

# Priesneriella gnomus

## Distinguishing features

Female fully apterous. Body brown, paler on inner margins of fore femora and apex of antennal segment II; tube yellow in basal two-thirds. Head scarcely longer than wide; ocelli absent; compound eyes with only about 5 ommatidia ventrally; postocular setae long, fine; ocellar setae small; maxillary stylets wide apart, retracted to level of postocular setae; maxillary palp with a long sense cone at apex. Antennae 7-segmented with VI closely joined to VII; III with or without 1 sense cone, IV with 2 sense cones. Pronotum transverse; anteromarginal setae reduced; epimeral sutures incomplete; basantra and ferna present; mesopresternum and anterior margin of meso-eusternum strongly eroded. Mesonotum and metanotum transverse; metathoracic sternopleural sutures broad. Wing lobe absent. Pelta represented by a thin line close to tergite II; sternites II–IV without discal setae; tergites without sculpture; major setae long, slender; tergite IX posteromarginal setae longer than tube; tube shorter than head, scarcely constricted at apex.

## Related species

The genus *Priesneriella* comprises 9 species, of which 4 are from southern Europe and the Mediterranean area, 3 from the southern U.S.A., and 1 from Tenerife. *P. gnomus* is known from a single female collected in New Zealand, but this may have been introduced from elsewhere, because *P. citricauda* Hood has been taken both in California and in Western Australia. *Priesneriella* species are distinguished by the close union or even fusion of antennal segment VI to the fused segments VII and VIII. Contrary to the published descriptions (Mound & Palmer, 1983; Mound & Walker, 1986), the holotype of *gnomus* has both basantra and ferna on the prosternum.

## Biological data

Collected from a dead branch of *Griselina littoralis* [Griselinaceae].

## Distribution data

Known only from New Zealand (MC).

## Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, IDOLOTHRIPINAE

## Species name

*Priesneriella gnomus* Mound & Palmer

## Original name and synonyms

*Priesneriella gnomus* Mound & Palmer, 1983: 33

## 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.



Head, thorax, pelta & tergite II [holotype]



Ventral view of head & prothorax [holotype]



Tergites VI-IX & tube [holotype]