

# Aptinothrips rufus

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes without wings. Body and legs yellow, although individuals developing on halophytic plants are commonly darker; antennal segment VI shaded brown. Antennae 6-segmented rarely 7 or 8 segmented); segment VI pedicilate, twice as long as V and tapering to apex; segments III–IV each with a simple sense cone. Head and pronotum without long setae; head longer than wide, ocelli not developed; maxillary palps 3-segmented. Meso- and metanota transverse. Tarsi each with only one segment. Abdominal tergites and sternites with no posteromarginal craspedum; tergal discal setae varying from 2–20; tergite IX posteromedian setae short, about 0.2 times as long as lateral pair of setae; sternites with many discal setae. Male similar but smaller; sternites without pore plates; tergite IX with 2 pairs of stout thorn-like setae.

## Related species

Four species are recognized in this European genus (Palmer, 1975; zur Strassen, 2003). These are all completely wingless, but differ in the number of segments on the antennae and tarsi, and also in details of the chaetotaxy on the tergites and sternites. *A. rufus* is similar to *A. elegans* in having 6-segmented antennae, but antennal segment II is more slender and narrowed to the base. Palme (1975) illustrated aberrant individuals of *A. rufus* with 7 or 8 segmented antennae.

## Biological data

Feeding and breeding on the leaves of various species of Poaceae.

## Distribution data

In Britain, it is both widespread and common having been recorded from Kent to the Shetland Islands, including the Outer Hebrides (Mound *et al.*, 1976). It is also found in Northern Ireland as well as the Republic of Ireland (O'Connor, 2008). This species is found throughout the temperate regions of the world.

## Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

## Species name

*Aptinothrips rufus* (Haliday)

## Original name and synonyms

*Thrips* (*Aptinothrips*) *rufus* Haliday, 1836: 445

*Thrips* (*Aptinothrips*) *nitidulus* Haliday, 1836: 446

*Aptinothrips rufa* var. *connaticornis* Uzel, 1895: 153

*Uzelliella lubbocki* Bagnall, 1908: 5

*Aptinothrips intermedius* Priesner, 1920: 52

*Aptinothrips groenlandica* Richter, 1928: 850

## References



Female



Antenna



Antenna



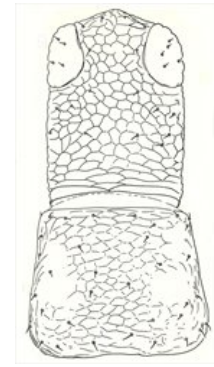
Head & thorax

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

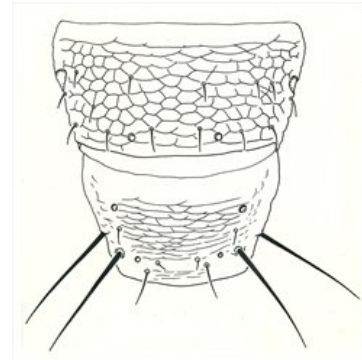
O'Connor JP (2008) A review of the Irish thrips (Thysanoptera). *Irish Naturalists' Journal* 29: 20–24.

Palmer JM (1975) The grass-living genus *Aptinothrips* Haliday (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). *Journal of Entomology* (B) 44 (2): 175–188.

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



Head & pronotum



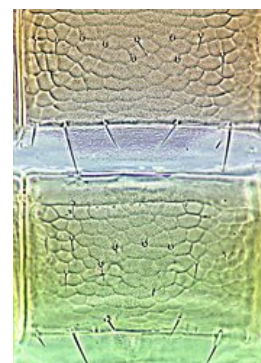
Tergites VIII-IX



One-segmented tarsus



Tergites VII-VIII



Female sternites VII-VIII



Male tergites VII-X