up the leaf surface from the tip of leaflet downwards (Fig. 1). On mature or bearing palms, the damage started from the lowest mature fronds and progresses upward. Closer examination on the infested leaflets showed irregular lesions with necrotic center and water-soaked borders (Fig. 2) which later coalesced and formed as blights (Fig. 3). In severe cases both young and mature mite infested palms appeared as burnt at a distance.



Fig. 1. Yellowing and tip burning due to mite infestation in seedlings/or young palms

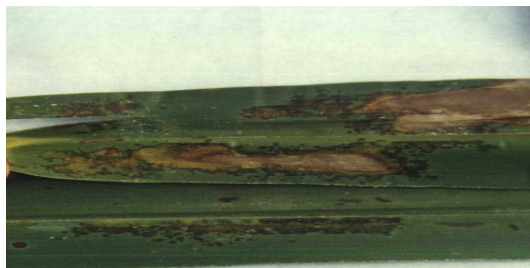


Fig. 2. Damage on leaflet of mature palm



Fig. 3. Blighted leaflets due to mites on mature palm

## DISCRIPTION OF LIFE STAGES

**EGG.** Minute, oval and reddish with seta at the posterior end and about 0.07 mm W x 0.10 mm L.

**NYMPH.** First are small triangular, light red to reddish covered with setae. A minute black dot develop at the dorsum situated between the last pair of hind leg which spread laterally resembling a letter U and later become prominent. A watery substance found at the tip of each seta. Body width is from 0.10 mm to 0.17 mm and length from 0.14mm to 0.22mm.

**ADULT.** Female body broadly oval or roundish, magenta red and larger than the male, 0.20 mm W x 0.30 mm L. Male is slightly smaller, more slender and triangular form, 0.14 mm W x 0.17 mm L. Black mark at the dorsum spreads laterally resembling a letter H though

some still resembling letter U. The watery substance at seta disappears.

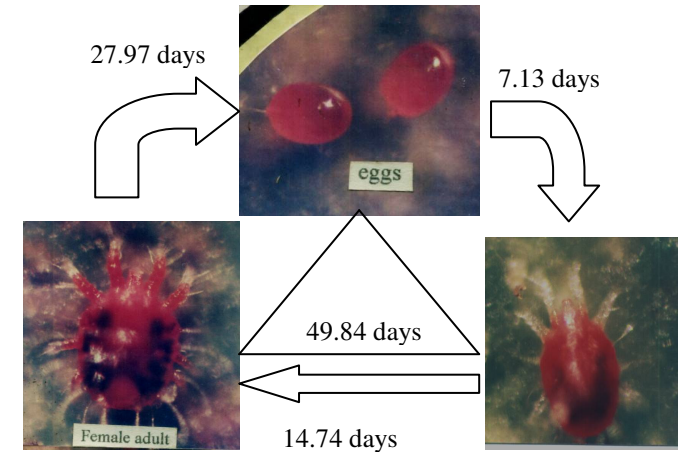
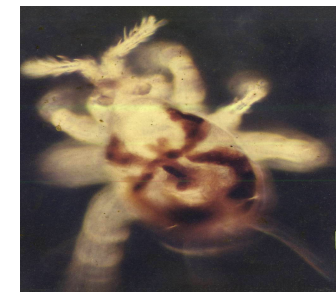


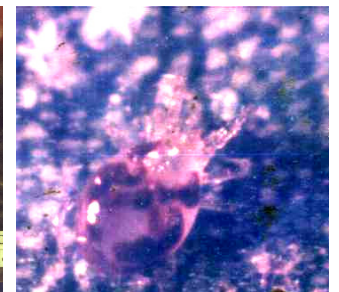
Fig. 4. Life Cycle

## NATURAL ENEMIES

### Predatory Mites



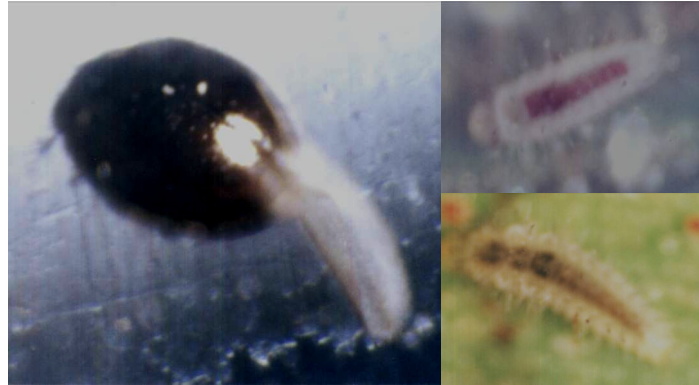
*Amblyseius largoensis*  
(Muma)



*Armacirus taurus* (Kramer)

Both nymphs and adults of the mites are predatory to the false spider mites.

## Coccinellid beetle



*Telsimia ephippiger* Chapin

Both larvae and adults of the coccinellid beetle are voracious feeders to the false spider mites.

### CONTROL MEASURES:

- a) Presence of naturally occurring predatory mites and coccinellid beetles may contribute to the decline of mite population.
- b) Pruning and burning of heavily infested leaves in seedlings or young palms can reduce mite population.
- c) In severe cases, spraying of acaricides/pesticides at its recommended rate may be done but only applicable on young plantings and on seedlings.

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Call, write or visit:

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Davao Research Center  
Philippine Coconut Authority  
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## THE FALSE SPIDER MITES, (*Rarosiella cocosae* Rimando), a Sucking Pest of Coconut



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