

Hercinothrips bicinctus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body brown, head yellow at anterior; legs yellow, mid and hind femora brown; antennal segments III–V largely yellow; fore wing with extensive pale area medially between two darker bands. Antennae 8-segmented, VIII more than twice as long as VII; III and IV each with forked sense cone extending well beyond apex of segment. Head reticulate with transverse occipital ridge; ocellar setae III on anterior margins of triangle; three pairs of postocular setae present. Pronotum with no long setae. Metanotum reticulate medially, median setae arise medially; metathoracic furca long and U-shaped. Tarsi all 2-segmented. Fore wing with two complete rows of setae, posteromarginal cilia wavy. Abdominal tergites weakly reticulate medially, median pair of setae small; posterior margins without a craspedum, VIII with comb of microtrichia laterally; tergite X with longitudinal split almost complete.

Male sternites III–VII with very small slender transverse pore plate.

Related species

Nine species are recognized in the genus *Hercinothrips*, all of them originally from Africa. Two species, *H. bicinctus* and *H. femoralis*, are now widespread around the world. A third species, *H. dimidiatus*, was found in Portugal in 2015 causing damage to cultivated *Aloe arborescens* (Mateus *et al.*, 2015), and subsequently found under glass in the Netherlands on *A. vera*. In contrast to *H. bicinctus*, the fore wing in *H. dimidiatus* has the pale median area scarcely longer than the sub-basal dark area, and the fore wing of *H. femoralis* is more extensively dark. *Hercinothrips* species are unusual amongst Panchaethripinae in having 2-segmented tarsi, and the fore wing with both longitudinal veins bearing a complete row of setae.

Biological data

Breeding and pupating on leaves, this species attacks many different and unrelated ornamental plant species in greenhouses in temperate regions. It is sometimes known as the Banana Silvering Thrips, because of the feeding damage to banana leaves and fruits.

Distribution data

Originally from Africa, this species has been recorded only rarely in Britain, always under glass. The evidence suggests isolated introductions without conclusive establishment (Collins, 2010a), but there have been several records in recent years. There are also records from a few Western European countries (zur Strassen, 2003); this species is widespread around the world in tropical and subtropical areas.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - PANCHAETHRIPINAE

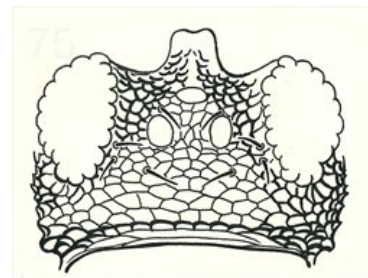
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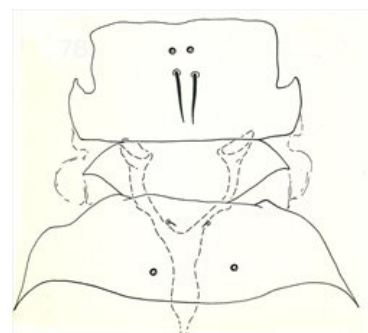
Female



Head & thorax



Head



Metathoracic furca

Hercinothrips bicinctus (Bagnall)

Original name and synonyms

Heliiothrips bicinctus Bagnall, 1919: 258

Heliiothrips bifasciipennis Girault, 1926: 1

References

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

Mateus C, Franco JC, Caetano MF, Borges da Silva E, Ramos AP, Figueiredo E & Mound L (2015) *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* Hood (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), a new pest of *Aloe arborescens* in Europe. *Phytoparasitica* **43** (5): 689–692.

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



Antennal segments IV-V



Tergites VII-X



Fore wing



Hind tibia & tarsus