

ABSTRACT

The first investigations were made on the mite population of citrus trees in Trinidad in order to evaluate their variability, density and fluctuations.

Information indicated:

1. On unsprayed citrus trees many different mite families occur, they are plant-feeders, fungus-feeders or predators.
2. Four mites were dominant, in order of frequency they were rust mites, terpnacarids (both plant-feeders) and phytoseiids and ascids, (both predators).
3. Rust mites were more abundant on the upper leaf surface and show a fluctuation in density while the terpnacarids were more or less constant and prefer the lower side of the leaves.
4. Rust mites and terpnacarids had a preference for the northern parts of the trees.
5. The two predacious mites were relative low in density and did not show an obvious fluctuation and preference for leaf area or part of the trees.