

# Chirothrips aculeatus

## Distinguishing features

Female fully winged. Body, antennae and legs brown, tarsi paler, fore wings light brown. Antennae 8-segmented; segment II asymmetric but without a terminal sensorium; segment III with simple sense cone, IV with forked sense cone. Head small, prolonged in front of eyes with long preocellar area; only 2 pairs of ocellar setae, pair III anterolateral to fore ocellus; maxillary palps 3-segmented. Pronotum trapezoidal, with 2 pairs of prominent posteroangular setae. Metanotum weakly reticulate, median setae small and not arising at anterior margin; meso and metafurca with well-developed lateral flanges. Fore wing pointed; first vein distal half with 2 or 3 setae, second vein with 5 or 6 setae. Abdominal tergites medially with transverse sculpture lines, posterior margin with craspedum of small rounded or pointed lobes; ovipositor moderately developed, with rows of teeth. Posterior margin of sternites with row of small tubercles.

Male micropterous, with minute wing lobe; head with no ocelli; antennal segment IV sense cone simple; sternites III–IV (sometimes also V–VII) with small circular pore plate.

## Related species

Currently there are 42 species worldwide placed in the genus *Chirothrips*. In contrast, zur Strassen (1960) treated the genus in a broad sense, with a key to 50 species, whereas Bhatti (1990b) placed several of the species into six new genera. The generic classification was further reviewed by Nakahara & Footitt (2012). From Europe, zur Strassen (2003) recognised 14 species of *Chirothrips*, of which five have been taken in Britain. *C. aculeatus* differs from the other British species of *Chirothrips* in having the posterior margin of the abdominal tergites with a craspedum that consists of well-defined, clearly detached, round or pointed lobes.

## Biological data

Each larva feeds and pupates within a single flower of its host plant (Minaei & Mound, 2010), and these include Poaceae in several genera, such as *Avena* and *Bromus*.

## Distribution data

Recorded once in Britain, when twenty males were swept from grass at Cirencester, Gloucestershire, in 1931 (Mound *et al.*, 1976), but widespread in the western Palaearctic south east to Iran.

## Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

## Species name

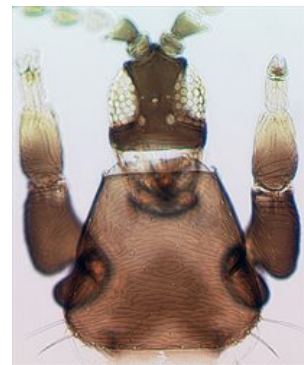
*Chirothrips aculeatus* Bagnall

## Original name and synonyms

*Pezothrips* (?) *pedestris* Karny, 1910: 55



Female



Head, pronotum & fore legs



Head & antennae



Antenna

*Chirothrips aculeatus* Bagnall, 1927: 567  
*Chirothrips angusticornis* Bagnall, 1932: 186  
*Chirothrips moultoni* Post, 1961: 137  
*Chirothrips adusta* Wetzel, 1963: 635

**References**

Bhatti JS (1990b) On some genera related to *Chirothrips* (Insecta: Terebrantia: Thripidae). *Zoology (Journal of Pure and Applied Zoology)* **2** (4) 193–200.

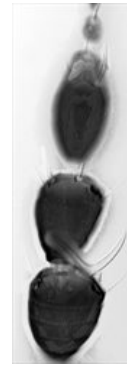
Minaei K & Mound LA (2010) Grass-flower thrips of the genus *Chirothrips* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), with a key to species from Iran. *Zootaxa* **2411**: 33–43.

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

Nakahara S & Footitt RG (2012) Review of *Chirothrips* and related genera (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) of the Americas, with descriptions of one new genus and four new species. *Zootaxa* **3251**: 1–29.

zur Strassen R (1960) Key to and catalogue of the known species of *Chirothrips* Haliday, 1836 (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). *Journal of the Entomological Society of South Africa* **23** (1): 144–176.

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



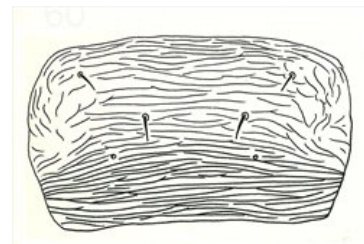
Forked sensorium on antennal segment IV



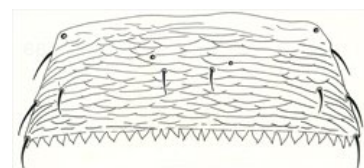
Female antennal segments I-IV



Male antennal segments I-II



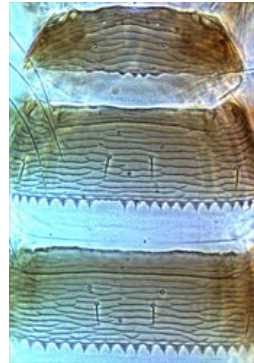
Microptera metanotum



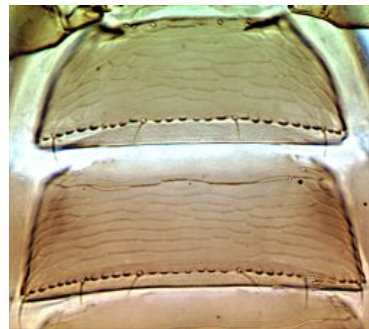
Female tergite II



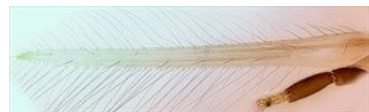
Meso & metanota



Abdominal tergites I-III



Stermites II-III



Fore wing