

# The Microscopic Big Five (Intermediate)

## Observing a mite



Connect with nature  
Promote microscopy  
Inspire STEM

### You have found a mite!

Use this guide to help you observe it. Mites are dark in colour, under bright light they will appear brown or red.

#### The key things to look for at x40

- Which way up is the mite? Can you see it's top, it's underneath or it's side view?
- Use the diagrams (right) to identify key features of your mite.

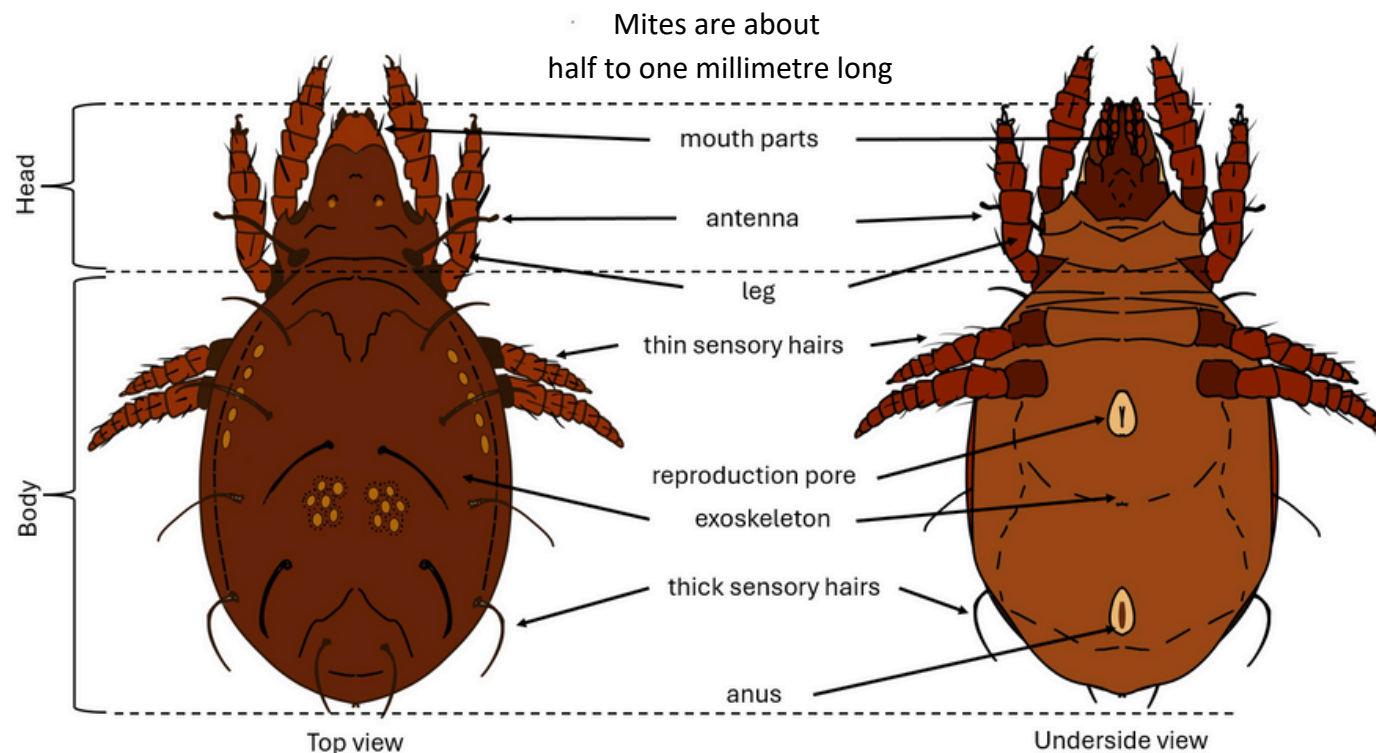
#### The key things to look for at x100

- If you can see the underside, look for two holes in the exoskeleton: the reproduction pore and the anus.
- Look carefully at the texture of the exoskeleton. Is it rough or smooth?

**Draw your mite and label the features you can see.**

**Use a scale bar to show its length.**

**Find out how the mite uses its adaptations to survive.**



### What is it doing?

Is your mite moving?

It uses its legs and the hooks on the end to crawl through the moss.

Mites do not like bright light, so it may be trying to move away from the light.

Is your mite still?

It might be dead. However, sometimes mites 'play dead'. They can even smell dead to put off predators.