



Controlling Redlegged Earth Mite and Blue Oat Mite in Canola and Some Pulses and Cereals at the Bare Earth Stage

Redlegged earth mite (*Halotydeus destructor*) and Blue oat mite (*Penthaleus spp.*) are major pests of crops grown in regions of Australia with cool wet winters and hot dry summers.



Figure 1: The distribution of the redlegged earth mite and blue oat mite in Australia (shaded areas indicate known distribution). Source: DPI

Identification

Blue oat mites (BOM) are often misidentified as redlegged earth mites (RLEM) in the field, which has meant that the damage caused by BOM has been under-represented. Despite having a similar appearance, adult BOM and RLEM are both approximately 1 mm in length and approximately 0.6-0.8 mm wide, with eight red-orange legs.

RLEM and BOM can be readily distinguished from each other. RLEM have a completely black body and tend to feed in larger groups of up to 30 individuals. BOM have a red mark on their back and are usually found singularly or in very small groups.



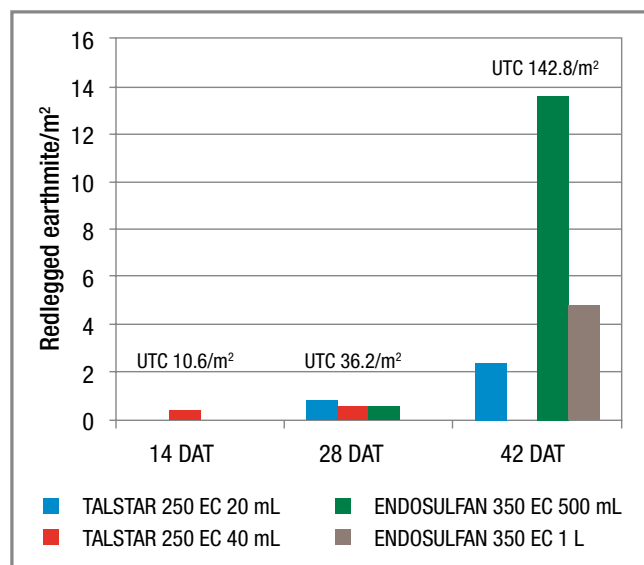
Redlegged earth mites (*Halotydeus destructor*). Photo: A. Weeks (CESAR).



Adult blue oat mite (*Penthaleus spp.*). Photo: A. Weeks (CESAR).

Long Residual Control

Talstar® gives true bare earth residual control of redlegged earth mite for up to 60 days when applied at the 40mL/ ha rate.



Reeves Plains, South Australia, 2006

Crop	Pest	State	Rate
Canola, Faba beans, Subterranean clover, Clover, Barley, Field peas, Lupins, Lucerne, Wheat	Redlegged earth mite (<i>Halotydeus destructor</i>) Brown pasture looper (<i>Ciampa arietaria</i>)	All States	20 to 40 mL/ha
	Blue oat mite (<i>Penthaleus major</i>) Pasture webworm (<i>Hednota spp.</i>)		40 mL/ha
	Bryobia mites (<i>Bryobia spp.</i>)		80 mL/ha

Controls a Range of Pests

Talstar also controls brown pasture looper and pasture webworm at the 40 mL/ha rate and bryobia mite at 80mL/ha.

Withholding Period

Do not graze pasture treated with Talstar for four weeks after application.

Stock removed from treated pasture can be sent for slaughter with no delay (given the above restriction is observed).

Compatibility

Talstar 250 EC is compatible with insecticides, Imidan® and Dimethoate, and with the herbicides, Paraquat 250, Simazine 900, Metolachlor and Pendimethalin.

Application

Apply as a broadcast ground rig application in a total water volume of 50-200 L/ha or by air in a minimum total water volume of 20 L/ha. Apply to bare soil after conventional cultivation and sowing or onto well grazed or sprayed pasture after direct drilling. Use the higher rate on heavier infestations and for longer residual protection.

Lucerne Flea

Like other synthetic pyrethroid insecticides, alstar does not control lucerne flea. A tank mix with dimethoate or a subsequent dimethoate application will give lucerne flea control.

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