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## First record of the spider mite *Tetranychus evansi* (Acari: Tetranychidae) from Portugal

Since Baker & Pritchard (1960) described *Tetranychus evansi* from Mauritius, this species has been found in other parts of the world like South America and Africa (Bolland et al., 1998). During three years of frequent collecting on hosts in Brazil and California, De Moraes et al. (1987) found *T. evansi* only on Solanaceae. However, the species is also known from other plant families, among others Malvaceae and Fabaceae (Bolland et al., 1998). *Tetranychus evansi* was not found in Europe until 1996, when Ferragut (personal communication) reported it for the first time from Spain. This is now confirmed by a second sample taken in Barcelona beside the Nacional Palace on *Solanum* sp. on the 30th of July 1996.

On the 20th of June 1999 the second author found the species for the first time in Portugal, also on *Solanum* sp.

It is possible that *T. evansi* is transported with tomatoes, peppers, eggplants or potatoes com-

ing from Africa or America. The females and males, and the eggs are reddish. Adults make a very close webbing over the hostplant during fast population growth.

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## References

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