



## House dust mites: A harmful indoor dust pollutant

■ Kirti Khatri

Department of Resource Management and Consumer Sciences, College of Home Science, S.K. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner (Rajasthan) India  
Email : keertikhatri01@gmail.com

### ARTICLE INFO :

Received : 02.07.2018  
Accepted : 24.11.2018

### HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE :

Khatri, Kirti (2018). House dust mites: A harmful indoor dust pollutant. *Adv. Res. J. Soc. Sci.*, 9 (2) : 246-253, DOI: 10.15740/HAS/ARJSS/9.2/246-253.  
Copyright@2018 : Hind Agri -Horticultural Society

### KEY WORDS :

Residential zone, Commercial zone, Industrial zone, Low, Moderate, High, House dust mites

## INTRODUCTION

It has been said about house dust mites that “if you knew how harmful common dust could be, you would be walking around masked all day”. United States Environmental Protection Agency defines house dust as a complex mixture of biologically derived particulate material (animal dander, fungal spores etc.), deposited from the indoor aerosols and soil particles brought in by foot traffic. Dust particle size is of particular importance as it influences the accumulation and resuspension of dust in the indoor environment (Morawska and Salthammer, 2003). The accumulation of dust is readily influenced by airflow patterns and activities taking place in the area (Thatcher and Largton, 1995).

Dust accumulation is a natural phenomenon that is created by routine sweeping of room or making of bed. It has serious consequences for the human being and environment. Accumulation process is often accompanied by heterogeneous assemblage of a variety of products of plant and animal origin, an appreciable

portion of which is constituted by the house dust mites (Lakhmi and Haq, 1999). These are indeed normal co-inhabitants of man's nest. A dirty house can make a house dust allergy problem worse. However, normal housekeeping procedures may not be enough to get rid of house dust allergy symptoms. This is because many of the substances in dust cannot be removed by normal cleaning procedures. For example, no matter how vigorously one can dust or vacuum, one will not reduce the number of dust mites present deep within carpeting, pillows and mattresses. Vigorous cleaning methods can put more dust into the air, making symptoms worse.

Unlike some other kind of mites, house dust mites are not parasites living on plants, animals and humans. House dust mites primarily live on dead skin cells, commonly called dander, which are shed regularly by humans and their animal pets (Barbogg, 2003). A number of species of house dust mites have been found throughout the world. *Dermatophagoides farinae* and *Dermatophagoides pteronyrsinus* are the two most common species that are found in house dust samples of