

ENVIRONMENTAL MITES OF SANITARY INTEREST IN CHICKEN AND RABBIT FARMS IN UMBRIA, CENTRAL ITALY.

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Abstract

The presence of environmental mites on rabbit and chicken farms in Umbria causing dermatitis or asthmatic trouble in human beings is reported.

Keywords: environmental mites, rabbit and chicken farms, dermatitis, asthma.

Introduction

Plans for improving the quality of work places and animal production facilities must necessarily include the monitoring of mites of sanitary interest. Once detected, suitable control procedures can be effected.

Materials and Methods

The research on pathogenic mites affecting people was effected by a direct examination of environmental dust as described by Principato (1998). Twenty two samples of dust were collected from rabbit and chicken farms in Umbria.

Results and Discussions

All samples examined were positive for the presence of mites. The average frequency (F) and the infestation rate (R) of the mites recorded were the following: *Glycyphagus domesticus*, F: 26.4% - R:150-800 mites/g; *Lepidoglyphus destructor*, F:14% - R:30-180 mites/g; *Tyrophagus putrescentiae*, F:10.5% - R:45-210 mites/g; *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus*, F:19.3% - R:90-240 mites/g; *D. farinae*, F:17.5% - R:120-380 mites/g; *Pyemotes ventricosus*, F:3.5% - R: 2-14 mites/g; *Chortoglyphus arcuatus*, F:3.5% - R: 25-120 mites/g; *Acarus siro*, F:3.5% - R:25-160 mites/g; *Euroglyphus maynei*, F:1.8% - R:2-8 mites/g. Their presence in rabbit and chicken farms was related to small quantities of altered feedstuffs and a RH higher than the normal (<60) indicates the necessity to carry out a constant monitoring of these factors.

References

Principato M. 1998. Artropodi patogeni rilevabili nelle abitazioni con l'esame diretto delle polveri ambientali. Ann. Dermatol. Clin. Sper., 52:60-72.

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