

Red Velvet mite (Giant Red Velvet mite)



Red Velvet mite – Hogs hunt - December 2016 after heavy rains

It look just like an odd red spider and it even has 8 legs. Yet this is no spider, this is the giant Red Velvet mite. The Red Velvet mite is an arachnid (as is spiders).

These mites are found in many habitats like woodlands, sandy desert areas and forest soil. They stay under the soil and only comes out after rain. They spend only a few hours per year above soil during which time they look for food and mate.

The mites host can be parasitized by one to many larvae – up to 175 was reported.

They use their front legs as feelers.

These mites do not survive in captivity.

The red colour of the mites serves as a warning to predators that they are poisoned and taste bad therefore they have very few enemies.

They are found in most parts of the world.

