

EFFECTS OF SITE CONDITIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *ACALITUS RUDIS* (CANESTRINI) AND *ERIOPHYTES LEIONOTUS* (NALEPA) (ACARI: ERIOPHYIDAE) IN CZECH REPUBLIC

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ABSTRACT - Phytophagous eriophyid mites *Acalitus rudis* (Canestrini) and *Eriophyes leionotus* (Nalepa) (Acarina, Eriophyidae) occur in the area of the eastern Ore Mountains (northwest Czech Republic). Based on the evaluation of site and climatic conditions, they prefer lower parts of crowns of birch stands aged over 40 years located at 500-700 m alt., the 5th forest vegetation zone (*Abies-Fagus*), 6th forest vegetation zone (*Picea-Fagus*) and 7th forest vegetation zone (*Fagus-Picea*) and their edaphic categories K (acidophila) and S (mesotrophica). The intensity of attack was affected mostly by the host stand traits. Climate of attacked stands was characterized by long-term precipitation amounts of 700-1000 mm and mean annual temperatures 4.5-6°C, even though climate influenced only occurrence of *A. rudis*. Effects of air pollution on the occurrence of Eriophyidae were not proved probably due to their low population density. Gradual increase in population density of *E. leionotus* can be related to the decline of the air pollution load in the area of investigation.

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