

Persea Mite Biology and Monitoring



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Persea Mite, *Oligonychus perseae*

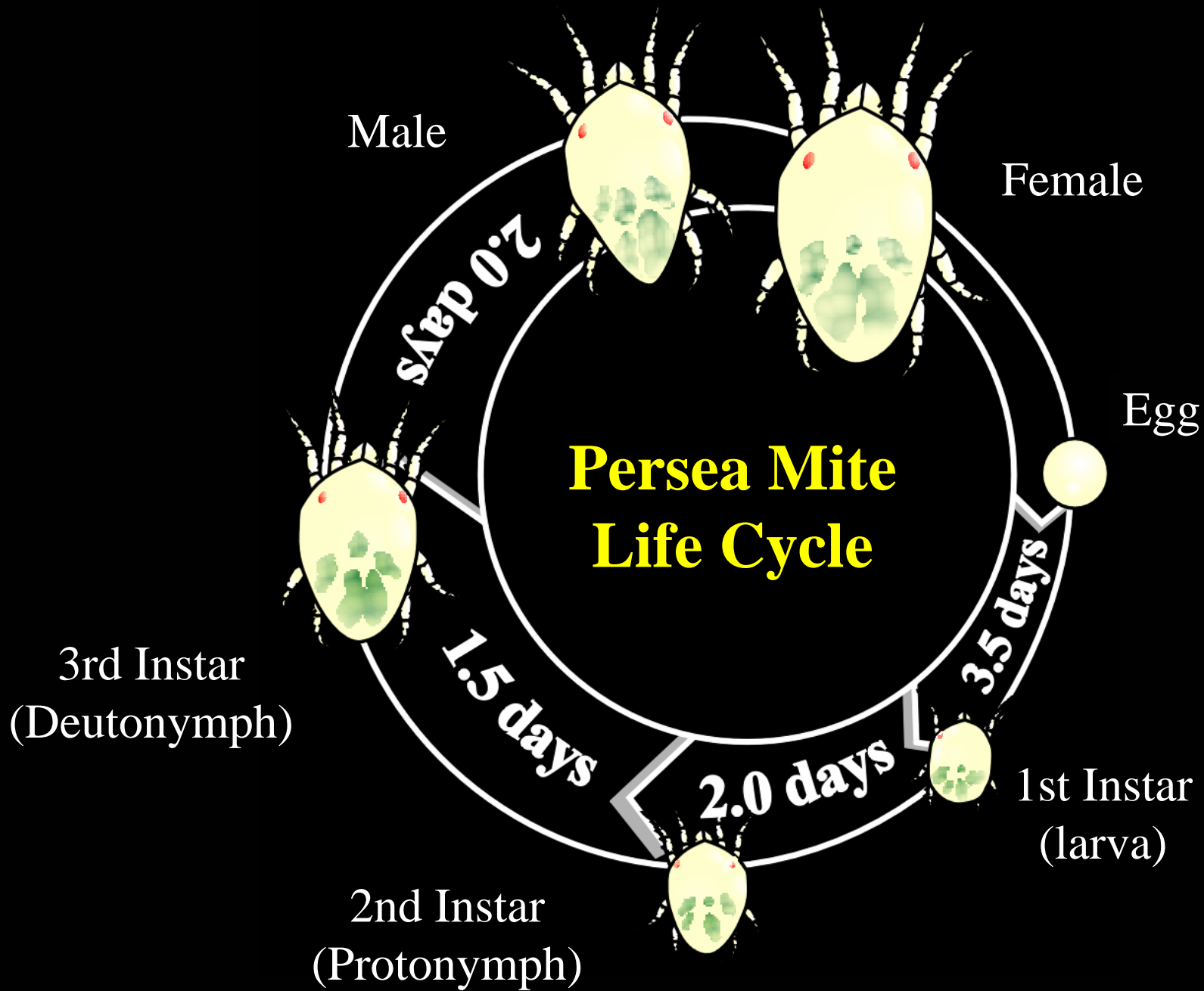
- An exotic pest in California, arrived in 1990
- Originally described from specimens collected from avocados being smuggled from MX to USA
- Native to Mexico
- A pest in Costa Rica & Israel
- Mites feed in nests on undersides of leaves and when leaf damage ~ 10% leaves drop

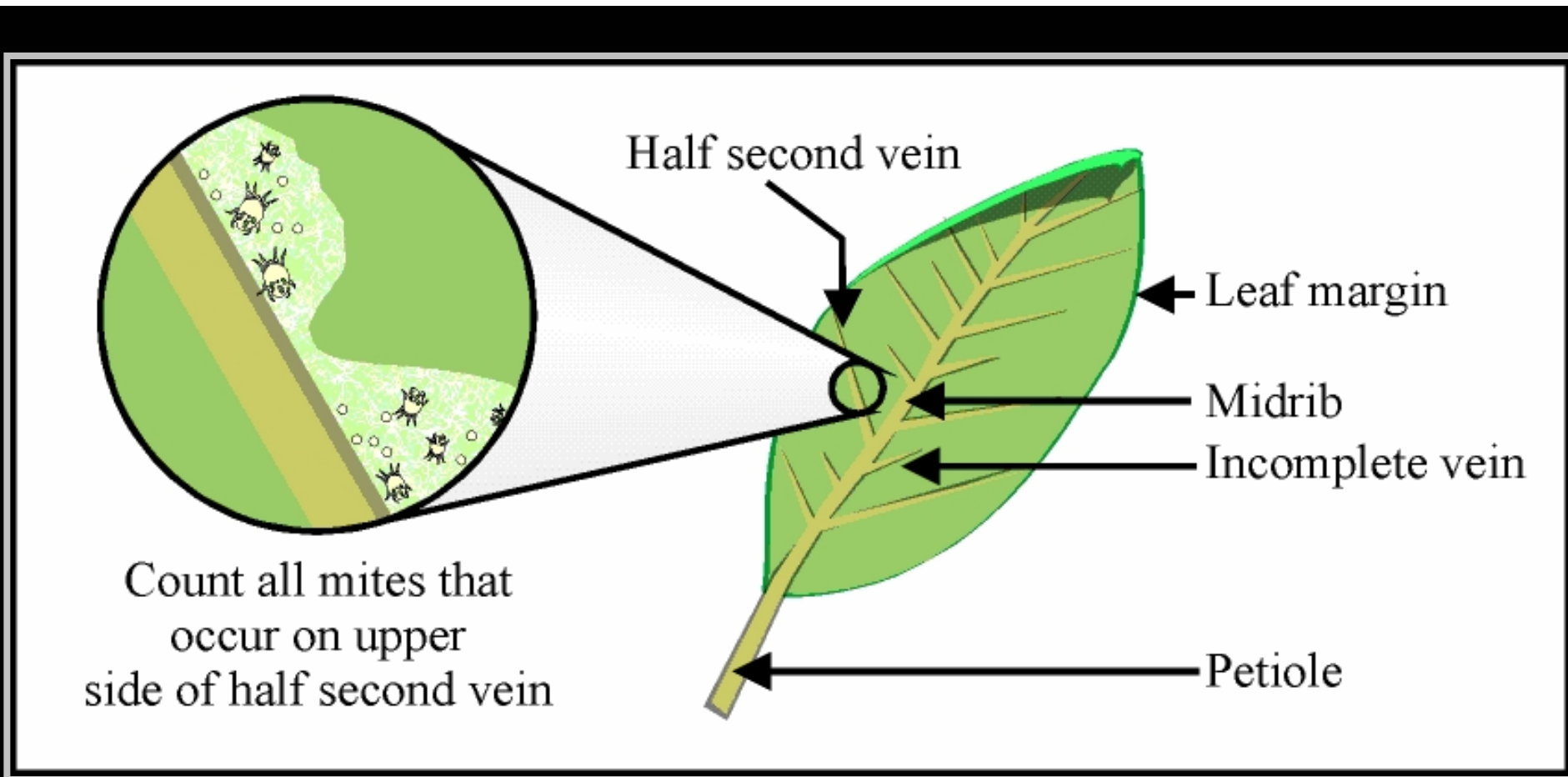


Persea Mite Feeding Damage



When mite feeding damages ~ 10% of the leaf surface the probability of leaf drop increases significantly

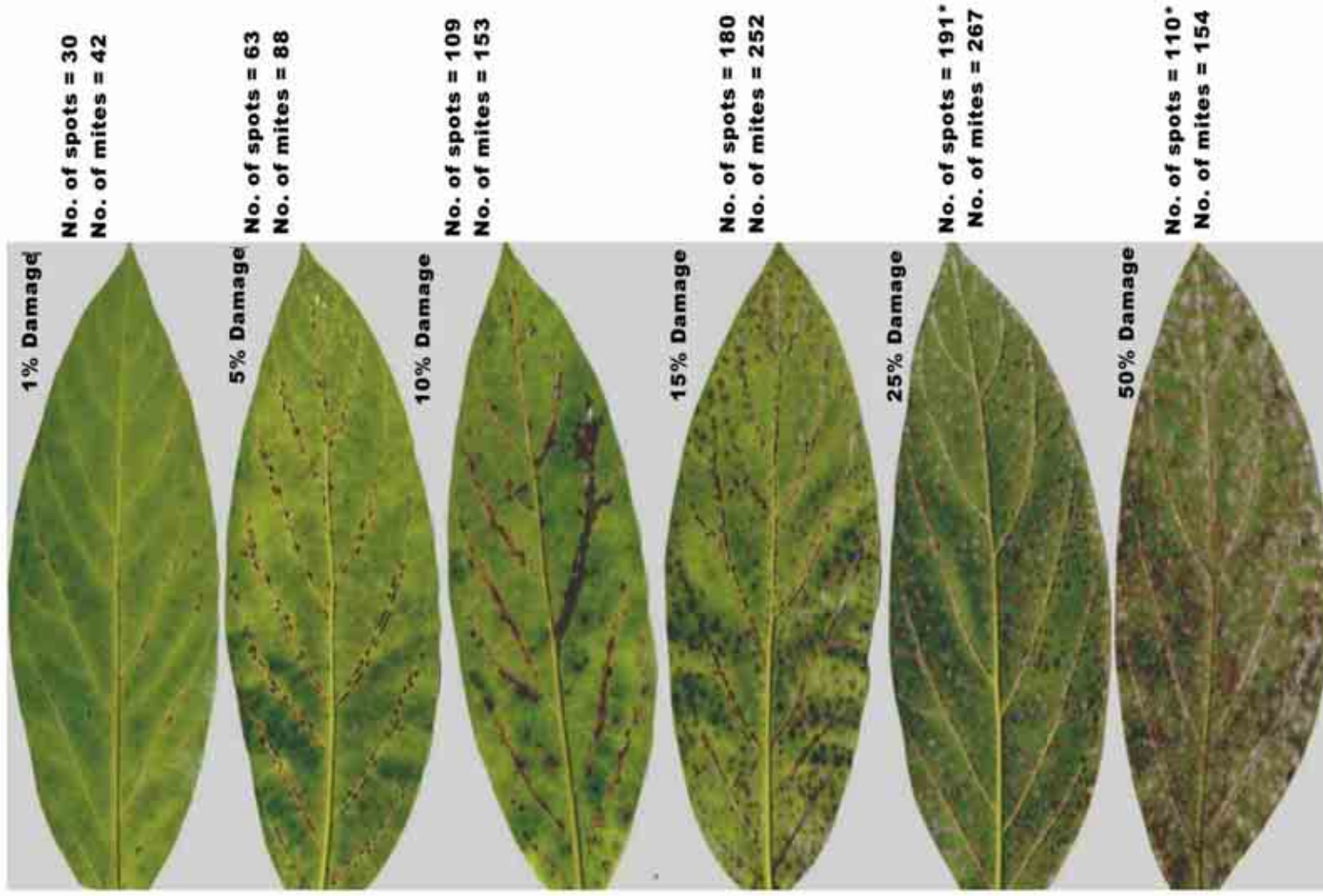




No. perseas mites per leaf = total no. of mites counted is divided by 10 (average no. mites per leaf) x 12 (correlation factor for perseas or use **6 for predators**)

Consider the example where a total of 72 perseas mites were counted across all 10 randomly sampled leaves

Estimated number of mites = $(72/10) \times 12 = 7.2 \times 12 = 86.4$ perseas mites per leaf



***As persea mite feeding damage increases, the number of individual necrotic spots on leaves declines as nests begin to merge. Consequently, persea mite numbers decline also as there is less food for them to survive on.**

**Further Information on
Biological Control of
California Avocado Pests**

www.biocontrol.ucr.edu