

Occurrence and damage by *Penthaleus major* (Dugés) (Acari: Penthaleidae) in Norwegian meadows

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The mite *Penthaleus major* may infest meadows in northern Norway (65-71°N) and cause characteristic symptoms of damage. During the ground frost period (November-April) the mites survived in the egg stage. Development started along with beginning of grass growth in May or June. Occurrence predominated on timothy (*Phleum pratense*) in meadows older than three years. Most infested fields had loose sandy soils and were located in regions with low precipitation and early summer drought. Attack of mites did not cause any major yield reductions in our studies. Therefore, we conclude that most yield reductions associated with mites in our regions are confused with the effect of drought.

Keywords: *Penthales major*, Acari, meadows, northern Norway

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