



Sarcoptic mange or scabies mite

Sarcoptes scabiei

Description: a pearly white, plump, oval, eyeless mite with rudimentary legs; females up to 1/60 inch long; patches of microscopic, stout, blunt spines occur on the mite's body and several long, hairlike setae project from the body and legs.

Domestic animals affected: Different varieties or subspecies affect different kinds of animals: cattle (not in Kansas), swine, horses, sheep, goats, dogs, humans; (not cats, although they may be parasitized by similar species).

Damage caused: Damage varies in severity among hosts; it is extremely debilitating to dogs and goats; among farm animals it is now most common in swine where it is severe enough to reduce efficiency and rate of gain. The skin condition caused by sarcoptic mites *is* a disease.

Development: gradual metamorphosis: egg, 6-legged protonymph, 8- legged deutonymph, adult.

Generational time: 10 to 14 days.

Oviposition site: within tunnels in the upper layer of skin made by the feeding activity of the adult female.

Nymphal habitat, feeding: nymphs feed and develop within the tunnel made by the female; when mature, they emerge to the surface of the skin.

Adult habitat, feeding: Newly matured adults mate on the skin surface; the females then make their own burrows, feeding on skin cells as they go; males mostly remain on the surface and do not live as long as females do.

Method of dispersal or infestation: host-to-host contact, exposure to bedding, grooming tools, or transportation that has been exposed to infested hosts *of the same species*; additional dispersal is by host mobility and transportation of infested hosts.

Seasonality: Sarcoptic mange mites may live on animals at any time of year, but on most hosts the greatest reproduction rate and most damaging lesions occur during the cooler months.

For additional information contact:
Ludek Zurek Ph.D.
Medical and Veterinary Entomology
Department of Entomology
Kansas State University
Manhattan KS 66506
(785) 532-4731
lzurek@ksu.edu

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service