

EFFECT OF TEMPERATURES ON THE BIOLOGY OF *EUTETRANYCHUS AFRICANUS* (TÜCKER) (ACARI: TETRANYCHIDAE)

EFEITO DA TEMPERATURA NA BIOLOGIA DE *EUTETRANYCHUS AFRICANUS* (TÜCKER) (ACARI: TETRANYCHIDAE)

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The development, survivorship and reproduction of the African red mite, *Eutetranychus africanus* (Tücker), on White Frangipani (*Plumeria alba*) leaves were determined under laboratory conditions at three temperatures (20, 25 and 30±2 °C) and 70±5% relative humidity. Mites completed their development and reproduction within this temperature range. Developmental time was shorter at 30 °C, fecundity was longer at the same temperature (28.2 eggs) and lower at 20 °C (18.1 eggs). Female longevity was longest (25.5 days) at 20 °C and the shortest (8.3 days) at 30 °C. Overall results suggested that *E. africanus* could develop and reproduce within a wide range of temperatures, and that 30 °C is the most suitable temperature for its development, survival and reproduction.

Key-words: Biology, Mite, *Plumeria alba*.