



Galls in fern fronds



Closeup of galls on fern fronds

Common Name: Eriophyid mite on fern
Scientific Name: *Floracarus footei* Keifer (1969)

Eriophyid mites are very small (only visible with a microscope). The eriophyid mite on fern is white in color and it causes erineia (gall-like structures) on the leaf blades (lamina) of rough sword fern *Nephrolepis hirsutula* (Forst.) (Polypodeaceae). Erineia are irregular tumescent growths that appear on the leaves. Erineia are uncontrolled growths that are like an allergic response to the feeding of mites. This mite was first identified on fern material which originated from the Philippines. The fern was intercepted in Quarantine at the Honolulu Airport, Hawaii

This mite can be found on this species of fern growing wild on Guam and Rota. It is spread by wind or introducing infested ferns. It also moves to different locations on contaminated clothing and tools.

Control:

1. Avoid planting material from infested plants.
2. Apply for control. Consult with an Agricultural Extension Agent for recommendation of chemicals. You can contact an agent by calling 734-2575, 734-2579, 734-2518 or 734-4753.

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