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BRONCHIAL ASTHMA IN MAN BY *DERMATOPHAGOIDES FARINAE* IN A *TENEBRIO MOLITOR* REARING IN UMBRIA

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*Dermatophagoides farinæ* is a mite that is frequently present in house dust and in stored foodstuffs as flour and bran. Its development depends strictly on the humidity and temperature conditions, and also on the degree of conservation of the substrate. The case reported herein concerns the infestation by *D. farinæ* of n. 140 boxes where *Tenebrio molitor* larvae were reared for being sold as fishing-baits. The whole production had been obtained over a three years' period, through subsequent transfers of the material from one box to another. The substrate was represented by bran and by a great quantity of feces produced by the beetles. The development temperature was 21°C and 80 RH. In the third year of production, in the height of autumn, while the owner was filtrating the substrate to collect the larvae for sale, he suddenly felt asthmatic respiratory difficulties, characterized by a slow and deep breathing in and by a violent and long expiration. Such a symptomatology was showed not only by the staff enchargèd with the breeding, but also by those people who had bought the larvae isolated from the beetles. The greatest number of *D. farinæ* was removed from the feces under the bran (8 adults/gr.) with a male to females ratio 1:3. It was not possible to reclaim the rearing, since the elimination of bran by filtration was of no help in depriving *T. molitor* larvae of their allergic capacity. It was therefore necessary to interrupt the production, taking out all larvae and washing and disinfecting the boxes and the environment before starting again a new rearing.