

This short description was prepared in the framework of the EU FP7 project DROPSA - Strategies to develop effective, innovative and practical approaches to protect major European fruit crops from pests and pathogens (grant agreement no. 613678). This pest was listed in the DROPSA alert list for *Vaccinium* fruit.

**Acalitus vaccinii (Acarida: Eriophyidae)**

**Fruit pathway:** Although the pest seems to mostly attack buds, some sources mention feeding on fruit (NCSU, 1997; possibly CAES, 2007 – see ‘Damage’). However, there is an uncertainty on association with fruit.

**Other pathways:** plants for planting. *A. vaccinii* lives and feeds inside buds (including leaf and flower) (NCSU, 1997; Roubos, 2009; CAES, 2007; Prodorutti et al., 2007).

**Hosts:** *Vaccinium*, *Gaylussacia baccata* (Keifer, 1941). Among *Vaccinium*, 'highbush blueberries', 'lowbush blueberries' (Roubos, 2009); 'rabbiteye blueberries' (Weibelzahl and Liburd, 2013), 'huckleberries' (NCSU, 1997).

**Distribution:** North America: Canada, USA (NVWA, 2012).

**Damage:** The pest may cause severe yield losses through damage to flower buds (from a reduction in number of fruits per cluster, to total desiccation of developing flower buds) (Weibelzahl and Liburd, 2009). It may also cause malformed berries (Cromroy and Kuitert, 2014; Roubos, 2009) and lead to growth retardation, small flowers and fruits (NVWA, 2012). It is reported to also feed on developing fruits (NCSU, 1997). CAES (2007) mention that ‘feeding may cause the skin of berries to be rough’. *A. vaccinii* is gaining importance as a pest of southern highbush blueberries (Weibelzahl & Liburd, 2009).

**Other information:** *A. vaccini* is present throughout the season. It is too tiny to be seen by the naked eye (CAES, 2007).

<b>Recorded impact:</b> High	<b>Intercepted:</b> Not known	<b>Spreading/invasive:</b> Not known
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