



## Predation ability of *Stratiolaelaps scimitus* (Acari: Laelapidae) to *Tyrophagus putrescentiae* (Acari: Acaridae) on edible fungi\*

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*Tyrophagus putrescentiae* is one of the major pests of many edible fungi, whereas *Stratiolaelaps scimitus* is one of its main natural predators, which can be used to control *T. putrescentiae* on edible fungi. In our study, the prey preference and predation ability of *S. scimitus* to *T. putrescentiae* were determined in the laboratory. The results showed that both female and male adults of *S. scimitus* preferred adults to larvae of *T. putrescentiae*. The daily consumption of female adults of *S. scimitus* was higher than that of male adult mites. The consumption and predation rates of female and male adult mites reached the maximum within the first hour, then gradually decreased. This research provided a theoretical basis for the mass breeding of *S. scimitus* and field control of *T. putrescentiae* for edible fungi.

**Key words:** *Stratiolaelaps scimitus*, *Tyrophagus putrescentiae*, edible fungi, prey preference, predation