TITLE:

Suspension of Egg Hatching Caused by High Humidity and Submergence in Spider Mites.(main article)

AUTHOR(S):

Ubara, Masashi; Osakabe, Masahiro

CITATION:

Ubara, Masashi ...[et al]. Suspension of Egg Hatching Caused by High Humidity and Submergence in Spider Mites.. Environmental entomology 2015, 44(4): 1210-1219

ISSUE DATE:

2015-08

URL:

<http://hdl.handle.net/2433/203045>

RIGHT:

This is a pre-copyedited, author-produced PDF of an article accepted for publication in 'Environmental entomology' following peer review. The version of record [Ubara Masashi, Osakabe Masahiro. Suspension of Egg Hatching Caused by High Humidity and Submergence in Spider Mites. 44(4) 1210-1219.] is available online at: <http://ee.oxfordjournals.org/content/44/4/1210>; All files will be made open to the public on 25 May 2016 in accordance with publisher's 'Terms and Conditions for Self-Archiving'; この論文は出版社版ではありません。引用の際には出版社版をご確認ください。 ; This is not the published version. Please cite only the published version.

1 **Ubara and Osakabe: Egg hatching strategies of**
2 **spider mites**
3
4 Journal of Environmental Entomology
5 Physiological Ecology
6
7
8
9 M. Osakabe
10 Laboratory of Ecological Information,
11 Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto
12 University
13 Kyoto 606-8502, Japan
14 Phone: 81-75-753-2267
15 Fax: 81-75-753-2267
16 E-mail: mhosaka@kais.kyoto-u.ac.jp
17
18
19
20 **Suspension of egg hatching caused by high humidity and submergence in spider mites**
21
22
23 Masashi Ubara, Masahiro Osakabe¹
24 Laboratory of Ecological Information, Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University, Kyoto
25 606-8502, Japan
26
27

ABSTRACT

We tested the effects of high humidity and submergence on egg hatching of spider mites. In both the high humidity and submergence treatments, many *Tetranychus* and *Panonychus* eggs did not hatch until after the hatching peak of the lower humidity/unsubmerged controls. However, after humidity decreased or water was drained, many eggs hatched within 1–3 h. This was observed regardless of when high humidity or submergence treatments were implemented: either immediately after oviposition or immediately before hatching was due. Normal eyespot formation was observed in most eggs in the high humidity and submergence treatments, which indicates that spider mite embryos develop even when eggs are underwater. Therefore, delays in hatching are not caused by delayed embryonic development. A delay in hatching was always observed in *Panonychus citri* but was more variable in *Tetranychus urticae* and *Tetranychus kanzawai*. The high humidity and submergence treatments affected but did not suppress larval development in these species. In contrast, many *Oligonychus* eggs died following the high humidity treatments. In *Tetranychus* and *Panonychus* spider mites, suspension of egg hatching may mitigate the adverse effects of rainfall.

KEY WORDS Delayed hatching, Embryonic development, Environmental adaptation, Tetranychidae, Acari

47 Introduction

48

49 The time required to develop and reproduce affects the fitness of organisms living under variable
50 environments. For example, egg hatch timing affects the survival and development of larvae, and
51 thus the population dynamics of insects (Pickford 1960; Moriyama and Numata 2006).

52 Spider mites (Acari, Tetranychidae) are small herbivorous arthropods and include
53 economically important agricultural pests. Many live on the leaf surfaces of their host plants,
54 where they are exposed to various environmental stresses such as desiccation (McEnroe 1961;
55 Ferro and Chapman 1979), heat stress (Perring et al. 1984; Lu et al. 2014), and solar ultraviolet
56 radiation (Sakai et al. 2012; Fukaya et al. 2013). Heavy rains such as during hurricanes and
57 typhoons may also be important to spider mite population dynamics (Osakabe 1965; Boyne and
58 Hain 1983; Ho 2000; Rêgo et al. 2013). However, Klubertanz et al. (1990) found that rainfall did
59 not affect spider mite dynamics.

60 Females of the citrus red mite, *Panonychus citri* (McGregor), an upper leaf surface user, move
61 from the upper to lower leaf surfaces during rainfall (Kato 1972). Additionally, the Kanzawa
62 spider mite, *Tetranychus kanzawai* Kishida, suspend molting as quiescent deutonymphs if the air
63 humidity is high [relative humidity (RH) $\approx$ 100%] and resume molting after the humidity
64 decreases (Ikegami et al. 2000). Since quiescent deutonymph females can tolerate more water than
65 adult females (cf. Osakabe 1967), this may be an adaptation to rain (Ikegami et al. 2000).

66 Studies have reported that under conditions of high humidity, spider mite eggs did not hatch
67 (Kuenen 1946; Osakabe 1959; Bonato et al. 1995), the hatch rate decreased (Mori 1957;
68 Boudreaux 1958; Ferro and Chapman 1979), or egg stages were prolonged (Mori 1957; Boyne and
69 Hain 1983). In these previous studies, however, the authors sought to clarify the effects of

continuous high humidity on egg development and hatching; the adaptive significance of these phenomena remains unclear. If hatch timing can be regulated to avoid rain damage, larval survival rates would increase, which would contribute to the population dynamics of spider mites.

Many plant-dwelling mites generally remain on lower leaf surfaces (Sudo and Osakabe 2011), but some species such as *Panonychus* spp. inhabit both lower and upper leaf surfaces (Foot 1963; Kato 1972; Osakabe et al. 2006; Fukaya et al. 2013). Rainfall likely more directly affects the survival and dynamics of mites living on the upper leaf surfaces. Therefore, species of upper surface users might be adapted to rain, while lower leaf surface users are not.

In this study, we tested the effects of temporal high humidity and submergence in water on egg hatching using spider mites inhabiting both the upper and lower leaf surfaces. We also examined whether the high humidity and submergence treatments in egg stage decrease survival and development in subsequent juvenile stages, and the reproduction of females.

Materials and Methods

***Tetranychus* Species.** A green form laboratory population of the two-spotted spider mite, *Tetranychus urticae* Koch, was established from several different localities in Japan and cultured on potted kidney bean plants for at least 7 years. The red form of *T. urticae* was collected from carnations, *Dianthus caryophyllus* L. (Caryophyllaceae), in a greenhouse at the Nagano Prefecture Vegetable and Ornamental Crops Experiment Station, Nagano, Nagano Prefecture, Japan (36°35' N–138°13' E) in July, 2006. *Tetranychus kanzawai* and the bean spider mite, *Tetranychus ludeni* Zacher, were collected from melons, *Cucumis melo* L. (Cucurbitaceae), in a

92 greenhouse at the Shizuoka Prefectural Research Institute of Agriculture and Forestry, Iwata,
93 Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan (34°43' N–137°50' E) in November 2010.

94 ***Panonychus* Species.** *Panonychus citri* was collected from satsuma mandarins, *Citrus unshiu*
95 Marc. (Rutaceae), in a citrus grove at the Citrus Research Division, Kuchinotsu, National
96 Agriculture and Food Organization Institute of Fruit Tree Science, Minamishimabara, Nagasaki
97 Prefecture, Japan (32°36' N–130°11' E) in June, 2007. *Panonychus osmanthi* Ehara and Gotoh
98 was collected from fragrant olives, *Osmanthus fragrans* Lour. var. *aurantiacus* Makino
99 (Oleaceae), at Kyoto University, Kyoto, Kyoto Prefecture, Japan (35°03' N–135°79' E) in March,
100 2011. *Panonychus mori* Yokoyama was collected from Japanese pears, *Pyrus pyrifolia* var. *culta*
101 Nakai (Rosaceae), in an orchard at the Horticultural Experiment Center, Tottori Prefectural
102 Agriculture and Forest Research Institute, Hokuei, Tottori Prefecture, Japan (35°28' N–133°44' E)
103 in July, 2012. *Panonychus ulmi* (Koch) was collected from apple trees, *Malus domestica* Borkh
104 (Rosaceae), in an orchard at the Akita Fruit-Tree Experiment Station, Yokote, Akita Prefecture,
105 Japan (39°14' N–140°31' E) in July, 2012.

106 ***Oligonychus* Species.** *Oligonychus amiensis* Ehara and Gotoh and *Oligonychus castaneae*
107 Ehara and Gotoh were collected from Japanese stone oaks, *Lithocarpus edulis* (Makino) Nakai
108 (Fagaceae), and Japanese chestnuts, *Castanea crenata* Sieb. et Zucc. (Fagaceae), respectively, at
109 Kyoto University in July 2012. No males appeared in the *O. amiensis* population in reared
110 cultures. Many individuals of *O. amiensis* and *O. castaneae* inhabit upper leaf surfaces.

111 **Rearing Conditions for Stock Cultures.** Spider mites were reared on leaf disks of host
112 plants placed with the adaxial surface up on water-soaked cotton in Petri dishes (90 mm diameter
113 and 20 mm depth). The dishes were placed in a transparent plastic container (350 × 250 × 50 mm)
114 whose lids (200 mm in diameter) were covered with fine polyester fiber mesh and kept in a

laboratory at $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and 50–70% RH, with a 16:8 h L:D light cycle (fluorescent lights were turned on at 07:00 h and off at 23:00 h). All experiments were performed in the same laboratory.

All *Tetranychus* spp. and *P. citri* were kept on kidney bean leaf disks. Although kidney beans are not the main hosts of *P. citri*, these mites can develop and reproduce normally on leguminous plants (Ashihara, 1987; Fukaya et al., 2013). *Panonychus osmanthi*, *P. mori* and *P. ulmi* were reared on leaves of Japanese pears, which are a suitable host plants for *P. osmanthi* (Kitashima and Gotoh, 1995). *Oligonychus amiensis* and *O. castaneae* were reared on the leaves of Japanese stone oak and Japanese chestnut, respectively.

Effects of High Humidity on Egg Hatch Timing. We used three types of treatments to evaluate the effects of high humidity on egg hatch timing: high humidity after oviposition (within 24 h) to hatching [Experiment (Exp)-1], high humidity immediately before hatching was due (Exp-2), and high humidity immediately after oviposition and continuing after hatching was due (Exp-3). We used all species of spider mites for Exp-1; *T. urticae* green form, *T. urticae* red form, *T. kanzawai*, *T. ludeni*, and *P. citri* for Exp-2; and *T. urticae* green form, *T. kanzawai*, and *P. citri* for Exp-3.

Two leaf squares (20×20 mm) of the same plants as those mites were reared on were placed on water-soaked cotton in Petri dishes. We introduced 5 *Tetranychus*, 15 *Panonychus*, or 20 *Oligonychus* adult females (3–5 days old) to each leaf square. After 24 h, females were removed (day 0) and eggs were counted. We used two Petri dishes per batch and performed three times in Exp-1 and Exp-2. Whereas, we used five Petri dishes and performed once in Exp-3.

We covered one of the two Petri dishes in Exp-1 and four of the five Petri dishes in Exp-3 with a transparent plastic lid (high humidity treatments) and left the others open (control) at day 0. In Exp-2, Petri dishes in the high humidity treatments were covered with lids on days 2 and 4 for

Tetranychus spp. and *P. citri*, respectively. These were the days before expected hatch in the controls. In the high humidity treatment, the RH immediately increased and reached >95% within 10 min of the dishes being covered. The temperature was slightly higher in the high humidity than in the control treatment as a result of closing the lid (Table 1).

To avoid attachment of water droplets on eggs in the high humidity treatment, water droplets on the leaves and lid were removed using fine point brushes and tissue paper. This was carried out within 30 s once daily.

We observed the status of the eggs every day and recorded the number of hatched eggs. On the day after >90% of the eggs hatched in the control treatments (days 5, 7, and 8 for *Tetranychus*, *Panonychus*, and *Oligonychus* spp., respectively), we checked the development of eyespots in the remaining eggs in the high humidity treatments. In Exp-1 and Exp-2, we removed the lids of Petri dishes to decrease moisture. We recorded the number of eggs hatched just after lid removal and 1, 3, 24, and 48 h later. No eggs hatched later than 48 h. In Exp-3, we never opened the lids in the high humidity treatment and observed hatching once a day until day 10.

Effects of Submergence on Egg Hatch Timing. We used two types of treatments to evaluate the effects of submergence in water on egg hatch timing: submergence from immediately after oviposition to hatching (Exp-4) and submergence immediately before hatching (Exp-5) was due. We used *T. urticae* green form and *P. citri* for this experiment.

To set up submergence treatments, we placed water-soaked cotton (10 × 30 × 120 mm) in a transparent plastic case (120 × 120 × 30 mm). One-half (petiole side) of a kidney bean primary leaf was placed on the cotton, and the other half was extended on the bottom and covered with wet paper towels having a square hole (20 × 20 mm; Fig. 1). We prepared eight plastic cases (four for submergence treatments and four for controls) per batch in Ex-4 and Ex-5, and the

experiments were performed three times.

We introduced 5 *T. urticae* or 15 *P. citri* adult females to the inside of the square hole of paper towel on each leaf. We then removed the mites after 24 h and counted eggs (day 0). To submerge the eggs, we poured distilled water into the two cases (Fig.1) on day 0 for Exp-4 and on day 2 and day 4 (the days of expected hatch for control individuals) for *T. urticae* and *P. citri*, respectively, for Exp-5. By only submerging half of the leaf, leaves were able to be kept fresh during the experiment. The remaining two cases were used as controls.

On the day after 90% of the eggs hatched in the control treatments, we checked the development of eyespots in the remaining eggs and drained water (on days 5 and 7 for *T. urticae* and *P. citri*, respectively). We recorded the number of eggs hatched immediately after water was drained and 3, 24, and 48 h later. No eggs hatched later than 48 h.

We also observed egg hatching after submergence using stereoscopic microscope with a CCD camera (ARTCAM-274KY-WOM, ARTRAY, Tokyo). We stuck a piece of Parafilm (30 × 40 mm) on the inside bottom of two Petri dishes. The Parafilm was covered with wet paper towel having a square hole (20 × 20 mm). Then, we introduced 5 *T. urticae* (or 15 *P. citri*) adult females to the inside of the square hole of paper towel on each Parafilm. We then removed the mites after 24 h and poured distilled water into one of the two Petri dishes, and the remaining one was used as a control. On the day after 90% of the eggs hatched in the control, we drained water and began to photography at 2-min intervals until almost eggs hatched.

Effects of High Humidity and Submergence on Juvenile Development. We investigated the development of *T. urticae* green form and *P. citri* larvae hatched from eggs exposed to high humidity or submergence from immediately after oviposition to hatching (Exp-6). For this experiment, we prepared two Petri dishes for each of three treatments: high humidity,

submergence, and control (on leaf squares in open Petri dishes). We randomly chose 20 larvae and individually transferred them to kidney bean leaf squares (10×10 mm) on water-soaked cotton in Petri dishes (20 leaf squares per dish). We then assessed the time required for mites to emerge as adults. Virgin adult females were individually transferred to new leaf squares (10×10 mm), and we recorded the numbers of eggs for the first 5 oviposition days. If a female died during this time, it was excluded from data analysis. Larvae that remained on original leaves were observed for developmental success (to adulthood) and sex ratio. These observations were performed three times.

Statistical Analyses. We used R v. 2.15.2 (R Core Development Team 2012) for statistical analysis except $R \times C$ tests of independence. Hatch rates in high humidity or submergence treatments and controls in Exp-1, 2, 4, and 5 were tested using Fisher's exact test "fisher.test" function in R. Differences in the ratios of eggs that developed eyespots and successfully adjusted hatching (hatched after humidity decreased or water was drained) in Exp-1, 2, 4, and 5; differences in hatch rate in Exp-3; and differences in developmental success and sex ratio in Exp-6 were analyzed with $R \times C$ tests of independence using G -tests (G -values were corrected using Williams's correction: G_{adj}), following unplanned tests of homogeneity (G_H) of treatments for all possible sets of data (Sokal and Rohlf 2000). These analyses were performed using the sum total of eggs or individuals over all Petri dishes used in each experiment.

Effects of the treatments on developmental periods in Exp-6 were evaluated by a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA; "aov" function in R) followed by a Tukey's HSD post hoc test ("TukeyHSD" function in R) after Bartlett's test for homogeneity of variances ("bartlett.test" function in R). The effects of treatments on egg production in Exp-6 were evaluated using generalized linear models (GLMs with Poisson error). We treated each individual as a sample unit

207 in these experiments.

208

209 **Results**

210

211 **Effects of High Humidity on Egg Hatch Timing.** In Exp-1, eyespots developed in >89.5%
212 of the eggs of all species in the high humidity treatments (Table 2). Nevertheless, we observed a
213 negative effect of high humidity on the egg hatch rate in all species, especially *P. citri*, for which
214 no eggs hatched (Fig. 2). In contrast, with the exception of *O. castaneae* and *O. amiensis* eggs,
215 many eggs hatched after humidity was decreased. In *Tetranychus* spp. and *P. citri*, many eggs
216 hatched within 1 h of humidity decreasing (Fig. 2). Weaker but similar trends were observed in the
217 remaining three *Panonychus* spp.

218 The hatch rate in the high humidity treatments was >84.4% for four *Tetranychus* spp., *P. citri*,
219 and *P. mori*. However, except in *T. kanzawai* (Fisher's exact test, $P = 1$), the hatch rate was still
220 lower than for the control (Table 2). The hatch rate decreased to 69.2 and 58.4% for *P. osmanthi*
221 and *P. ulmi*, respectively, and greater negative effects were observed in *Oligonychus* spp. (Table 2,
222 Fig. 2). Hatch rate after humidity decreasing was greatest for *T. kanzawai* and *P. citri*, followed by
223 *T. urticae* green and red forms, *T. ludeni*, and *P. mori* (Table 2).

224 Negative effects and suspension of egg hatch were also observed in the high humidity
225 treatment in Exp-2 (Fig. 3). *Panonychus citri* eggs did not hatch before the humidity was
226 decreased. A decrease in the hatch rate was observed in three species in the high humidity
227 treatment but not in *T. urticae* red form and *T. kanzawai* (Fisher's exact test, $P = 0.419$ and 0.6626 ,

respectively; Table 3). The highest hatch rate after humidity decreasing was observed in *P. citri*, and the most unsuccessful in *T. kanzawai*, in contrast to the results of Exp-1 (Table 3).

The hatch rate in Exp-3 was greatest in *T. kanzawai* (96.0%), followed by *T. urticae* green form (73.2%), and was lowest in *P. citri* (7.3%; G -test, d.f. = 2, $G_{\text{adj}} = 687.5413$, $P < 0.001$; Fig. 4). *Tetranychus kanzawai* tended to complete hatching earlier than *T. urticae* in Ex-1 and 2. In Exp-3, the hatch rate was significantly greater in *T. kanzawai* than in *T. urticae* (G_H , d.f. = 2, $G_{\text{adj}} = 66.99835$, $P < 0.001$). Hatching was completed by day 7 in *T. kanzawai* and day 8 in *T. urticae*. In contrast, the hatch rate of *P. citri* was significantly lower than that of *T. urticae* (G_H , d.f. = 2, $G_{\text{adj}} = 425.9087$, $P < 0.001$).

Effects of Submergence on Egg Hatch Timing. Although *T. urticae* green form and *P. citri* eggs were submerged in water from immediately after oviposition to hatching in Exp-4, eyespots developed in most eggs (Table 4a). The hatch rate was lower than in the control treatment but still high; 94.2% of *T. urticae* eggs hatched, but a substantial number hatched in water and drowned (Fig. 5a). In contrast, although the hatch rate of *P. citri* eggs (78.8%) was lower than that of *T. urticae* eggs, most hatched after water was drained (Fig. 5a). Consequently, the hatch rate after humidity decreasing was not significantly different between these species (G -test, d.f. = 1, $G_{\text{adj}} = 0.7445$, $P > 0.05$; Table 4a).

Egg hatching was also suspended by the submergence treatments implemented immediately before hatching day was due (Exp-5; Fig. 5b). Submergence affected the hatch rates of eggs of both *T. urticae* and *P. citri* (Table 4b). Although the hatch rate was higher in *T. urticae* (94.1%) than in *P. citri* (84.0%), the hatch rate after humidity decreasing was not significantly different between these species (G -test, d.f. = 1, $G_{\text{adj}} = 2.841845$, $P > 0.05$; Table 4b).

Embryos of *T. urticae* (Supp. Video_S1) and *P. citri* (Supp. Video_S2) rotated $\sim 360^\circ$

immediately before hatching as shown in the animation, after which the shells opened and the eggs hatched. Dorsal setae appeared along the line of rotation, suggesting that egg shells were cut during the rotation.

Effects of High Humidity and Submergence on Juvenile Development. Developmental success after submergence treatment (86–88%) was lower than in the controls (94–96%), but not significantly different from development after high humidity (89–94%; Exp-6; Table 5). No statistical significance was detected between development in the high humidity treatment and the control.

No significant differences were observed between treatments and controls in sex ratio, developmental duration, and egg production, except in the developmental duration of *T. urticae* females. The development of *T. urticae* females was slightly but significantly delayed in comparison to that of control individuals. Similar trends were observed in both sexes of *P. citri*. Consequently, treatments mainly affected developmental success and duration.

Discussion

Submergence in water is frequently a fatal event for terrestrial animals, at least partially due to oxygen deficits. For small spider mites, submergence can be caused even by a drop of rain, especially in upper leaf surface user such as *P. citri*. Spider mites are also intolerant of anoxia conditions (died out within 2 h), although eggs survive slightly longer than other developmental stages (Putman 1968). Nevertheless, the high rate of eyespot formation in *T. urticae* and *P. citri* eggs indicates successful underwater embryonic development. Hatching of eggs in submergence treatments was low, even when the majority of eggs hatched in the control treatments. Then, many

eggs hatched immediately after water was drained. This response was reproduced when eggs of *Tetranychus* and *Panonychus* spp. were under high humidity conditions, though the hatch rate decreased in *P. osmanthi* and *P. ulmi*.

On the other hand, these responses were not observed in *Oligonychus* spp. eggs placed under high humidity conditions. Why the responses of *O. castaneae* and *O. amiensis* eggs to decreased humidity after high humidity differed from those of other species, and why many eggs died, are unclear. Eggs of other *Oligonychus* spp., the spruce spider mite *O. ununguis* (Jacobi) and the cotton red mite *O. gossypii* (Zacher), were also affected by high humidity (Boyne and Hain 1983; Bonato et al. 1995), indicating that *Oligonychus* eggs may be generally susceptible to high humidity.

Herne (1968) reported no effects of submersion in water for up to 48 h on the hatch rate of *P. ulmi* eggs. While, submerged eggs did not hatch under water even when submerged immediately prior to normal hatching, while previously submerged eggs hatched later (Herne 1968). Our results largely correspond with these observations. Many eggs hatched only after humidity was decreased and water was drained, even if they had developed to the point of hatching before treatment were implemented, indicating that delayed hatching in high humidity and water for *Tetranychus* and *Panonychus* spp. is not caused by low embryonic developmental rates, but by the suspension of hatching. This regulation is likely a result of the rotation behavior as the shell is cut just before hatching. Eggs might monitor the surrounding environment through a respiratory system consisting of shell perforation organs (the perforation cone) and a centripetal cone directly connected to embryonic tissue (Dittrich 1971).

Boudreaux (1958) showed that although high humidity did not cause larval death directly, it affected the juvenile development time in *Tetranychus* mites. In our experiments, the

developmental success of individuals that experienced submergence during their egg stages decreased and developmental time was slightly prolonged by submergence. However, these negative effects are minor in comparison to those on larvae wetted by mist or reared under high humidity conditions (Boudreaux 1958). Putman (1970) showed that *P. ulmi* larvae misted for 6–48 h had ~80% mortality, development was significantly delayed by a high humidity treatment, and larvae were unable to survive at continuous high humidity. Therefore, the suspension of hatching and passing damp and rainy conditions likely increases larval survival.

When eggs remained under high humidity, those of *T. urticae* and *T. kanzawai* gradually hatched. In contrast, most *P. citri* eggs never hatched and eventually died. Leaves of citrus trees, one of the major host plants of *P. citri* in a temperate zone (Osakabe 1987; Kitashima and Gotoh 1995), are water-repellent, which means that drops of water remain on leaves, especially on the upper leaf surfaces, during rain. Since *P. citri* oviposits on both upper and lower leaf surfaces (Jones and Parrella 1984; Fukaya et al. 2013), its eggs may be frequently submerged during rain. However, its water repellency also means that citrus leaves dry quickly after rain. Cessation of hatching may be adaptive for *P. citri* to survive rainfall events on the upper leaf surfaces of such hosts.

In contrast, *T. urticae* and *T. kanzawai* prefer hairy leaves as habitats (Peters and Berry 1980; Oku et al. 2006). Hairy leaves are soaked during rain, and water droplets are rarely formed. Moreover, many eggs are laid on complicated webs produced by mothers among leaf hairs on the lower leaf surfaces, which might function as shelter from the rain (Gerson 1985). Such habitats may retain moisture longer compared to the habitat of *P. citri*. The high mortality of *P. citri* eggs when they continuously experienced high humidity suggests that limits exist to elongate hatching, after which hatching is unsuccessful. Generally, leaf stomata are concentrated on the lower leaf

surfaces, resulting in higher humidity (Boulard et al. 2002). Thus, *T. kanzawai* and *T. urticae* are likely to experience relatively high humidity more frequently than *P. citri*. If humidity remains high, hatching might lessen the negative effects of rainfall. Duso et al. (2004) found that misty water sprayed using fogging system suppressed *T. urticae* population on cucumber plants. They suggested importance of contact with misty water for the reduction of mite population (Duso et al. 2004). In that, hatched larvae might be damaged from water rather than eggs because eggs do not suspend hatching at lower than 90% RH.

We found suspension of egg hatching caused by high humidity and submergence, in *Panonychus* and *Tetranychus* species, and not *Oligonychus* species. However, mechanisms of the suspension and also resumption are largely unknown. We expect that spider mites can mitigate the adverse effects of rainfall on juvenile stages on account of the suspension of egg hatching. To elucidate this idea, further studies are required.

Acknowledgments

We thank Dr. S. Masui (Shizuoka Prefectural Research Institute of Agriculture and Forestry), Mr. K. Seki (Nagano Prefecture Vegetable and Ornamental Crops Experiment Station), Mr. K. Nakata (Tottori Prefectural Agriculture and Forest Research Institute), Mr. K. Funayama (Akita Fruit-Tree Experiment Station) and Dr. H. Kishimoto (National Agriculture and Food Organization Institute of Fruit Tree Science) for their kind help in collecting spider mites.

342 References Cited

343

344 **Ashihara, W. 1987.** Infestation and reproduction of the citrus red mite, *Panonychus citri*
345 (McGregor) (Acarina: Tetranychidae) on leguminous plants. Appl. Entomol. Zool. 22: 512–
346 518.

347 **Bonato, O., S. Mapangou-Divassa, and J. Gutierrez. 1995.** Influence of relative humidity on
348 life-history parameters of *Mononychellus progresivus* and *Oligonychus gossypii* (Acari:
349 Tetranychidae). Environ. Entomol. 24: 841–845.

350 **Boudreaux, H. B. 1958.** The effect of relative humidity on egg-laying, hatching, and survival in
351 various spider mites. J. Insect Physiol. 2: 65–72.

352 **Boulard, T., M. Mermier, J. Fargues, N. Smits, M. Rougier, and J. C. Roy. 2002.** Tomato leaf
353 boundary layer climate: implications for microbiological whitefly control in greenhouses. Agr.
354 Forest Meteorol. 110: 159–176.

355 **Boyne, J. V., and F. P. Hain. 1983.** Effects of constant temperature, relative humidity, and
356 simulated rainfall on development and survival of the spruce spider mite (*Oligonychus*
357 *ununguis*). Can. Entomol. 115: 93–105.

358 **Dittrich, V. 1971.** Electron-microscopic studies of the respiratory mechanism of spider mite eggs.
359 Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am. 64: 1134–1143.

360 **Duso, C., F. Chiarini, L. Conte, V. Bonora, L. D. Montà, and S. Otto. 2004.** Fogging can
361 control *Tetranychus urticae* on greenhouse cucumbers. J. Pest Sci. 77: 105–111.

362 **Ferro, D. N., and R. B. Chapman. 1979.** Effects of different constant humidities and
363 temperatures on twospotted spider mite egg hatch. Environ. Entomol. 8: 701–705.

- 364 **Foott, W. H. 1963.** Competition between two species of mites. II. Factors influencing intensity.
365 Can. Entomol. 95: 45–57.
- 366 **Fukaya, M., R. Uesugi, H. Ohashi, Y. Sakai, M. Sudo, A. Kasai, H. Kishimoto, and M.**
367 **Osakabe. 2013.** Tolerance to solar ultraviolet-B radiation in the citrus red mite, an upper
368 surface user of host plant leaves. Photochem. Photobiol. 89: 424–431.
- 369 **Gerson, U. 1985.** Webbing, pp. 223–232. *In* W. Helle and M. W. Sabelis (eds.), Spider mites.
370 Their biology, natural enemies, and control, vol. 1A. Elsevier, New York, NY.
- 371 **Herne, D. H. C. 1968.** Some responses of the European red mite, *Panonychus ulmi*, to immersion
372 in water. Can. Entomol. 100: 540–541.
- 373 **Ho, C. 2000.** Spider-mite problems and control in Taiwan. Exp. Appl. Acarol. 24: 453–462.
- 374 **Ikegami, Y., S. Yano, J. Takabayashi, and A. Takafuji. 2000.** Function of quiescence of
375 *Tetranychus kanzawai* (Acari: Tetranychidae), as a defense mechanism against rain. Appl.
376 Entomol. Zool. 35: 339–343.
- 377 **Jones, V. P., and M. P. Parrella. 1984.** Intratree regression sampling plans for the citrus red mite
378 (Acari: Tetranychidae) on lemons in southern California. J. Econ. Entomol. 77: 810–813.
- 379 **Kato, T. 1972.** Seasonal behavior of citrus red mite, *Panonychus citri* (McGregor), in a leaf of
380 citrus tree. Jpn. J. Appl. Entomol. Zool. 16: 154–156.
- 381 **Kitashima, Y., and T. Gotoh. 1995.** Host range difference and reproductive incompatibility
382 among five populations of the citrus red mite, *Panonychus citri* (McGregor) (Acari:
383 Tetranychidae). J. Acarol. Soc. Jpn. 4: 91–101.

- 384 **Klubertanz, T. H., L. P. Pedigo, and R. E. Carlson. 1990.** Effects of plant moisture stress and
385 rainfall on population dynamics of the twospotted spider mite (Acari: Tetranychidae). Environ.
386 Entomol. 19: 1773–1779.
- 387 **Kuenen, D. J. 1946.** Het winterei van het Fruitspint (*Metatetranychus ulmi* Koch) en zijn
388 bestrijding. Tijdschrift over Plantenziekten 52: 69–82.
- 389 **Lu, F., Q. Chen, Z. Chen, H. Lu, X. Xu, and F. Jing. 2014.** Effects of heat stress on
390 development, reproduction and activities of protective enzymes in *Mononychellus mcgregori*.
391 Exp. Appl. Acarol. 63: 267–284.
- 392 **McEnro, W. E. 1961.** The control of water loss by the twospotted spider mite (*Tetranychus*
393 *telarius*). Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am. 54: 883–887.
- 394 **Mori, H. 1957.** The influence of temperature and relative humidity upon the development of the
395 eggs of fruit tree red spider mite *Metatetranychus ulmi* (Koch) (Acarina: Tetranychidae). J.
396 Fac. Agric. Hokkaido Univ. 50: 363–370.
- 397 **Moriyama, M., and H. Numata. 2006.** Induction of egg hatching by high humidity in the cicada
398 *Cryptotympana facialis*. J. Insect Physiol. 52: 1219–1225.
- 399 **Oku, K., S. Yano, and A. Takafuji. 2006.** Host plant acceptance by the phytophagous mite
400 *Tetranychus kanzawai* Kishida is affected by the availability of a refuge on the leaf surface.
401 Ecol. Res. 21: 446–452.
- 402 **Osakabe, M. 1959.** Ecological study on the tea red spider mite (*Tetranychus kanzawai* Kishida)
403 (Part 4) The influence of temperature and relative humidity upon the development of the egg.
404 Tea Res. J. 13: 53–57.

- 405 **Osakabe, M. 1965.** Seasonal fluctuation of population density of the tea red spider mite,
406 *Tetranychus kanzawai* Kishida, in the tea plantation. Jpn. J. Appl. Entomol. Zool. 9: 206–210.
- 407 **Osakabe, M. 1967.** Biological studies on the tea red spider mite, *Tetranychus kanzawai* Kishida,
408 in tea plantation. Bull. Tea Res. Sta. 4: 35–156.
- 409 **Osakabe, M. 1987.** Esterase activities and developmental success of the citrus red mite,
410 *Panonychus citri* (McGregor) (Acarina: Tetranychidae), on several plants. Appl. Entomol.
411 Zool. 22: 35–44.
- 412 **Osakabe, M., K. Hongo, K. Funayama, and S. Osumi. 2006.** Amensalism via webs causes
413 unidirectional shifts of dominance in spider mite communities. Oecologia 150: 496–505.
- 414 **Perring, T. M., T. O. Holtzer, J. A. Kalisch, and J. M. Norman. 1984.** Temperature and
415 humidity effects on ovipositional rates, fecundity, and longevity of adult females Banks grass
416 mites (Acari: Tetranychidae). Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am. 77: 581–586.
- 417 **Peters, K. M., and R. E. Berry. 1980.** Effect of hop leaf morphology on twospotted spider mite. J.
418 Econ. Entomol. 73: 235–238.
- 419 **Pickford, R. 1960.** Survival, fecundity, and population growth of *Melanoplus bilituratus* (Wlk.)
420 (Orthoptera: Acrididae) in relation to date of hatching. Can. Entomol. 92: 1–10.
- 421 **Putman, W. L. 1968.** Some effects of anoxia and hypoxia on the European red mite, *Panonychus*
422 *ulmi* (Acarina: Tetranychidae). Can. Entomol. 100: 617–623.
- 423 **Putman, W. L. 1970.** Effects of water and high humidity on the European red mite, *Panonychus*
424 *ulmi* (Acarina: Tetranychidae). Can. Entomol. 102: 955–961.

- 425 **R Core Development Team. 2012.** R: a language and environment for statistical computing. R
426 Foundation for Statistical Computing. ([http://www.lsw.uni-](http://www.lsw.uni-heidelberg.de/users/christlieb/teaching/UKStaSS10/R-refman.pdf)
427 [heidelberg.de/users/christlieb/teaching/UKStaSS10/R-refman.pdf](http://www.lsw.uni-heidelberg.de/users/christlieb/teaching/UKStaSS10/R-refman.pdf)).
- 428 **Rêgo, A. S., A. V. Teodoro, A. G. S. Maciel, and R. A. Sarmento. 2013.** Relative contribution
429 of biotic and abiotic factors to the population density of the cassava green mite,
430 *Mononychellus tanajoa* (Acari: Tetranychidae). Exp. Appl. Acarol. 60: 479–484.
- 431 **Sakai, Y., M. Sudo, and M. Osakabe. 2012.** Seasonal changes in the deleterious effects of solar
432 ultraviolet-B radiation on eggs of the twospotted spider mite, *Tetranychus urticae* (Acari:
433 Tetranychidae). Appl. Entomol. Zool. 47: 67–73.
- 434 **Sokal, R. R., and F. J. Rohlf. 2000.** Biometry, 3rd ed. Freeman, New York, NY.
- 435 **Sudo, M., and M. Osakabe. 2011.** Do plant mites commonly prefer the underside of leaves? Exp.
436 Appl. Acarol. 55: 25–38.
- 437

438 Figure Captions

439

440 **Fig. 1.** Experimental design for testing the effects of submergence in water on egg hatch
441 timing.

442

443 **Fig. 2.** Effects of high humidity treatments from immediately after oviposition to hatching on
444 egg hatch timing (Exp-1). Solid circles and open triangles represent high humidity and
445 control treatments, respectively. Open circles show the hatch rates after lids of Petri
446 dishes were opened and humidity began decreasing. Vertical lines on plots represent
447 95% fiducial limits.

448

449 **Fig. 3.** Effects of high humidity immediately before hatching was due on egg hatch timing
450 (Exp-2). Solid circles and open triangles represent high humidity and control
451 treatments, respectively. Open circles show the hatch rate after lids of Petri dishes
452 were opened and humidity began decreasing. Vertical lines on plots represent 95%
453 fiducial limits.

454

455 **Fig. 4.** Effects of high humidity implemented immediately after oviposition and continuously
456 after hatching was due on egg hatch timing (Exp-3). Solid circles and open triangles
457 represent high humidity and control treatments, respectively. Vertical lines on plots
458 represent 95% fiducial limits.

459

460 **Fig. 5.** Effects of submergence in water from (a) immediately after oviposition to hatching
461 (Exp-4) and (b) immediately before hatching was due (Exp-5). Solid circles and open

462 triangles represent submergence and control treatments, respectively. Open circles
463 show the hatch rates after water was drained. Vertical lines on plots represent 95%
464 fiducial limits.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Table 1 Ranges in temperature and humidity in three types of experiments

	Temperature $\pm$ SD ($^{\circ}$ C)		Humidity $\pm$ SD (%)	
	HH ^a	Cont ^b	HH ^a	Cont ^b
Exp-1				
Minimum	24.7 $\pm$ 0.5	23.9 $\pm$ 0.3	94.4 $\pm$ 0.5	81.3 $\pm$ 2.7
Maximum	26.1 $\pm$ 0.5	25.7 $\pm$ 0.5	98.5 $\pm$ 0.7	92.4 $\pm$ 2.7
Exp-2				
Minimum	24.8 $\pm$ 0.5	23.8 $\pm$ 0.4	94.4 $\pm$ 0.7	77.8 $\pm$ 5.6
Maximum	25.7 $\pm$ 0.6	24.4 $\pm$ 0.5	97.8 $\pm$ 0.5	90.9 $\pm$ 1.3
Exp-3				
	26.1 $\pm$ 0.8	24.9 $\pm$ 0.4	96.7 $\pm$ 0.5	85.1 $\pm$ 5.4

^a Averaged temperature during the dishes were covered with lids in the high humidity treatment in an experiment. For Exp-1 and Exp-2 we show only the cases of minimum and maximum averages over replications in the same experiment.

^b Average in the control treatment in an experiment.

Table 2 Success for adjusting the hatch timing in high humidity treatments from immediately after oviposition to hatching (Exp-1)

	Treatments	No. eggs ^a	Eye spots (%) ^b	Hatch rate (%) ^c	Hatch rate after humidity decreasing (%) ^d
<i>T. urticae</i> (green form)	High humidity	255	96.5	86.7 ***	78.8 b
	Control	264	—	98.1	—
<i>T. urticae</i> (red form)	High humidity	262	93.9	84.4 ***	77.5 bc
	Control	228	—	96.1	—
<i>T. kanzawai</i>	High humidity	164	98.2	97.6 ns	88.4 a
	Control	195	—	97.4	—
<i>T. ludeni</i>	High humidity	303	96.4	91.4 **	64.4 c
	Control	224	—	97.8	—
<i>P. citri</i>	High humidity	329	95.1	90.9 ***	90.9 a
	Control	329	—	97.9	—
<i>P. osmanthi</i>	High humidity	237	92.0	69.2 ***	46.8 de
	Control	201	—	94.0	—
<i>P. mori</i>	High humidity	202	96.5	84.6 ***	63.4 cd
	Control	156	—	99.4	—
<i>P. ulmi</i>	High humidity	279	94.6	58.4 ***	44.4 e
	Control	293	—	93.5	—
<i>O. castaneae</i>	High humidity	428	93.5	30.6 ***	9.8 f
	Control	320	—	97.5	—
<i>O. amiensis</i>	High humidity	191	89.5	7.9 ***	7.3 f
	Control	184	—	88.6	—

^a The sum total of eggs used in experiments three times.

^b Percentages of eggs in which red eye spots were developed.

^c Hatch rate in total over experimental periods. Triple, double, and single asterisks at high humidity indicate *P*-values against control to be < 0.001, < 0.01, and < 0.05, respectively, by Fisher's exact test.

^d Percentage of eggs which hatched after lids of Petri dishes were opened and humidity decreased. The same letter in the column represent that no significant differences were detected among species by an $R \times C$ test of independence using a *G*-test ($P > 0.05$).

Table 3 Success for adjusting the hatch timing in high humidity treatments from immediately before hatching was due (Exp-2)

	Treatments	No. eggs ^a	Hatch rate (%) ^c	Hatch rate after humidity decreasing (%) ^d
<i>T. urticae</i> (green form)	High humidity	243	89.7 ***	85.1 b
	Control	264	98.1	—
<i>T. urticae</i> (red form)	High humidity	294	94.2 ns	84.7 b
	Control	228	96.1	—
<i>T. kanzawai</i>	High humidity	193	99.0 ns	64.7 c
	Control	161	98.1	—
<i>T. ludeni</i>	High humidity	494	90.3 ***	77.7 b
	Control	352	99.1	—
<i>P. citri</i>	High humidity	326	94.2 *	94.2 a
	Control	329	97.9	—

^a The sum total of eggs used in experiments three times.

^b Percentages of eggs in which red eye spots were developed.

^c Hatchability in total over experimental periods. About asterisks see Table 1.

^d Percentage of eggs which hatched after lids were opened and humidity decreased. The same letters in the column represent that no significant difference was detected in unplanned tests of homogeneity ($P > 0.05$) after an $R \times C$ test of independence using a G -test.

Table 4 Success for adjusting the timing of hatching in submergence treatments from (a) immediately after oviposition to hatching (Exp-4) and (b) immediately before hatching was due (Exp-5) (b)

	Treatments	No. eggs ^a	Eye spots (%) ^b	Hatchability (%) ^c	Hatch rate after drained (%) ^d
(a)					
<i>T. urticae</i>	Submergence	642	97.4	94.2 ***	73.1 ns
(green form)	Control	554	—	98.4	—
<i>P. citri</i>	Submergence	585	97.1	78.8 ***	77.6
	Control	475	—	94.7	—
(b)					
<i>T. urticae</i>	Submergence	578	—	94.1 ***	79.8 ns
(green form)	Control	563	—	98.0	—
<i>P. citri</i>	Submergence	556	—	84.0 ***	83.6
	Control	463	—	94.6	—

^a The sum total of eggs used in experiments three times.

^b Percentages of eggs in which red eye spots were developed. No significant differences were detected among species by an $R \times C$ test of independence using a G -test ($P > 0.05$).

^c Hatchability in total over experimental periods. About asterisks see Table 1.

^d Percentage of eggs which hatched after the humidity declined (lids were opened). No significant differences were detected among species by an $R \times C$ test of independence using a G -test ($P > 0.05$).

Table 5 Effects of high humidity and submergence treatments on subsequent development and egg production (Exp-6)

			High humidity	Submergence	Control
<i>T. urticae</i>	Development (%) ^a		89.4 (170) ab	86.2 (159) b	94.1 (222) a
green form	Sex ratio ♀/(♀+♂) ^b		0.82 (152)	0.82 (137)	0.86 (209) ns
	Developmental	♀	6.5 ± 0.1 (48) a	6.4 ± 0.1 (38) a	6.1 ± 0.1 (44) b
	duration ^c	♂	6.1 ± 0.1 (9)	6.1 ± 0.1 (10)	6.1 ± 0.1 (14) ns
	Egg production ^d		47.2 ± 0.7 (43)	47.8 ± 1.0 (34)	49.2 ± 1.2 (38) ns
<i>P. citri</i>	Development (%) ^a		94.4 (180) ab	87.9 (149) b	95.5 (179) a
	Sex ratio ♀/(♀+♂) ^b		0.81 (170)	0.88 (149)	0.83 (171) ns
	Developmental	♀	6.7 ± 0.1 (43)	6.8 ± 0.1 (41)	6.5 ± 0.1 (45) ns
	duration ^c	♂	6.9 ± 0.1 (9)	6.9 ± 0.1 (8)	6.5 ± 0.2 (10) ns
	Egg production ^d		19.6 ± 0.7 (36)	19.2 ± 0.6 (34)	19.8 ± 0.6 (38) ns

Figures of parentheses represent the numbers of individuals tested.

^a Developmental success from larva to adult. The same letters in the column represent that no significant difference was detected in unplanned tests of homogeneity ($P > 0.05$) after an $R \times C$ test of independence using a G -test.

^b Sex ratio in individuals which developed to adulthood. No significant differences were detected among species by an $R \times C$ test of independence using a G -test ($P > 0.05$).

^c Developmental times from larva to adult. The same letters in the line for *T. urticae* females were not significantly different at a 5% level in multiple comparisons using Tukey HSD. No significant differences were detected by a one-way ANOVA in *T. urticae* male and *P. citri*.

^d Number of eggs laid for the first five oviposition days. No significant differences were detected among treatments in both species by Wald tests using GLM.