

# A Lesson to Learn About Bird Mite Ecology Through the Fipronil Egg Contamination ?

## *Updated Considerations from the Entomological Practice*<sup>1</sup>

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Several cases of skin problems occurred recently, that were in some respects very similar. They had e.g. massive moisture. Other aspects of these cases were individually very different, e.g. environments, history of structure, inhabitants and infestations, and are beyond any comparison. Immune deficiencies help the mites, no matter if they are acquired, medical conditions or by nature, especially in combination with stress, hypersensitivities and certain diseases (SPARAGANO et al. 2017). Human population growth, globalisation and climate change are also propagation factors for exposure to mites.

Itch drives people crazy and makes them sick. These people DO have SOMETHING (at least the vast majority). They need to be taken seriously, without tongue-in-cheek. Every single one. In case of itch: take mites into consideration. Always; especially in moist environments. Itch is infectious. Large scale misdiagnosis “delusional ectoparasitosis” (GEORGE et al. 2015) is a bad excuse for ignorance. Gaining the interest of some physicians, especially dermatologists and psychiatrists is urgently needed, as well as producing clear identification of mites, with their behavior, itch patterns etc.

Urban Entomologist would be advised to review SCHOLL (1996ff, pp. 350-361), in order to update aspects of Integrated Pest Management for mites; to update the instruction for use of the insect protection sheet, and to peruse her itch cases of the past 34 professional years. The author can still remember the smell of moisture connected with some of these cases.

### References

- GEORGE, D.R. et al (2015): Should the poultry red mite *Dermanyssus gallinae* be of wider concern for veterinary and medical science? Parasites & Vectors. 8(178): 1-10. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25884317>
- SCHOLL, E. (1996-2009): Erarbeitung von Richtlinien für die integrierte Schädlingsbekämpfung im nichtagrarischen Bereich (außer Holzschädlinge) - Umweltforschungsplan des Bundesministers für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit, Forschungsbericht # 126 06 011. UBA-TEXTE 18/96. [http://schaedlingsbiologie.de/files/content/downloads/IPM-UBA-Integrierte-SchaedlingsBekaempfung-Volltext-S.1-451\\_SCHOLL\(C\)2007.pdf](http://schaedlingsbiologie.de/files/content/downloads/IPM-UBA-Integrierte-SchaedlingsBekaempfung-Volltext-S.1-451_SCHOLL(C)2007.pdf) ;pp. 350-361
- SPARAGANO, O. et al. (2017): Emergence of *Dermanyssus gallinae* as an arthropod pest in urban context and the “one health” approach. in: DAVIES, M.P., Pfeiffer, C. and ROBINSON, W.H., eds., Proc. Internat. Conf. Urban Pests, Birmingham, UK: 203-208.

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<sup>1</sup> slightly revised, 2017-11-21