

Chirothrips molestus

Distinguishing features

Female fully winged. Body, antennae and legs brown, tarsi paler, fore wings light brown. Antennae 8-segmented; segment II asymmetric with prolonged external margin but apex without a seta-like sensorium; segments III–IV each with bluntly pointed simple sense cone. Head small, prolonged in front of eyes; 3 pairs of ocellar setae present, pair III anterolateral to fore ocellus (pairs I and II sometimes duplicated); maxillary palps 3-segmented. Pronotum trapezoidal, 2 pairs of prominent posteroangular setae. Metanotum reticulate, sculpture forming arches around posterior midpoint; median setae not at anterior margin, sub-equal in length to lateral pair; campaniform sensilla present. Fore wings pointed; first vein distal half with 2 setae, second vein with 4–6 setae. Abdominal tergites with transverse sculpture lines medially but no craspedum, margin variable, with slender pointed teeth or minute tubercles; ovipositor robust with prominent teeth. Posterior margin of sternites II–V with minute tubercles; setal pair S1 on VII arising well in front of margin. Male with minute wing lobe; head without ocelli; sternites III–IV (or even III–VIII) with 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, and 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. molestus* differs from *manicatus* in lacking a seta-like sensorium at the extreme apex of antennal segment II, and the tergal posteromarginal craspeda are more weakly developed.

Biological data

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

Distribution data

Recorded once in Britain, a single female swept from grass near Maidstone, Kent, in 1960 (Mound *et al.*, 1976). Widespread, although not common, across the Palaearctic south east to Iran (zur Strassen, 2003).

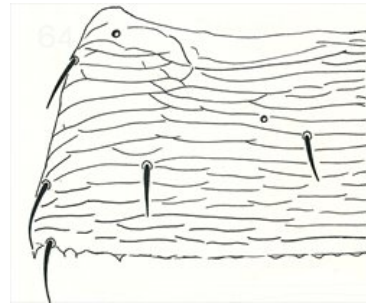
Family name

THRIPIDAE - THIRPINAE

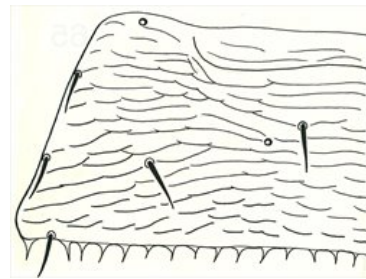
Species name

Chirothrips molestus Priesner

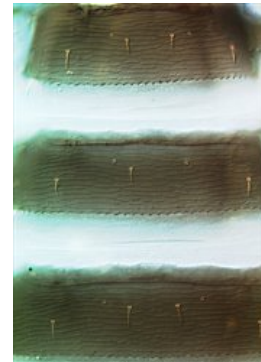
Original name and synonyms



Tergite II female from Britain



Tergite II, holotype female



Tergites II-IV



Antennal segments I-II

Chirothrips molestus Priesner, 1926: 142

References

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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.

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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.

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