



Leipothrix argutae* (Acari: Eriophyidae) infesting kiwi fruit trees in Jilin province, Northeastern China

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Eriophyoid mites are herbivorous mites of a worldwide distribution. The genus *Leipothrix* (Eriophyidae) was established by Keifer (1966) and currently consisted of 53 species (including two species unpublished). This genus is characterized by (1) the absence of femoral setae *bv* from both legs and (2) the distinctive form of dorsal palp genual setae *d*, which is moderately long and bifurcate, with its branch being minute or very minute (sometimes seen as a sharp bend in the seta). Most *Leipothrix* spp. cause no damage and are vagrant on the leaf surface. However, some of them caused russetting and drying of the leaves when the mites were in high density. During field surveys in Zuoji Experimental Plot in Jilin Province, China, we collected two sympatric morphs of *Leipothrix* species from the hardy kiwi, *Actinidia arguta* (Siebold & Zucc.) Planch. ex Miq. (Actinidiaceae), a cultivated vine. The mites were later described as *L. argutae* Han, Wang & Ai, 2020, which is a deuterogynous species (Han *et al.* 2020). These mites were found with large rust on the surfaces of leaves and fruits of the host plant. Local people wrongly attributed these symptoms to a kind of plant disease. Sometimes *L. argutae* is also confused with *Phyllocoptruta oleivora* (Ashmead), which also causes rust in *Citrus* sp. and other related plant species. This is the first record of *Leipothrix* species on a species of Actinidiaceae, and also a new record of an eriophyoid mite causing serious symptoms and affecting fruit quality in kiwi fruits.

Key words: Taxonomy; rust mite; hardy kiwi; new species; deuterogynous; Asia

References

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