Anystis baccarum

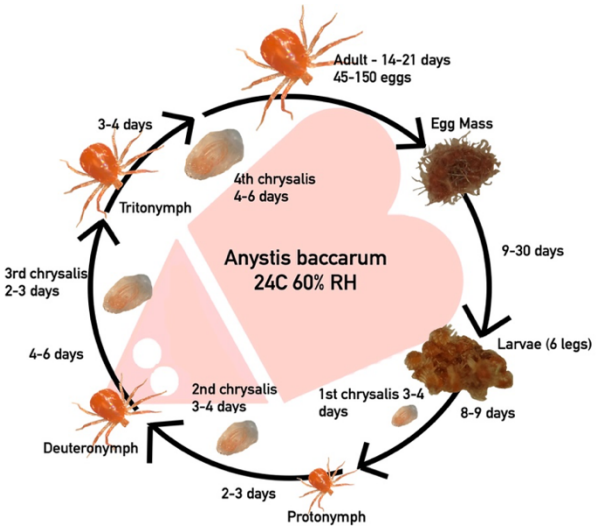
Generalist Predator Mite

Description

- Also known as Crazee mite or Whirligig mite
- Generalist predator in the Anystidae family
- Adults relatively large, roughly twice the size as an adult *persimilis*
- Bright orange or red in color
- Noticeable hairs on legs and abdomen
- Extremely fast, runs in erratic patterns
- Highly mobile and will readily cross exposed concrete

Target Pests

Thrips, aphids, spider mites, whitefly, echinothrips, mealybug, psyllid, soft scale, root and foxglove aphids.



Life Cycle

A complete life cycle takes approximately 4 weeks from egg to adult. Anystis mites have one larval and three nymph stages before reaching maturity. All stages are predatory and all mites are female. Adults live for up to three weeks during which they continually feed. Eggs are typically laid in loose substrate in small clusters of 15-30 eggs several times during the adult stage. Eggs and larval stages prefer moist, warm conditions but will still develop as low as 50°F.

Use in Biological Control

Research is ongoing with this new biocontrol. *Anystis baccarum* is well suited for both outdoor applications in gardens and field crops as well as indoors operations such as greenhouses, nurseries and on house plants.

- Optimum conditions are 75°F and humidity over 70%RH
- While egg viability is dependent on moisture, adults and nymphs remain active and fit within a large range of temperature and humidity.
- Research in Canada (Vineland Research and Innovation Centre) has shown that thrips control by *Anystis baccarum* is greater than other bio-control agents, but greatest when combined with *Neoseiulus cucumeris*.
- Is compatible with most biocontrols, with insignificant intra-guild predation.
- Anystis can rely on aphids as their only food source and are known to control most species of aphids.

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- Anystis has a long history in conservational bio-control against a variety of agricultural pests including the European Red Mite.
- Applicable for all indoor and outdoor crops and applications.

Monitoring Tips

Watch for these large, bright orange or red mites moving quickly across leaf surfaces, concrete or greenhouse structural components. They will slow down and stop while feeding and can be found hidden on the undersides of leaves. Nymphs have a paler color, are smaller, slower and more difficult to see. Eggs and pupa are often in growing media or other cryptic locations. The most consistent strategy to monitor this mite is to measure the reduction of pests.

Product Information

- Crazee Mite 1,000. One thousand adults in wood shavings in a plastic pouch. Allow 10% mortality. Upon receipt, gently acclimatize the container and release in a central location. Avoid piling the entire contents to minimize cannibalism.
- Crazee Mite 250. 250 adults in wood shavings in a plastic tub. Details as above.
- Crazee Mite 250 Eggs. Hundreds of eggs to produce at least 250 mobiles. Gently acclimatize before releasing. Open lid and place in a central location. Scout for nymphs emerging from the container and regularly move the container throughout the crop as the eggs hatch.

Introduction Rates

- Most growers agree that 0.25 mites per square foot is a sufficient preventative rate, however this number may change based on crop, pest, and environment.
- Knock-down rates will vary also. 0.25 mites per square foot will immediately impact some pest populations, but greater rates will result in quicker knock-down.

For Best Results

- Aphid control is best achieved with preventative applications of Crazee Mites as needed, and regular preventative releases of *Aphidoletes* every three weeks during peak aphid season.
- Spider mite control is best with *Neoseiulus fallacis* introduced preventatively at a rate of 2 mites per square foot, followed by a Crazee Mite Application of 0.25 mites per square foot.
- Thrips Control is best achieved with an introductory rate of Crazee Mites (0.25 mites per square foot) and reapplied as needed, with regular releases of *Amblyseius cucumeris* every 4-5 weeks or as needed.

Using Pesticides

There is no current list of pesticide compatibility or resistance for *Anystis baccarum*. Historical data notes the presence of *Anystis baccarum* in orchards after chemical applications, however, all beneficial insects and mites perform best with no chemical interference.

Content Courtesy of Applied Bio-nomics Ltd