



FIRST REPORT OF *Aculus schlechtendali* (ACARI: ERIOPHYIDAE) IN APPLE ORCHARDS IN THE SOUTH OF BRAZIL

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The aim of this work is report the presence of *Aculus schlechtendali* (Nalepa, 1890) (Prostigmata: Eriophyidae) (Apple rust mite – ARM), in apple orchards of Serra Gaúcha, state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Surveys were conducted from apple leaves of Gala cultivar in a commercial orchard of Monte Alegre dos Campos County (S 28° 34.540 W 050° 52.153) in the Northeast region of the state of Rio Grande do Sul, between November 2016 and January of 2017. The morphological traits and the relative measurements matched with those of *A. schlechtendali*. This is the first report of this mite pest in Brazil, so far regulated as a quarantine pest, and the third country report in South America. Consideration on the potential pest status of ARM is discussed.

Keywords: quarantine pest, apple, damages, Monte Alegre dos Campos, Rio Grande do Sul.

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