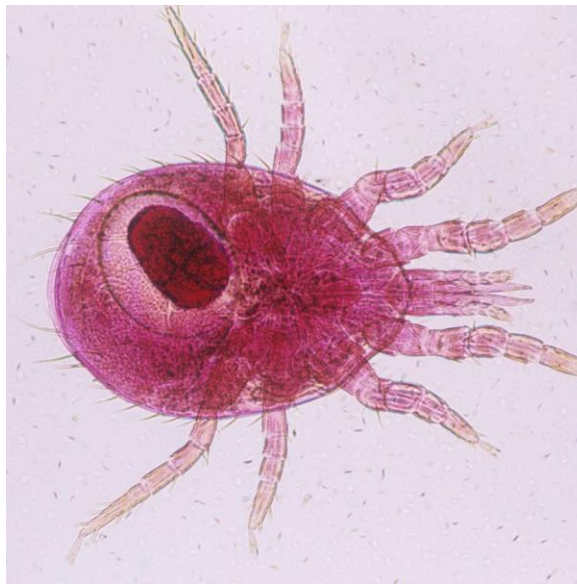




Rodent Mites

The rodent [mite](#) (*Ornithonyssus bacoti*, generally known as the rat mite or maybe tropical rat mite) is a worldwide type directly associated with rodent populations, take for instance rats in addition to mice, and their nests. It is compact, oval moulded and equivalent to the bird mite. Any presumed rodent mite specimen should be recognized by an entomologist knowledgeable in mite identification. The adult mite is usually a pale colour but can occur darker depending on the time since the last blood feast. Rodent mites are a less common problem for humans than bird mites and tend to be connected more frequently with industrial buildings or maybe warehouses than non-commercial premises.

Rodent mites have a lifecycle that last around two weeks. Adult and immature stages of rodent mites use rodents as the source of their food. If the rodent that acts as a host is killed or removed, the adult rodent mites that are left in the nest or on the dead host will leave the location and start to search a new host. Rodent mites can go without a blood meal for nearly two weeks and during that time they can make contact with humans. While they cannot feed on us to complete their life cycle, they will still bite us. Rodent mites will not infest the skin, hair and our clothing but will bite us and cause severe cases of irritation and itchiness. There are no microorganisms that are disease carriers that are transmitted to people by rodent mites in Australia.



First aid

The irritation and itching caused by rodent mites can be relieved with various anti-itching medications such as crotamiton, however, there is no such treatment that will stop the irritation completely. Large reactions must be treated with antihistamines, same as with severe allergic reactions. The best way to protect yourself is by making sure there are no rodents inside your building. If an infestation happens, you can use insect repellents that will give you temporary protection until you can undertake better rodent control measures to treat the rodent and rodent mite infestation.

Problems Caused by Mites

Some mites can bite humans, and these bites usually occur around the armpits, ankles, and areas where clothing rubs tightly against the skin. Some mite species can cause very painful bites, and some bites can be unnoticed, but all that bites result in itchy red marks or rashes. Intense itching and scratching may lead to infection, which can cause a large problem to you. Symptoms will be usually developed within a day and may last a week. Scabies mites may cause persistent, intensely itchy rashes. Reason why that is so is because the pests burrow into the skin to breed and then emerges to feed on flesh. Bites from chiggers and scabies mites can cause more serious problem such as diseases transmitting to humans and livestock.

Mites can also cause disadvantages without biting. People with dust allergies are usually also allergic to dust mites that live in carpets and furniture. Mite carcasses and faeces can become airborne and people can inhale it. This will cause stuffy noses, watery eyes, and sneezing of individuals with dust allergies. Additionally, herbivorous mites, like eriophyid and spider mites, can harm crops and cause some economic losses, such as grains and other organic products.

Detection or Signs of Infestation

Most house mites are invisible to the naked eye, so infestations can be difficult to detect until the pests become a big problem. Usually, homeowners notice mite infestations when allergies feel worse after waking up or if they notice small red welts or rashes on the skin. However, it is important to say that allergy reactions and welts may not necessarily be caused by mites. If your pet excessively itches, maybe it has mites. Sores and red bumps from biting and scratching of the area can be another sign that your pet has mites. Adult mites are often visible, and you can notice them when they move on the surface of infested plants or some product.

Prevention Tips

You can mow your lawn and remove weeds regularly to prevent bringing outdoor mites indoors. You can also keep leaf litter on a fair distance from your house and keep your pets clean. This advice will also help you to reduce the occurrence of mites. If you perform outdoor activities in wooded areas, such as hiking, trail biking, or sightseeing, our advice is that you need to wear clothing that covers most of your skin.

To prevent the occurrence of mites in your home, you must practice regular cleaning. This usually includes dusting surfaces and vacuuming carpets, but give extra attention to the bedrooms, because dust mites commonly live on or near mattresses. Our advice is that you need to wash linens and sheets in hot water every two weeks, and try to keep the humidity level below 50% in the bedroom. People with particularly severe allergies to dust mites can consider purchasing antimicrobial mattresses, mattress encasements and pillow covers.

Management and control of rodent mites

Infestations of rodent mites can be successfully controlled by using a process made of four steps. First step should be to precisely identify the mites by hiring Exopest a qualified pest manager. This is necessary to avoid confusion with other species of mites that are similar in appearance such as bird mites, mites in stored products or pet mites. Once the pest manager successfully identifies the mite species that is causing the issue, he will need to locate the exact place and source of the mite infestation. All rodents need to be killed and removed. Their nesting material will also have to be removed with extra care. This way, we ensure that no mites are accidentally transferred to other parts of the house or building. Mite infestation will then disappear over time and using chemical products for control will provide you with the quickest relief from mites and their bites. All locations of the rodents and their nests need to be treated with a proper insecticide product. Although the treatment of the living areas in your home might not be needed, your floors and walls should be treated with an insecticide that has a long duration. If you treat your house or facility without removing the rodents and or their nesting material will give you only a short time solution to your problem with mites. Areas that rodents use for access to your home such as wall voids and floor voids need to be treated with a proper product and blocked so you can be sure that the problem will not reoccur.