

SUMMARY

A survey on the incidence of haematophagous mites in egg-laying hens was conducted in 43 poultry farms in the State of São Paulo, Brazil, from February 1988 to December 1990. The farms were located in the counties of Araçatuba, Assis, Bady Bassit, Bastos, Caucaia do Alto, Gararapes, Ibiuna, Itapetinga, Pindamonhagaba, Pirassununga, Porto Feliz, São Manuel and Sorocaba. Mites were collected from the premises or directly from the hens. Parasites or contaminated feathers were collected into sealed polyethylene bags. In the laboratory specimens were placed on special slides with a concavity ground containing Nesbitt clarifying solution and further mounted in slides with Hoyer medium to be identified microscope. *Dermanyssus gallinae* was found in eleven farms (25.6%); *Ornithonyssus sylviarum* in six farms (13.9%); Both species were found in fifteen additional farms (34.9%), and no mites were found in the remaining eleven farms (25.6%). *Ornithonyssus bursa* formerly recorded in the literature as a common parasite in the State of São Paulo, was not found. Data on the local management practices and control methods were discussed.