



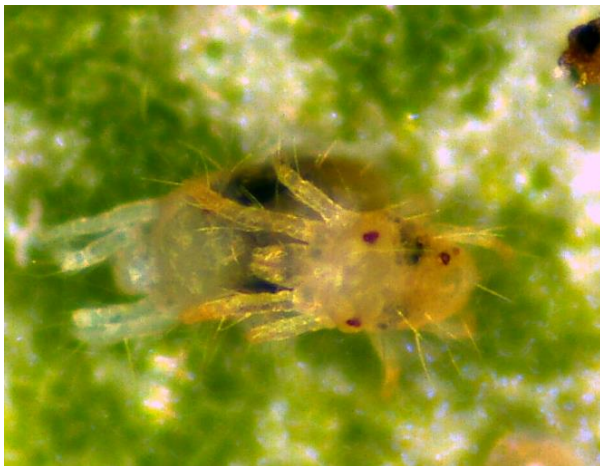
MSc thesis ARTs

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Maternal Nutritional State Effects on Sons' Alternative Reproductive Tactics in Spider Mites



MSc thesis available to conduct research on **Alternative Reproductive Tactics (ARTs)** of two-spotted spider mites *Tetranychus urticae*. The thesis focuses on the effects of maternal nutritional state on guarding behavior and ARTs of sons. Hypothesis is that mothers adjust the ARTs of their sons to the nutritional quality of their host plants. Well-nourished mothers bias the ARTs of sons towards fighters whereas poorly nourished mothers bias them towards sneakers. Reason is that the fighting tactic is more energy demanding than the sneaking tactic. Suitable candidates should have a keen interest in behavioral ecology/animal behavior and possess advanced English skills. Basic knowledge of arthropods is assumed; experience in (experimental) work with mites and/or insects is a plus but not obligatory.

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