

359 - Occurrence of mites on persimmon trees in the semi-arid region of northeast Brazil

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The cultivation of persimmon is gaining importance in Brazil, in areas traditionally cultivated as well as in new areas, increasing available products for the national and the international markets. Recently, this crop was introduced in Petrolina-PE, in the Experimental Station of Embrapa Semi-Árido (Bebedouro), for evaluation of agronomic performance. As one of the barriers to its cultivation refers to phytosanitary management, this study aimed to investigate the mite fauna on persimmon in semi arid conditions. From July 2008 to March 2010, samples consisting of three leaves per each of 10 plants were collected and taken to the laboratory to count, collect and mount the mites. After sorting, duplicates were sent to the Acaralogy Laboratory of the Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco – UFRPE for identification. Phytophagous mites belonged to the families Tetranychidae, Tarsonemidae and Tenuipalpidade were found. Among the predatory mites individuals of the Phytoseiidae and Stigmaeidae were observed. Mites of the family Tydeidae were also found. The most numerous species found were identified as *Brevipalpus phoenicis* (Geijskes) (Tenuipalpidae) and *Euseius citrifolius* Denmark & Mum (Phytoseiidae).