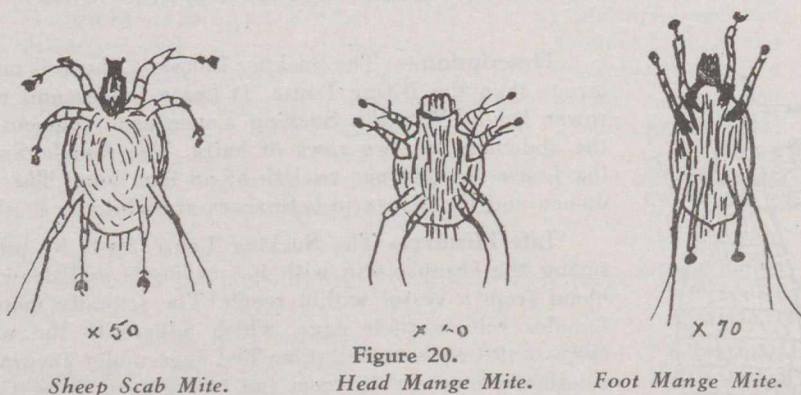


The Mange Mites (*Acarina*)

The Mange Mites that infest sheep, persist in flocks that are not given close attention and regular dipping. They do considerable damage in some sections. The three varieties of Mange Mite doing damage in Canadian flocks are, the *Psoroptes communis ovis*, the *Sarcoptes scabiei ovis*, and the *Chorioptes ovis*. The *Psoroptes communis ovis* which causes "Sheep Scab" is not known to exist in the Eastern provinces. The Sarcoptic and Choriopitic forms of Mange Mite confine their attacks to the hairy areas of the head and legs of the sheep.



Description.— These mites are very small, fifty male mites placed head and tail would measure one inch and eighty male mites placed side by side would occupy one inch. The female is a little larger than the male. Both sexes are oval in outline and are equipped with four pairs of legs. The female mite has the first, second and fourth pair of legs terminating in a sucker disc and numerous hairs. The third pair of legs terminate in two very long hairs. The male mite has each leg terminating in a sucker disc.

Description.— The "Scab Mites" feed on the surface of the skin. Copulation is followed by egg production. The pregnant female mite may produce any number of eggs up to twenty five, or under certain conditions give birth to nymphs. In event of eggs being deposited on the surface of the skin which is generally the procedure, they hatch under favorable conditions in a period that usually does not exceed seven days, liberating a six legged nymph. After further changes the young mites become sex mature in six to ten days and reproduction again provided for. The increase is rapid. Frequently the female mite will produce a batch of eggs, and then go into a state of rest to recuperate for further egg production. This may happen several times with one female.

Symptoms.— The presence of "Sheep Scab" mite on the sheep is followed by intense itching. The sheep are noticed rubbing against trees, posts