

# Heptathrips kuscheli

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes wingless. Female golden brown, tarsi pale; tibiae and apices of femora with pale markings; head pale between eyes; antennal segments I-II yellow, III-IV with dark patches in basal third, V-VII with pedicel yellow, and VIII brown. Head longer than tube, strongly sculptured, sculpture resembles overlapping scales; anterior ocellus apparently lying in a small depression, posterior ocelli small; compound eyes small; postocular setae short. Antennae 7-segmented; segments III and IV each with 2 sense cones, IV-VI each with a distinct pedicel. Pronotum weakly sculptured; major setae short, epimerals longest; prosternal basantra absent; mesopresternum transverse, entire. Mesonotum slender, transverse, without wing lobes; metanotum broad, finely reticulate, with pair of small median setae, no setae on anterior margins. Fore tarsus with a small tooth. Pelta with lateral lobes very reduced or even fused to tergite II, median lobe reticulate, almost rectangular; tergite II reticulate, not eroded laterally; tergites II-VII distinctly sculptured, each with 1 pair of reduced wing-retaining setae; tergite IX posteromarginal setae about half as long as tube; tube short, weakly sculptured, parallel-sided, with a slight constriction at apex, terminal setae short.

Male similar to female but head pale, with brown on lateral margins; antennal segments III-VII brown; mid and hind tibiae entirely brown; pronotum more elongate; fore femora swollen; fore tarsal tooth large.

## Related species

Eight species are listed in this genus, of which five are from New Zealand, two from South Africa and one from Saudi Arabia. *H. kuscheli* is a small but distinctive species with a sculptured surface, but it has many characters in common with the other members of *Heptathrips*.

## Biological data

Feeding on fungal spores, on dead branches and in leaf-litter.

## Distribution data

Known only from New Zealand (AK, TO / SD).

## Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, IDOLOTHRIPINAE

## Species name

*Heptathrips kuscheli* Mound & Walker

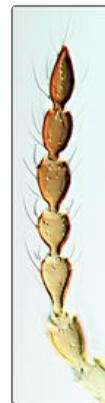
## Original name and synonyms

*Heptathrips kuscheli* Mound & Walker, 1986: 26

## References

Mound LA & Palmer JM (1983) The generic and tribal classification of spore-feeding Thysanoptera (Phlaeothripidae: Idolothripinae). *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)*. Entomology **46**: 1-174.

Mound LA & Walker AK (1986) Tubulifera (Insecta: Thysanoptera). *Fauna of New Zealand* **10**: 1-140.



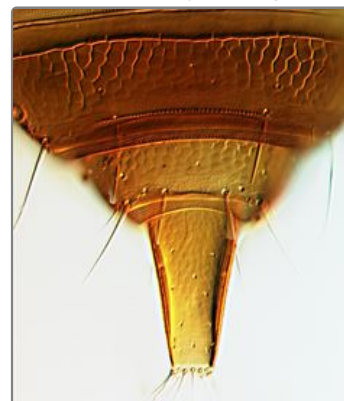
Antenna



Head & pronotum



Meso & metanotum, pelta & tergites II-III



Tergites VIII-X