

Bacillothrips nobilis

Distinguishing features

Female fully winged, but both sexes also micropterous. Body, legs and antennae brown to dark brown, tarsi paler; antennal segments III–V bicoloured, yellow with apices brown; fore wings pale; major setae pale to light brown. Antennae 8-segmented, segment III with 2 slender sense cones, IV with 4 similar sense cones; VIII with narrow pedicel. Head elongate, cheeks sinuate, narrowed behind eyes; cheeks with one pair of short stout setae behind eyes; one pair of long setae on anterior margins of ocellar triangle, 3 pairs of shorter setae on vertex (postocellar, postocular and midvertex); maxillary stylets about one fifth of head width apart, not retracted as far as postocular setae. Pronotum weakly reticulate, with no epimeral sutures; epimeral setae long with apices broadly blunt, remaining major setae shorter; prosternal basantra present, mesopresternum transverse. Fore tarsus with no tooth. Fore wing parallel sided. First abdominal segment, pelta, transverse but with lateral wings separated from median lobe as a pair of triangular sclerites; tube long with setae along lateral margins. Male with no fore tarsal tooth; abdominal tergite VI laterally with paired drepanae extending beyond segment VII; segment VIII laterally with pair of prominent tubercles; tube constricted in basal third, lateral margins with setae.

Related species

The genus *Bacillothrips* comprises three species, all from Europe. It is distinguished from *Megalothrips* by the form of the pelta (first abdominal tergite), and the less deeply retracted and slightly more widely spaced maxillary stylets. However, the distinction between these two genera and the genus *Megathrips* remains less than satisfactory. Together with the tropical species-rich genus *Bactrothrips* it seems likely that they form a single clade, within which recognition of smaller genera lacks phylogenetic significance (Mound & Palmer, 1983). *B. nobilis* is the largest species of thrips found in Britain with a total body length of 4.0–7.0 mm.

Biological data

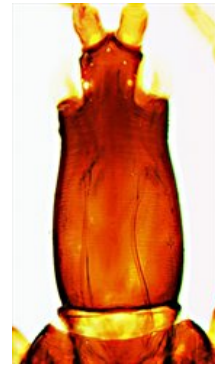
Feeding on the spores of unidentified fungi, and breeding on dead branches of *Salix* [Salicaceae], although also taken in leaf litter.

Distribution data

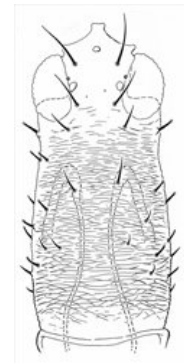
Recorded four times in Britain, including the type population at Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire (Bagnall, 1909b); also, a population taken at Garve, Highland, in Scotland, in 1949 (Mound *et al.*, 1976), a single female from Berkshire in 1998 (Verdcourt, 1999), and a single male from Wood Walton Fen, Cambridgeshire in 2012. Recorded sporadically across Europe, as far north as Norway (Kobro, 2011) and as far south as Spain.

Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE - IDOLOTHRIPINAE



Head



Head



Male tergites VI-VIII



Male tergites VI-X

Species name

Bacillothrips nobilis (Bagnall)

Original name and synonyms

Megathrips nobilis Bagnall, 1909: 130



Pelta

References

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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.

Verdcourt B (1999) *Megathrips nobilis* Bagnall (Thysanoptera, Phlaeothripidae) in East Berkshire. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* **135**: 87.