

Hercinothrips femoralis

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body brown, head with pair of yellow longitudinal areas; legs yellow, mid and hind femora brown; III–V largely yellow; fore wing brown but pale at apex and sub-basally, and with submedian area variably lighter. Antennae 8-segmented, VIII more than twice as long as VII; III and IV with short forked sense cone that extends scarcely beyond segment apex. 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 with sternal marginal setae minute. Sternites III–VII with 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, and a third species *H. dimidiatus* was found in Portugal in 2015 causing damage to cultivated *Aloe arborescens* (Mateus *et al.*, 2015), and subsequently under glass in the Netherlands on *A. vera*. *H. femoralis* is very similar to *H. bicinctus*, but has the fore wings more extensively dark medially. *Hercinothrips* species are unusual amongst Panchaetothripinae 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 referred to as the Sugar Beet Thrips or the Banded Greenhouse Thrips.

Distribution data

Originally from Africa, *H. femoralis* is occasionally found under glass in Britain (Mound *et al.*, 1976) and in Europe (zur Strassen, 2003), but it is widespread around the world in tropical and subtropical areas.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - PANCHAETOTHRIPINAE

Species name

Hercinothrips femoralis (Reuter)

Original name and synonyms



Female



Head & thorax



Head



Antenna

Heliethrips femoralis Reuter, 1891: 166

Heliethrips cestri Pergande, 1895: 390

Heliethrips apicalis Bondar, 1931: 86

References

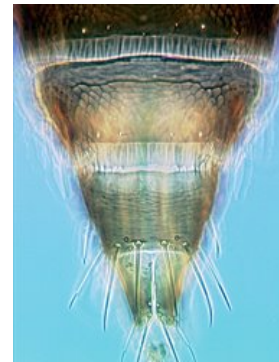
Mateus C, Franco JC, Caetano MF, Borges de Silva E, Ramos AP, Figueiredo E & Mound L (2015) *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* Hood (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), a new pest of *Aloe arborescens* in Europe. *Phytoparasitica* **43** (5): 689–692.

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

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



Mesonotum & metanotum



Thoracic furcae



Fore wing