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Influence of temperature and host plants on the development and fecundity of the spider mite *Tetranychus urticae* (Acarina: Tetranychidae)

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Temperature plays a key role in the time needed for development of *Tetranychus urticae*. It developed fastest at 35°C (6.50 d) and 30°C (6.93 d), while at 15°C it took 16.23 d. The higher the temperature, the faster the development of the mite. As to host plants involved, *T. urticae* developed fastest on *Phaseolus vulgaris* (9.42 d), followed by *Cucumis sativus* (10.26 d) and *Capsicum annuum* (10.92 d). Fecundity was highest at a temperature of 30°C (89.1 eggs), and lowest at 15°C (58.6 eggs). The fecundity of female mites increased with temperatures up to 30°C, but at 35°C it had decreased (71.08 eggs). The host plant influenced female fecundity to a limited extent; the average on *Phaseolus vulgaris* was 79.28 eggs, 71.48 on *Capsicum annuum* and 71.22 on *Cucumis sativus*.

Keywords:
Tetranychus urticae; temperature; development; fecundity

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