

Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body dark brown with legs yellow, but abdomen golden in freshly emerged adults; antennal segments III–V & VII–VIII yellow, VI variably brown; fore wing pale with hind margin and veinal fork shaded. Antennae 8-segmented, segments III & IV each with simple sense cone, VIII slender and at least 3 times as long as VII. Head strongly reticulate, cheeks constricted into basal neck. Pronotum reticulate at anterior and posterior, with no long setae. Metanotum with reticulate triangle projecting over metascutellum, median setae small and arise on anterior half of sclerite; metathoracic furca transverse. Tarsi 1-segmented. Fore wing with apex rounded bearing long cilia; costa with widely spaced long cilia, posteromarginal cilia not wavy; veinal setae scarcely larger than microtrichia. Abdominal tergites strongly reticulate on lateral thirds; tergite I median minute setal pair arising anterior to reticulate area; II–VIII median setae long and close together; VIII with long postero-marginal comb of microtrichia; tergite X short with complete median division. Sternites with three pairs of small marginal setae. Male very rare, except in Peru (Mound, 1976).

Related species

Five species are now recognised in *Heliothrips* all originally from South America (Silva *et al.*, 2024), but with *haemorrhoidalis* now widespread around the world, and *H. angustior* found in Asia as well as the Neotropics. A further species, from South Africa, is now placed in a separate genus, *Neoheliothrips*.

Biological data

Larvae, adults and pupae live on the lower surface of the leaves of a very wide range of trees and shrubs, including tea, *Pinus* and various ferns, but rarely on herbaceous plants or on plants with soft leaves (Scott-Brown & Simmonds, 2006). Large populations are particularly common on plants that are water-stressed.

Distribution data

The Greenhouse Thrips can potentially be found under glass almost anywhere in the British Isles, though usually in heated houses. It was first recorded outdoors in Britain in 2001 in central London, and then later in the Isles of Scilly (Robinson & Collins, 2005). There are also reports of the thrips causing damage to both garden plants and urban amenity planting in south east England, particularly to *Viburnum tinus* (e.g., Pritchard & Badmin, 2020). Originally from South America, possibly Peru (Mound, 1976b), this thrips is widespread around the world in the tropics and subtropics, but is also well known in temperate parts of the world as a minor pest particularly of decorative shrubs under glass.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - PANCHAETOTHRIPINAE



Female (mature)



Teneral female



Antenna



Head & thorax

Species name

Heliethrips haemorrhoidalis (Bouché)

Original name and synonyms

Thrips haemorrhoidalis Bouché, 1833: 42

Heliethrips adonidum Haliday, 1836: 443

Heliethrips haemorrhoidalis var. *abdominalis* Reuter, 1891: 165

Heliethrips haemorrhoidalis var. *ceylonicus* Schmutz, 1913: 992

Heliethrips semiraureus Girault, 1928: 1

Dinurothrips rufiventris Girault, 1929: 1

References

Mound LA (1976b) The identity of the greenhouse thrips *Heliethrips haemorrhoidalis* (Bouché) (Thysanoptera) and the taxonomic significance of spanandric males. *Bulletin of Entomological Research* **66**: 179–180.

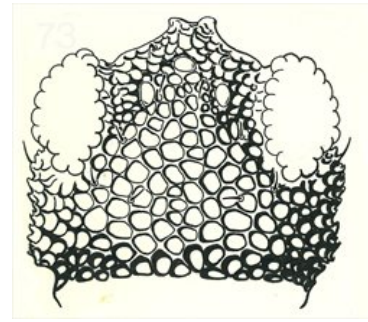
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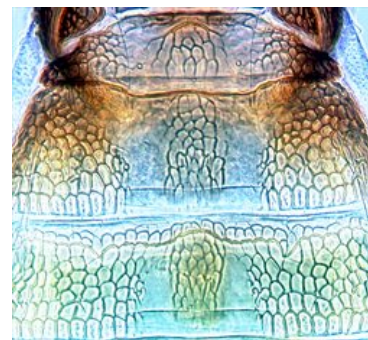
Robinson J & Collins DW (2005) Two records of *Heliethrips haemorrhoidalis* (Bouché) (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) breeding outdoors, at Kew Gardens and in the Scilly Isles. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* **141**: 67–68.

Scott-Brown AS & Simmonds MJS (2006) Leaf morphology of hosts and nonhosts of the thrips *Heliethrips haemorrhoidalis* (Bouché). *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* **152**: 109–130.

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Mesonotum & metanotum



Tergites I-III



Tergites VI-X



Thoracic furcae



Fore wing



Fore wing