

## A new species of *Calacarus* Keifer (Acari: Eriophyidae) on papaya in northeastern Brazil

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### Abstract

*Calacarus flagelliseta* n. sp. (Acari: Prostigmata: Eriophyidae) is described from northeastern Brazil based on adults of both sexes collected from papaya leaves.

**Key words:** Acari, Eriophyidae, *Calacarus*, papaya, taxonomy.

### Introduction

Circa thirty species are presently considered to belong to the genus *Calacarus* Keifer, 1940. Two of those putative species have been reported on *Carica papaya* L.: *Calacarus brionesae* Keifer, 1963, and *C. citrifolii* Keifer, 1955 (van der Merwe & Coates 1965). Two additional records of *C. citrifolii* on papaya (Jeppson et al. 1975; Meyer & Craemer 1999) are probably based on the report of van der Merwe & Coates (1965). *C. brionesae* has been reported only on papaya. *C. citrifolii* has been reported on 28 plant species belonging to 21 families (J. Amrine Jr., personal communication); however, this relatively large number of despaired hosts seems to indicate that those records may actually refer to more than one *Calacarus* species (Jeppson et al. 1975).

*Calacarus citrifolii* has been reported to cause bronzing of papaya leaves (Meyer & Cramer 1999), whereas *C. brionesae* has been reported to cause edge rolling of the leaves of this plant and white spots along the rolls. The third author of this paper recently found a restricted area of papaya plantation in northeastern Brazil showing severe upward rolling followed by necrosis and death of leaves. Those symptoms were attributed to a new