

Infestation by *Pyemotes tritici* (Acari, Pyemotidae) causes death of stingless bee colonies (Hymenoptera: Meliponina)

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Genet. Mol. Res. 8 (2): 630-634 (2009)

Received December 12, 2008

Accepted January 26, 2009

Published June 2, 2009

ABSTRACT. We report the infestation of stingless bee nests by the mite *Pyemotes tritici*, which killed four colonies of *Tetragonisca angustula* and one colony of *Frieseomelitta varia* in Brazil. The first infected colony, a colony of *T. angustula*, came from an area between Uberlândia and Araguari, Minas Gerais. The transfer of the mites to the other colonies occurred through the transfer of infected combs and subsequent manipulations. Other colonies in the same meliponary, which had not been manipulated, were not infected. The infestation was terminated by isolating the dead colonies from the meliponary.

Key words: Mites; Meliponini; Meliponiculture; Apiculture; Natural enemies