

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Mite cultures to observe their biology and to have specimens for the preparations available were maintained in small bowls (5 cm in diameter). They were fed on pieces of rotting potatoes, the rotting process first stimulated by sprinkling water over fresh potatoes pieces.

Objects for histological sections were embedded in Technovit 7100. Afterwards the objects were coloured with Eosin-red and Toluidin-blue.

SEM observations were performed with a Philips SEM 515. The objects were critical-point-dried and afterwards sputtered with gold. Before the objects were fixed in 100 % ethanol for at least 5 days.

The phylogenetic tree was reconstructed with aid of different morphological characters at first with own trains of thought. The character table was arranged with the program “Nexus” and the computer based reconstruction performed with “Win Clada”. In that way the consensous tree was developed. As outgroup members species of the Acaridae were observed.