Pest Profile

Photo credit: By Charley Eiseman (Own work), 2013, via Bugguide.net

Common Name: Mold Mite

Scientific Name: *Tyrophagus putrescentiae* (Shrank)

Order and Family: Acari: Acaridae

Size and Appearance: The Mold Mite is very similar in appearance to other common stored grain mite pests. It is pear-shaped and translucent in color. It is distinguished from the cheese mite by having short, thick, setae in addition to 2-4 pairs of long setae trailing from the backside.

	Length (mm)	**Appearance**
Egg	< 0.01 mm	Microscopic, 20-30 laid at a time
Larva/Nymph	< 0.2 mm	Non-feeding dispersal stage. Uses anal suckers to attach to other mites, insects, etc.
Adult	Male: 0.2-0.4 mm Female: 0.5 mm	Oval, pear-shaped, with 2 pairs of setae. Translucent in color with notable thick setae near the outer edge of backside.
Pupa (if applicable		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chelicerate (chewing, sucking)

Host/s: *Tyrophagus putrescentiae* (Shrank), as common name would suggest, feeds on many stored products containing mold. Cheeses, rice, cereal, flour, and other stored food products that develop mold are susceptible.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): The Mold Mite is a stored product pest in homes, ships, restaurants, and the food industry. They thrive in high moisture environments and choose stored products to feed on accordingly. If mold is not already present in food source, they can be brought in via the mites who often carry mold and fungi on their bodies. Dermatitis and other skin disorders are common in sensitive individuals who ingest infested product.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Stored Product Pests- Mold Mite. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (pp. 19-22). National Pest Management Association International.

Mueller, D.K., Kelley, P.J., VanRyckeghem, A.R. (2000). "Mold mites Tryophagus putrescentiae (Shrank) in stored products. Psocids, Mites, and Other Contaminents. Proceedings of the 9th International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection: 1117-1121. Retrieved on June 30th, 2016 from http://bru.gmprc.ksu.edu/proj/iwcspp/pdf2/9/6283.pdf