

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) country pest report by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of South Africa: First detection of *Raoiella indica* (Tenuipalpidae) in South Africa

Date of the report	30/08/2016
Pest identity	<i>Raoiella indica</i> (Tenuipalpidae)
Status of pest	Unknown
Host or articles concerned	Date palm (<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>)
Other hosts	Red palm mite is a polyphagous feeder on plants from several plant families and genera. It can cause damage to economically important palms such as <i>Cocos nucifera</i> (coconut), <i>Elaeis guineensis</i> (African Oil Palm), <i>Phoenix dactylifera</i> (Date palm) and other hosts such as <i>Musa</i> and <i>Strelitzia</i> species.
Geographic distribution	The specimen was detected in the Northern Cape Province near the town of Upington.
Nature of immediate or potential danger	Date palm production in the Northern Cape Province.
Summary	Red palm mite was detected on Date palm (<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>) leaves during routine surveys in February and March 2016. A leaf sample collected on 11 March 2016 had mites on it which were positively identified as <i>Raoiella indica</i> . This is the first time that this pest is detected in South Africa.