

The Mite and the Rose: Non-threatening new mite species found in Xinjiang, China

June 22 2015



Rosa beggeriana plant, host of two of the newly described species Credit: Li J. W., Wang Z. H., Xue X. F., Zhang J. P.

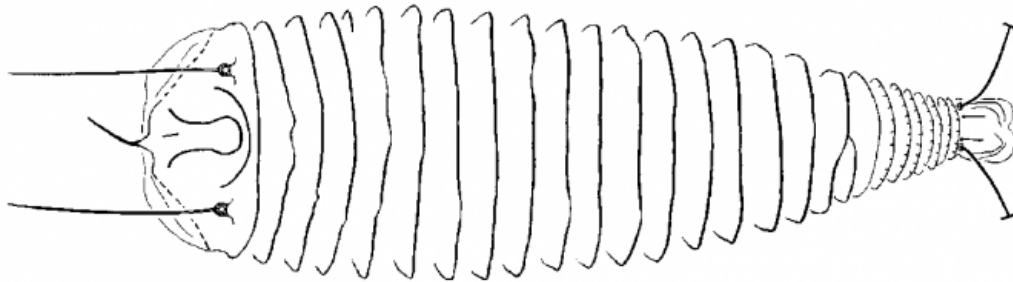
Inspired by the discovery of more than 1000 eriophyoid mite species in China so far, Dr. Ji Wei Li and his team collected mites from four different areas across the autonomous region of Xinjiang, China. A consecutive study of the samples proved the existence of three new mite species all from separate genera. The study was published in the open access journal *ZooKeys*.

All [new species](#) come from representatives of the rose family *Rosaceae*. Interestingly, one of the new mites is also the first ever representative of the genus *Paracolomerus* found to inhabit a *Rosaceae* plant.

Eriophyoid mites are so tiny that they are invisible to the naked human eye. Nevertheless, they are recognized as important pests in agriculture and forestry all over the world. They can induce plant malformations such as galls and disturb the normal growth of plants by piercing their cells with saliva.

About half of the eriophyoid mites, however, don't cause any apparent damage to their hosts.

Such is the case with the newly discovered three [species](#). The mites were found to infest the undersurface of the leaves of two species of flowering plants (*Rosa beggeriana* and *Cotoneaster ignavus*), without causing any apparent damage to the host.



Rhyncaphytoptus fuyuniensis, one of the newly described mite species Credit: Li J. W., Wang Z. H., Xue X. F., Zhang J. P

The collected type specimens are now being kept at the [Department of Plant Protection](#), Shihezi University, China.

More information: Li J-W, Wang Z-H, Xue X-F, Zhang J-P (2015) Three new species of eriophyoid mites (Acari, Eriophyoidea) from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China. *ZooKeys* 508: 97-111. [DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.508.8940](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.508.8940)

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Citation: The Mite and the Rose: Non-threatening new mite species found in Xinjiang, China

(2015, June 22) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-06-mite-rose-non-threatening-species-xinjiang.html>

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