

**A partial list of lady beetles (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) preying upon  
*Tetranychus urticae* (Acari: Tetranychidae) in Tehran area, Iran**

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Predatory lady beetles play a major role in controlling different pests specially aphids and mites in throughout the world. During 2004-2006 different samples were taken from various plant species in Tehran area including (Tehran, Karaj, Varamin, Shahriar and Bumhen). Collected species were transferred to the laboratory where their feeding on *T. urticae* was tested. The coccinellid species that fed successfully on different stages of *T. urticae* were *Stethorus gilvifrons* (Mulsant), *Stethorus punctillum* Weise, *Stethorus siphonulus* Kopur, *Scymnus rubromaculatus* (Goeze), *Coccinella septempunctata* L., *Hippodamia variegata* (Goeze), and *Oenopia conglobata* (L.). The first three species are specific acariphagous lady beetles and other species are both entomophagous and acariphagous beetles. Among all collected species, *C. septempunctata* was the most abundant species and it feeds on aphids preferably. Among the acariphagous coccinellids, *S. gilvifrons* was the most abundant and effective as predator in spider mites colonies at inspected areas. Experiments with different life stages of *S. gilvifrons* on *T. urticae* in the laboratory indicated a high feeding rate of *S. gilvifrons* on various immature and mature spider mite stages. The results of the field and laboratory studies revealed that *S. gilvifrons*, as an effective biological control agent, could be used in an integrated spider mites management program.