

Aeolothrips intermedius

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Female with fore wings bearing two transverse dark bands, apical ring vein not darker than the membrane it surrounds. Body, legs and antennae brown, but antennal segment III paler than II. Antennae 9-segmented, segment III with linear sensorium no more than half as long as segment, IV with sensorium a little more than half as long as segment; segments V–IX forming a single unit with V considerably longer than VI–IX. Head and pronotum with no long setae. Fore tarsus apically with stout recurved ventral hamus. Metanotum reticulate. Marginal setae on sternites arising at or close to margin; distance between median marginal pair on VII more than 2.0 times their length; paired accessory setae on VII arising further from the margin than their length.

Male fore wings similar to those of female; tergites IV–V each with pair of tubercles, IX with paired bifurcate claspers, but without paired sickle-shaped setae; mid-coxae inner posterior margin ventrally with series of ridges and prominent tubercle.

Related species

About 115 species are placed in the genus *Aeolothrips*, mostly from the Palaearctic Region but with about 30 from the Nearctic including western USA, and a very few from India and Africa. *A. intermedius* is a member of the Eurasian species-complex that includes *A. ericae* and *A. fasciatus* Linnaeus. The females are particularly similar to those of *ericae* except in colour, but the males lack stout anterolateral setae on the ninth abdominal tergite. Sometimes, *A. intermedius* has been misidentified as *fasciatus*, a Central European species of which there seems to be no valid record from Britain. Females of *fasciatus* have antennal segment III with a very narrow brown apical band, and males of *fasciatus* have a pair of long posteroangular setae on tergite IX that extend beyond the apex of the claspers.

Biological data

Associated with the flowers of various plants in the families Asteraceae, Cruciferae, and Fabaceae, often in yellow flowers. This species is a facultative predator, feeding on a mixed diet of pollen and the larvae of other thrips in the flowers where it breeds (Bournier *et al.*, 1979).

Distribution data

Particularly common in southern Britain, but also recorded as far north as Aberdeen (Mound *et al.*, 1976). The species is widespread across Europe (zur Strassen, 2003) to the Asian Palaearctic and also south to Iran (Alavi & Minaei, 2018), but it is often confused with *Aeolothrips fasciatus* (Alavi *et al.*, 2024). In the past, the name *fasciatus* has been wrongly applied to specimens of *intermedius* from Britain (Collins, 2010a).

Family name



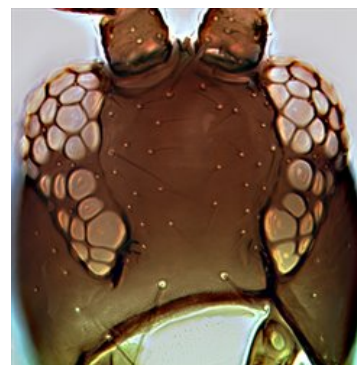
Female



Male



Head & pronotum



Head ventral view

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

Species name

Aeolothrips intermedius Bagnall

Original name and synonyms

Aeolothrips fasciata var. *adusta* Uzel, 1895: 73

Aeolothrips fasciata var. *aptera* Karny, 1910: 44

Aeolothrips intermedius Bagnall, 1934: 123

Aeolothrips pontica Derbeneva, 1966: 136

References

Alavi J, Kasatkin D & Farashiani ME (2024) Two new species of the genus *Aeolothrips* (Thysanoptera: Aeolothripidae) from Iran. *Zootaxa* **5489** (1): 129–143.

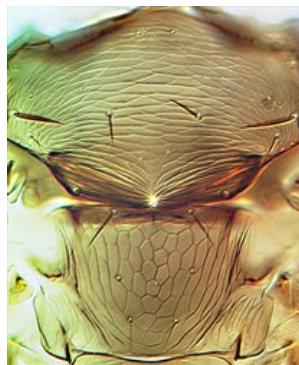
Alavi J & Minaei K. (2018) Studies on the genus *Aeolothrips* (Thysanoptera: Aeolothripidae) in Iran, with a key to species. *Zootaxa* **4446** (3): 343–360.

Bournier A, Lacasa A. & Pivot Y (1979) Régime alimentaire d'un thrips prédateur, *Aeolothrips intermedius* (Thys.: Aeolothripidae). *Entomophaga* **24**: 353–361.

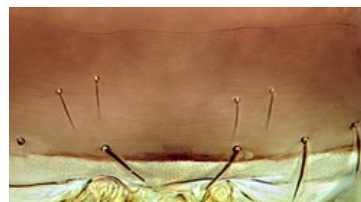
Collins DW (2010a) Thysanoptera of Great Britain: a revised and updated checklist. *Zootaxa* **2412**: 21–41.

Mound LA, Morison GD, Pitkin BR & Palmer JM (1976) Thysanoptera. *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects* **1** (11): 1–79.

zur Strassen R (2003) Die terebranten Thysanopteren Europas und des Mittelmeer-Gebietes. *Die Tierwelt Deutschlands* **74**: 1–271.



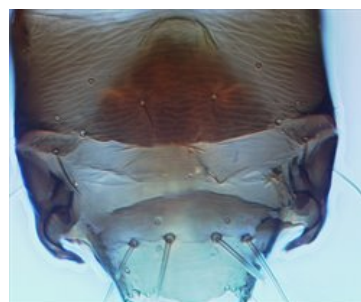
Meso & metanota



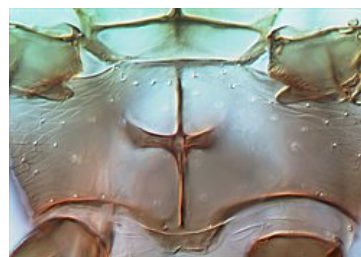
Female sternite VII



Male abdominal tergites



Male tergite IX



Male mid-coxae & metasternum