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.