Bryobia pasture mite or clover mite (*Bryobia* sp)

**Description:** Adults are about 0.75 mm in length, have an oval shaped and flattened body. They have a brown to fawn-orange coloured body and 8 pale orange legs. The front legs are 1.5 times the length of their body. They are most active in warm conditions in autumn, spring and early summer. These mites are generally found in low numbers over the winter period.

**Damage:** They attack seedlings of early sown canola crops, often before redlegged earth mite appear. Sucking causes white lines in the upper side of cotyledons and leaves and in severe cases leaves will discolour, shrivel and die.

**Monitoring:** These mites have become more widespread and damaging since mid 1990s with the increased use of minimum tillage and earlier sowing. They are favoured by warm autumn conditions and cannot tolerate cold, wet conditions.

Look for damage and mites after summer/early autumn rains on clovers and brassica weeds and control before sowing canola.

Examine canola for damage and mites at emergence.

**Management:** Control infested weeds at least one month before sowing, using a combination of herbicide and miticide. Sow miticide treated seed, or apply a miticide during crop growth.

Rates of insecticide commonly used to control RLEM (red-legged earth mite) and lucerne flea are not effective against bryobia mites.

**Image:** Vic DPI

*The darker insect is a redlegged earth mite, grey Bryobia mite.*