



## Plant Disease Update

### *Aceria cynodontiensis.* (Couch Mite)

By Albie Leggett M. Agr.  
Technical Agronomist



#### Pest Facts – Couch Mite

- Will inhabit a number of commonly used warm season grass species in sports and amenity turf.
- Symptoms commonly include a lack of turf grass vigour often combined with a hypoplastic (dwarfed) growth habit commonly referred to as “a witch’s broom”.
- Symptom expression is often more pronounced during periods of warm and dry weather.
- Can be spread by the movement of infected plant material.
- Life cycle from egg to adult is believed to take anywhere from 5 to 10 days depending upon temperature. The warmer the temperature, the quicker the life cycle is completed.
- Populations inhabit the inner leaf bud where they feed by sucking plant sap.

It is important to note that Couch mite symptoms usually take a number of weeks to develop. Therefore, if symptoms are observed, it usually indicates that an active mite population has been present for several weeks. It is also important to note that there are many other unrelated problems that may cause ‘a witch’s broom’ effect in turf and as such, it is important to have the presence of turf mites confirmed prior to undertaking any broad acre treatment programmes.

#### Cultural Management – Couch Mite

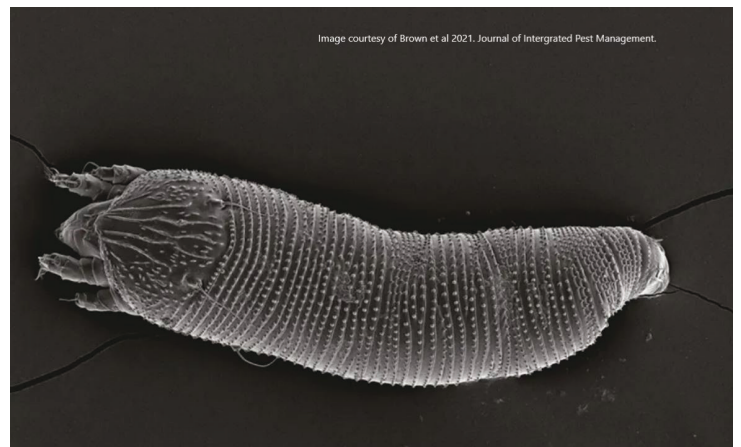
Cultural management practices can sometimes be of assistance when trying to reduce a population size of this pest. However, some of these mechanisms may not always be practical for every situation.

- Lower mowing height in order to remove plant material infested with mite populations. It is absolutely crucial that clippings are collected in a catcher and disposed of offsite.
- Stimulation of leaf and stem production with applications of Per 4 Max at 10L/ha.
- Boost Plant sugars ,systemic capability and photosynthetic deficiency with applications of Glycofuzate at 10L/ha.
- Increasing Silicon (Si) content in the turfgrass plant may help reduce mite damage in some situations. Apply Fight’s On, a Silicon product designed to strengthen plant cell walls.
- Develop and implement a balanced nutritional programme (in conjunction with a soil test).

#### Chemical Management – Couch Mite

Chemical application is usually required in order to provide successful long-term management of a confirmed problematic Couch Mite population.

See the table of Miticides with a label registration for Couch Mite - *A. cynodontiensis*.



Couch Mite, *Aceria cynodontiensis*



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## *Aceria cynodontiensis.* (Couch Mite)

**Figure 1: Table of Miticides with a label registration for Couch Mite**

Product Name	Active Ingredient	Label Rate per ha	FRAC Code	Manufacturer
Quali-Pro Prophecy	Clofentezine	0.5L/ha	10A	Adama
Apollo	Clofentezine	0.5L/ha	10A	Campbell Chemicals
Finesse	Etoxazole	0.2L/ha	10B	Sumitomo
Higran	Diafenthiuron	0.5L/ha	12A	Syngenta
Thumper	Abamectin	2L/ha	6	Turf Culture
Voyager	Clofentezine	0.5L/ha	10A	Turf Culture
Waldo	Diafenthiuron	0.5L/ha	12A	Turf Culture

*\*Please note that there has been a large amount of work conducted on other plant parasitic mites, particularly in the Tetranychus sp. that indicate that the 10A and 10B MOA grouping share the same potential for resistance through the presence of a mutation in the chitin synthase - 1 gene. With this in mind, miticides in both 10A and 10B should not be considered as a long-term rotation partner with each other but may expose pest populations to risk of developing a resistant mite population to this group of chemistries*



For more information, please contact

✉ [sales@turfcareaus.com.au](mailto:sales@turfcareaus.com.au)

☎ 02 4571 6444

🌐 [www.turfcareaus.com.au](http://www.turfcareaus.com.au)

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