A leaf-brushing machine and microscope are generally used to count mites. The leaf-brushing machine is a device with rollers covered with soft bristles that brush mites from the leaf onto a revolving glass plate coated with a slightly sticky substance. A microscope is used to distinguish individual species and stages. A paper grid like the one above is placed beneath the glass plate to help keep track during the count. This grid can be photocopied and used for this purpose.