## Predation Capacity of Phytoseius crinitus Swirski Et Schebter on Each Stage of Tetranychus urticae and Alternative Food for Laboratory Mass Rearing

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Abstract	Providing a sensible breeding stock of predatory mites for a biological control system is important. For this purpose, the predatory mites need high feeding capacity on every stage of pest mites and high survival rates on alternative food. This research aimed at testing the predation capacity of P. crinitus on each stage of development of pest mites T. urticae, and investigating appropriate alternative food for laboratory rearing of predatory mites P. crinitus. Completely Randomized Design (CRD) was used in this research. For investigating the predation capacity of P. crinitus, we performed 20 experiments consisted of treatments with eggs, larvae, nymphs, and adults of T. urticae, with five replicates. The variable for these experiments was the number of individuals of each stage of T. urticae consumed by P. crinitus during the period of 24. For investigating the proper alternative food for predatory mites, P. crinitus were given a free choice between pollen of Euphorbia pulcherrima Willd and pollen of Hibiscus rosa-sinensis L, with six replicates. The variables of survival rate, facundity, duration of oviposition, and the length of the life cycle of P. crinitus were recorded for each alternative food. All experiments were conducted in room temperatures (-) and rH (-). The data were analyzed using the F test and followed by Least Significant Difference (LSD) with error levels of 5% and 1%. The results indicated that predatory mites P. crinitus consumed eggs more than other developmental stages of T. urticae. In terms of alternative food, the pollen of Euphorbia pulcherrima was more suitable for laboratory mass rearing of P. crinitus.
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