

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE MITE FAUNA ASSOCIATED WITH MEDICINAL PLANTS IN SOUTH BENGAL

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This paper reports the occurrence of 9 species of mites under 5 genera, 3 families, 2 orders not hitherto known to occur on medicinal plants in South Bengal.

Gupta & Bose (2017) reported 120 species of mites under 44 genera, 15 families, 3 orders collected from 158 species of medicinal plants from 11 districts of South Bengal. Thereafter, by making further collection from some more areas of South Bengal and subsequent identification of those, revealed the occurrence of another 9 species, not hitherto reported on medicinal plants and all those are included in this paper.

The mites were collected from different medicinal plants from different districts of South Bengal during 2017-18. Those were preserved in 70% ethyl alcohol and were identified under stereo research microscope.

A total of 9 species of mites under 5 genera, 3 families and 2 orders could be identified (Table 1). None of those were reported earlier on medicinal plants while some were new reports from India. The Table 1 provides data regarding their host/habitat records, districts wherefrom collected and importance and hence it is self-explanatory.

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Reference

Gupta, S.K. & Bose, S. 2017. Mites (Acari) on medicinal plants in South Bengal, India. *Rec. Zool. Surv. India*, 117 (2) : 1-29.

Table 1. Additional list of mites collected from medicinal plants in South Bengal.

Family/ Species	Host / Habitat	District	Remarks
1 Family Tetranychidae <i>Oligonychus iselemae</i>	<i>Avicennia alba</i>	South & North 24 Parganas	A reasonably high infestation observed during May-September on upper leaf surface and feeding caused brownish patches towards leaf tips and leaf margins, occasionally found on lower surface as well.
2 <i>Oligonychus pratensis</i> (Banks)	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	South & North 24 Parganas	Infestation noticed on under surface of leaf producing whitish stippings, new report from India.
3 <i>Tetranychus turkestanii</i> (Ugarov & Nikolski)	<i>Nyctanthes arbor-tristis</i>	Birbhum	Mild infestation, no damage done.
4 Family Tenuipalpidae <i>Tenuipalpus hastaligni</i> DeLeon	<i>Lagerstroemia speciosa</i>	South & North 24 Parganas	Infestation acute during summer months, disappear during rainy season, reappear in October and remain till March. The infestation appears mostly on upper surface of leaves along mid rib causing production of chocolaty-brown patches and such leaves dry up and defoliate.
5 <i>Brevipalpus dipholisi</i> DeLeon	<i>Phyllanthus debilis</i>	Burdwan	Casual occurrence, no damage. New report from India.
6 <i>Brevipalpus trinidadensis</i> Baker	<i>Butea monosperma</i>	Purulia	Casual occurrence, no damage. New report from India.
7 <i>Dolichotetranychus floridanus</i> (Banks)	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	South 24 Parganas	Casual occurrence, no damage.
8 Family Phytoseiidae <i>Amblyseius</i> sp. near <i>schusteri</i> (Chant)	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i>	South 24 Parganas	Interesting species, may be new.
9 <i>Amblyseius</i> sp. near <i>invictus</i> Schuster	<i>Curcuma longa</i>	South 24 Parganas	Interesting species, maybe new.