

Haplothrips subtilissimus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and legs brown to dark brown, fore tarsi and apex of fore tibiae yellow, mid and hind tarsi variable from yellowish-brown to light brown; antennal segment III largely yellow, IV–V yellow at base; fore wing pale with base shaded; major setae dark.

Antennae 8-segmented, segment III with one small sense cone, IV with 4 similar sense cones; VIII short. Head longer than wide; maxillary stylets less than 0.5 of head width apart, retracted to postocular setae, maxillary bridge complete; postocular setae with blunt to weakly capitate apices, scarcely 0.7 as long as dorsal length of compound eyes. Pronotum with 5 pairs of major setae with blunt to weakly capitate apices; epimeral sutures complete; prosternal basantra present, mesopresternum complete. Fore tarsus without a tooth. Fore wing constricted medially, with 8–12 duplicated cilia; sub-basal setae S1 and S2 capitate, S3 almost pointed. Tergite IX setae all acute, about 0.5 as long as tube.

Male with no pore plate on sternite VIII; fore tarsal tooth present; tergite IX setae S2 short and stout; male aedeagus slender as in *leucanthemi*.

Related species

The genus *Haplothrips* is one of the three most species-rich genera of Thysanoptera, and currently includes about 245 species worldwide. Most of these species come from the Holarctic or the Old World tropics, with 80 listed from Europe and 14 from Britain. No *Haplothrips* species is known to be endemic to the Neotropics, although a few are native to southern South America (Mound & Zapater, 2003). *Haplothrips* species are largely phytophagous, particularly associated with the flowers of Asteraceae and Poaceae, but some are predatory (Mound & Minaei, 2007). *Haplothrips subtilissimus* is one of only three British species of *Haplothrips* with only one sense cone on antennal segment III (the others being *aculeatus* and *flavitibia*). The relationship between *subtilissimus* and the closely related European species, *kurdjumovi*, is discussed by Minaei & Mound (2008) and Collins (2010a).

Biological data

Presumably predatory on mites, on branches of *Quercus* and *Fagus* [Fagaceae]. This was the most numerous thrips species to be collected (by fogging) from the canopy of *Quercus* trees in Richmond Park, during an investigation of the arboreal arthropod fauna (Palmer, 1986). The white and red banded second-instar larvae are distinctive and often beaten from oak branches.

Distribution data

Recorded from England and Wales, north to the border with Scotland (Mound *et al.*, 1976), and found in Europe from Norway to the Mediterranean, and also across Asia to China.

Species name



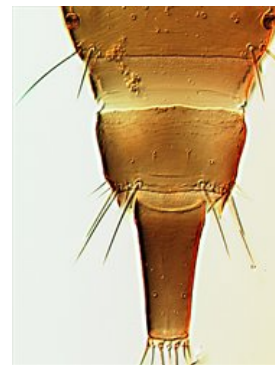
subtilissimus Head & pronotum



Antenna



subtilissimus Prosternites



subtilissimus Tergites VIII-X

Haplothrips subtilissimus (Haliday)

Original name and synonyms

Phloeothrips subtilissimus Haliday, 1852: 1100

Phloeothrips pallicornis Reuter, 1879: 216

Cryptothrips ovivorus Vasiliev, 1922: 13

Haplothrips atricornis Priesner, 1925: 152

Haplothrips inoptata Priesner, 1925: 152

References

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

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

Mound LA & Zapater MC (2003) South American *Haplothrips* species (Thysanoptera, Phlaeothripidae), with a new species of biological control interest to Australia against weedy *Heliotropium amplexicaule* (Boraginaceae). *Neotropical Entomology* **32**: 437–442.

Palmer JM (1986) Thrips in English oak trees. *Entomologist's Gazette* **37**: 245–252.