

Beneficial Species Profile



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Common Name: Phoretic Mite

Scientific Name: *Poecilochirus sp.*

Order and Family: Mesostigmata, Parasitidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		“Stout club-shaped setae on the gnathosoma and coxae II and III, and the dark band surrounding completely the sternal shield” (Marta & Perotti, 1999)
Adult		Reddish in color Small mites on beetles/flies associated with carrion
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):

No mouthparts until adulthood, adults have piercing/sucking mouthparts

Host/s:

Various carrion beetles and sometimes, flies. Will ride these adults to carrion, where they feed on fly larvae.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.):

Predate on nematodes and fly eggs, and can sometimes feed on beetle eggs and larvae.
Can also assist in PMI (postmortem interval) determination

References:

Nehring, V., Müller, J. K., & Steinmetz, N. (2017). Phoretic Poecilochirus mites specialize on their burying beetle hosts. *Ecology and evolution*, 7(24), 10743–10751. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.3591>

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Ian Wykes Development Manager. (2020, May 20). Catching a ride on an Uber beetle. Retrieved September 18, 2020, from <https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/blog/ian-wykes/catching-ride-uber-beetle>