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
**Control of the Carmine Spider Mite *Tetranychus cinnabarinus* Boisduval by the
Predatory Mite *Phytoseiulus persimilis* (Athias-Henriot) in Protected
Strawberries in Aydın, Turkey**

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Abstract: The potential of the predatory mite *Phytoseiulus persimilis* (Acarina: Phytoseiidae) to control the carmine spider mite *Tetranychus cinnabarinus* (Acarina: Tetranychidae) on strawberries (cv. 'Camarosa') grown under plastic tunnels was investigated in 2 fields during the 2001 and 2002 growing seasons in Aydın, Turkey. Three study plots, grower's practice, chemical control and biological control, were established. The population of *T. cinnabarinus* was controlled in the grower's practice plots by using 1 or 2 acaricide applications. However, it was suppressed with only 1 acaricide application in the chemical control plots at a population level below economic threshold levels. When the pest population level reached 2-3 individuals per leaflet in the biological control plots, *P. persimilis* was released once at the rate of 1 predator to 20 prey. Predatory mites provided an effective control 15-20 days after release, and no additional release was needed during the rest of the growing season. However, when *T. cinnabarinus* populations were high (11 mites per leaflet) early in the season, control by *P. persimilis* proved ineffective. In addition, no significant difference was found in strawberry yields among the 3 treatments, either in terms of fields or years.

Key Words: Strawberry, *Tetranychus cinnabarinus*, *Phytoseiulus persimilis*, natural enemies, Turkey

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