

CLONAL SUSCEPTIBILITY AND POPULATION DYNAMICS OF  
TEA RED SPIDER MITE, *OLIGONYCHUS COFFEAE* NIETNER  
(ACARINA : TETRANYCHIDAE) UNDER LABORATORY  
CONDITIONS

*K. Thirugnanasuntharan and L. D. Amarasinghe*

*(Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka, Talawakele, Sri Lanka)*

Ten widely planted tea clones (TRI 2023, 2025, 2026, 2027, CY 9, DG 39, DN, DT 1, KEN 16/3 and MT 18) grown in mite prone areas were tested for their susceptibility to the tea red spider mite in the laboratory, employing the 'detached leaf' method. Periodical observations on the rate of egg laying and the development of the young to adult stages were also made. This study revealed that the clones MT 18 and TRI 2027 are resistant, while the clones CY 9 and DT 1 are susceptible to this pest. The egg to adult stage varied from 15 to 21 days in different clones with a mean value of 17.6 days. Peak populations were seen 26 - 28 days after inoculation.