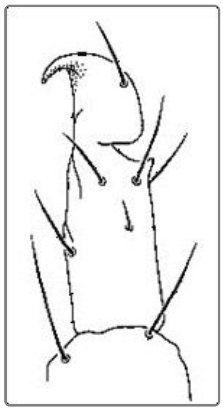
Thrips coprosmae

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Female variably bicoloured, with brown abdomen but pale head and thorax, or brownish yellow with posterior segments darker; sometimes with the body uniformly dark brown; legs pale; antennae brown, segment I and pedicel of III yellow; fore wing weakly and uniformly shaded; major setae brown. Head with cheeks rounded; vertex with a few lines of sculpture; setae relatively long. Antennae 7-segmented. Pronotum unsculptured, with 3 pairs of posteromarginal setae. Metanotum weakly reticulate. Pretarsus of foreleg with a small terminal claw. Fore wing with both setal rows complete, but setae usually separated by more than their length. Tergite VIII with a sparse, irregular comb similar to that in *obscuratus*. Pleurotergites with 2 or 3 discal setae. Sternites with 5–7 discal setae; sternite II with 3 pairs of posteromarginal setae.
Male similar to female; tergite IX similar to that of *obscuratus;* sternites V–VII each with a small (5 microns) circular pore plate.

Head & thorax



Fore tarsus

Tergites V-IX

Sternites & pleurotergites

Related species

There are 13 species of the genus *Thrips* recorded from New Zealand, of which five comprise an endemic group, out of a total of 280 species worldwide (Mound & Masumoto, 2005). All members of *Thrips* genus have paired ctenidia on the tergites, and on tergite VIII these are postero-mesad to the spiracles, and these species also lack ocellar setae pair I in front of the first ocellus. In contrast, *Frankliniella* species have ctenidia on tergite VIII antero-lateral to the spiracles, and a pair of setae is always present in front of the first ocellus. *T. coprosmae* is one of the five endemic members of this genus that share the presence of three pairs of posteromarginal setae on sternite II, and is very similar to *T. obscuratus* in chaetotaxy. However, the fore wing and metanotum are different, and the pretarsal claw on the fore legs is not found in any other member of this genus in New Zealand, although a similar structure occurs in *Thrips calcaratus* in Europe. Variation in body colour also occurs in *T. obscuratus*, and the sculpture of the mesonotum and metanotum is similar to that of *T. austellus* in being weakly raised into minute flanges.

Biological data

Associated with the young terminal leaves of *Coprosma robusta*, but also known from *C. rotundifolia* and *C. pseudocuneata*.

Distribution data

Endemic to New Zealand where it has been collected widely (AK, CL, BP, TO, WN / NN, SD, MB, BR, OL, CO, FD).

Family name

THRIPIDAE, THRIPINAE

Species name

Thrips coprosmae Mound

Original name and synonyms

Thrips coprosmae Mound, 1978: 618.

References

Mound LA (1978) Five new species of Thripidae (Thysanoptera) endemic to New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of*

Zoology **5**: 615–622.
Mound LA & Masumoto M (2005) The genus *Thrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) in Australia, New Caledonia and New Zealand. *Zootaxa* **1020**: 1–64.
Martin NA & Mound LA (2004) Host plants for some New Zealand thrips (Thysanoptera: Terebrantia). *New Zealand Entomologist* **27**: 119–123
Mound LA & Walker AK (1982) Terebrantia (Insecta: Thysanoptera). *Fauna of New Zealand* **1**: 1–113.