

**BEHAVIOR OF *Tetranychus evansi* (BAKER & PRITCHARD, 1960) (ACARI: TETRANYCHIDAE) IN THE PRESENCE OF CUES OF HARMLESS AND DANGEROUS PREDATORS**

**COMPORTAMENTO DE *Tetranychus evansi* (BAKER & PRITCHARD, 1960) (ACARI: TETRANYCHIDAE) NA PRESENÇA DE PISTAS DE PREDADORES INOFENSIVOS E PERIGOSOS**

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The ability of prey to perceive chemical or physical cues from predators are essential to avoid predation. It is especially important that prey can discriminate between dangerous and harmless predators in order to avoid investing in costly antipredator behaviour. We investigated the antipredator behavior of the spider mite *Tetranychus evansi* (Baker & Pritchard, 1960) (Acari: Tetranychidae) in the presence of cues from two predators. The predatory mite *Phytoseiulus longipes* (Evans, 1958) (Acari: Phytoseiidae) is known as a dangerous predator for *T. evansi*, whereas the closely related predator *Phytoseiulus macropilis* (Banks, 1904) (Acari: Phytoseiidae) poses much less of a risk because it cannot penetrate the dense web produced by the prey and it cannot develop on this prey. We placed one adult female prey on leaf discs that received one of the following treatments: (1) discs without cues, (2) discs with cues from either one of the two predators and (3) discs with cues from either one of the two predators on half of the disc. The numbers of escape attempts and the time spent feeding were observed for 10 minutes and the oviposition of the prey was evaluated after 24 hours. Spider mites spent less time feeding and tried to escape more often from patches with predator cues, and preferentially oviposited on the half disc without predator cues when it had choice (discs half infested with predators). Oviposition was reduced only on patches with *P. longipes* cues. Hence, *T. evansi* showed different antipredator behavior towards dangerous and harmless predators.

Key-Word: Antipredator behaviour, *Phytoseiulus longipes*, *Phytoseiulus macropilis*  
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