Isolation of microbial pathogens of *Aceria guerreronis*, the coconut eriophyid mite

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Isolation of possible pathogens of the coconut eriophyid mite *Aceria guerreronis* was conducted during the month of May 2001, when the mite population is at its peak in Kerala. One hundred sixty mite infested coconuts were collected from Trissur district for this purpose. Isolations of the microbes from these nuts were done by plating the mite washing and its serial dilutions, surface sterilizing the whole nut and then plating the mites and the perianth tissue, and plating of the individual mites. The isolation media used were Nutrient agar, Potato Dextrose agar and Kusters agar for bacteria, fungi and actinomycetes respectively. It was observed that the actinomycetes constituted the predominant microflora (seven isolates) followed by yeasts (4 isolates); fungi (3 isolates) and bacteria (2 isolates). Pathogenicity trials in the laboratory revealed that fungi caused mortality to the mites in the range of 10-20%, actinomycetes 15-25% and bacteria less than 10%. Yeasts were non-pathogenic to the mites.