

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Cheese Mite

Scientific Name: *Tryplichus easel* Oudemans

Order and Family: Acari: Acaridae

Size and Appearance: The Cheese Mite is extremely small, pear-shaped, and has 4 pairs of setae coming off of the body. They are translucent in color with tan colored mouthparts.

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.01 mm	Microscopic, thousands laid at a time
Larva/Nymph	< 0.5 mm	Oval, pear-shaped, with 4 pairs of distinct hair-like setae on backside
Adult	Male: 0.55 mm Female: 0.7 mm	Oval, pear-shaped, with 4 pairs of setae
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host/s: *Tyrolichus easel* (Oudemans), as common name would suggest, feeds on cheese.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): The Cheese Mite, especially in the dairy industry, is a stored product pest as it feeds heavily on cheese. Left unchecked, infestations can occur. However, there are a few types of cheese such as Mimolette that relies on the mites as part of the culturing process. The notable “crust” left on the cheese is a result of the mite’s feeding.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Stored Product Pests- Cheese Mite. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (pp. 17-18). National Pest Management Association International.

Melnyk, J.P., Smith, A., Scott-Dupree, C., Marcone, M.F., Hill, A. (2010). “Identification of cheese mite species inoculated on Mimolette and Milbenkase cheese through cryogenic scanning electron microscopy”. *Journal of Dairy Science* 93 (8): 3461-3468.

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