

## Pest Profile

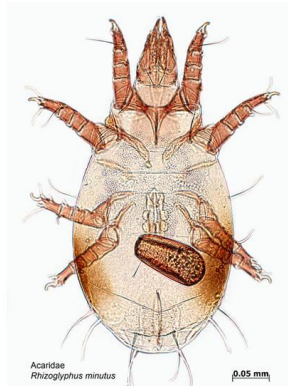


Photo credit: Caroline Harding, MPI, padil.gov.au

**Common Name:** Bulb mites

**Scientific Name:** *Rhizoglyphus* spp.

**Order and Family:** Acari, Acaridae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Adult	Egg	Larva/Nymph	Pupae (if applicable)
<b>Length (mm)</b>	0.5 - 1 mm	< 0.2 mm	0.15 - 0.2mm	
<b>Appearance</b>	Shiny, yellowish-white mites with reddish-brown mouth parts.	Oval, white	White, oval, only have 3 pairs of legs.	

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Piercing-sucking

**Host plant/s:** Bulb mites feed on a variety of flowering plants including crocus, tuberose, lily, hyacinth, tulip, dahlia tubers, orchid, gladiolus, freesia, Dutch iris and narcissus.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Adult mites feed on rotting bulbs and decaying plant material. They also burrow into healthy bulbs, carrying bacteria and fungi, including *Rhizoctonia*, *Pythium*, and *Fusarium* that cause rot. Symptoms of infestations include stunting or off-color to failure of bulbs to produce new growth. May also feed in the stems of lilies, causing the stems to become brittle. This pest is most damaging when plant growth is slowed by cool, wet weather. They generally occur in clusters and can infest bulbs in storage or in the field.

## References:

Orloff, S., Natwick, E.T., Poole, G.J., Coviello, R.L. and Chaney, W.E. (2008) *UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Onion and Garlic- UC ANR Publication 3453*. Accessed on April 3, 2016 at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r584400111.html>.

Smith. T. (2011) Bulb Mites. Accessed on April 3, 2016 at <https://ag.umass.edu/fact-sheets/bulb-mites>.

*Bulb mites (Spinach crown mites)—Rhizoglyphus and Tyrophagus spp* (2014). Accessed on April 3, 2016 at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/GARDEN/VEGES/PESTS/bulbmites.html>

Bulbmites (n.d.) Accessed on April 3, 2016 at <http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/Foliage/entomol/ncstate/mite2.htm>.