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Authors: Enikő Gyuris, Erna Szép, Jenő Kontschán, Attila Hettyey, Zoltán Tóth



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Behavioural responses of two-spotted spider mites induced by predator-borne and prey-borne cues

Enikő Gyuris^{1,2*}, Erna Szép^{1,2}, Jenő Kontschán², Attila Hettyey¹, Zoltán Tóth¹

¹ Lendület Evolutionary Ecology Research Group, Plant Protection Institute, Centre for Agricultural Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Herman Ottó út 15, 1022 Budapest, Hungary

² Department of Zoology, Plant Protection Institute, Centre for Agricultural Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Herman Ottó út 15, 1022 Budapest, Hungary

*Corresponding author (Enikő Gyuris): gyuris.eniko@agrar.mta.hu

Highlights:

- spider mites showed different behaviour in response to different predator-borne cues
- specialist predator caused increased while generalist predator caused decreased activity
- in the presence of dead conspecifics spider mites were less active
- predator- or prey-borne cues had no effect on oviposition

Abstract

Applying predatory mites as biological control agents is a well established method against spider mites which are major pests worldwide. Although antipredator responses can influence the outcome of predator-prey interactions, we have limited information about what cues spider mites use to adjust their behavioural antipredator responses. We experimentally exposed two-spotted spider mites (*Tetranychus urticae*) to different predator-borne cues

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