

Red palm mite

The **red palm mite** (*Raoiella indica*) is classified by the International Plant Protection Convention as a quarantine pest affecting coconut, palm oil and banana trees, and other ornamental palm trees.

The damage caused by this pest is manifested through the yellowing of leaves and death of vegetal tissue. High infestations cause small flowers and fruits to drop. It is worth mentioning that the symptoms caused by *R. indica* are usually confused with nutritional deficiencies.

Since the red mite is very small (0.32 mm) it is easily spread over long distances through weather factors such as winds, hurricanes, or artisanal products and flower ornaments for tourism trade, or the transportation of infested plants.

It was first detected in Mexico in 2009 in the municipalities of Isla Mujeres and Benito Juarez, Quintana Roo; therefore, the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) implemented in April 2010 the campaign against the red mite, to prevent the pest from causing damages of economic relevance in agriculture production units.

As of 2018, the campaign operates in the states of Campeche, Chiapas, Colima, Guerrero, Jalisco, Nayarit, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, Sinaloa, Tabasco, Veracruz and Yucatan, with a budget of 18.6 million pesos authorized by the federal government, which allows for the implementation of appropriate and needed

phytosanitary actions. The state government contribute with an additional 1.7 million pesos.