



National Honey Bee
Pest and Disease Survey



Varroa mite (left) and Tropilaelaps mite (right)

Photo by I.B. Smith Jr./ USDA-BRL

- Tropilaelaps, an exotic parasitic mite found in Asia and Indonesia, is one of the primary targets for this study
- This mite feeds on honey bee brood (both larvae and pupae) causing deformed bees, death and absconding, but unlike Varroa, it does not feed on adult bees
- Because Tropilaelaps mites have a quicker reproductive cycle, they can out produce Varroa mites
- Adult mites move very quickly on brood combs and can be seen moving in and out of cells; they are about 1/3 the size of Varroa mites, so they are just visible to the naked eye