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Eriophyoid mites (Acari: Eriophyoidea) on leafy spurges (*Euphorbia* spp.) (Euphorbiaceae) in Yugoslavia – Their potential use in biological control

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The possibility of controlling weeds with eriophyoid mites and the results obtained in experiments with eriophyoid mites associated with *Chondrilla juncea* L., *Convolvulus arvensis* L. and *Centaurea diffusa* Lam. have led to research on leafy spurge eriophyoids in Yugoslavia. A review of literature revealed that 13 species of eriophyoids have been reported on leafy spurges (*Euphorbia* spp.): one in the United States of America, one in India and 11 in Europe, of which five have been described from Yugoslavia. During a six-year trial, 26 *Euphorbia* taxa (24 species and two subspecies) have been surveyed for eriophyoid mites. Thirteen *Euphorbia* taxa have been found as host plants of six eriophyoid species: *Eriophyes euphorbiae* (Nal.), *E. septemlineatus* Pet., *Vasates euphorbiae* Pet., *V. glabriflorae* Pet. et de Lillo, *V. montenegrinus* Pet. et de Lillo and *Phyllocoptes euphorbiae* Farkas. This poster presented the distributions of the mites and correlates these with host distribution, degrees of infestation, type of injury and the relative importance of the eriophyoid species. All the species examined inhabit shoot tips and inflorescences, provoking drying, stunting of stems and plants, inflorescence deformation, witches brooming and other symptoms. The potential of *V. euphoribae* as a biological control agent is considered.