

Hoplandrothrips ellisi

Distinguishing features

The table below lists the character states used by zur Strassen (1982) to distinguish *ellisi* from *bidens*, but among specimens from Britain no correlation has been found between his fourth character, the relative lengths of setae S1 and S2 on tergite IX of females, and the other characters, and this character may be disregarded. Furthermore, although zur Strassen's concept of a longer tube in female *bidens* and a shorter tube in *ellisi* largely holds, the range of measurements from British specimens is from 160 to 248 microns with the divide occurring somewhere between 212 and 234 microns.

<i>ellisi</i>	<i>bidens</i>
Base of mid and hind tibiae never so clearly yellow as in <i>bidens</i>	Base of mid and hind tibiae clearly yellow
Female tube 2.1-2.4 times as long as wide	Female tube 2.5-2.8 times as long as wide
Female tube rarely longer than 130 microns	Female tube usually longer than 160 microns
Female tergite IX setae S1 usually as long as S2	Female tergite IX setae S1 usually slightly shorter than S2
Female tergite IX S1 setae 0.69-0.84 times as long as tube	Female tergite IX setae S1 only 0.50-0.61 times as long as tube
Male sub-basal wing setae S3 capitate	Male sub-basal wing seta S3 pointed

Related species

There are 117 species listed in *Hoplandrothrips* from around the world, with nine from Europe of which two are recorded in Britain. *Hoplandrothrips bidens* and *ellisi* have been repeatedly synonymised and revalidated as species (Morison, 1947-1949; Mound, 1968); their true relationship remains uncertain. They were most recently separated by zur Strassen (1982), but the character states that he used do not satisfactorily identify many individuals. Furthermore, there is considerable variation in body size within and between populations, and the associated allometric patterns of growth. Nevertheless, despite this polymorphism, there is a pattern of two dominant sets of character states equating to zur Strassen's species division.

Biological data

Breeding on dead branches, and presumably feeding on fungal hyphae.

Distribution data

Populations and individuals that equate to zur Strassen's concept of *H. ellisi* have been recorded from Hampshire, Surrey, south and west London, Bedfordshire, Worcestershire, Isle of Man, and north-east Scotland, and this species is otherwise recorded widely in Europe.

Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE - PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

Species name

Hoplandrothrips ellisi Bagnall

Original name and synonyms

Hoplandrothrips ellisi Bagnall, 1914: 35

References

Morison GD (1947–1949) Thysanoptera of the London area. *London Naturalist, Supplement* **26**: 1–36; **27**: 37–75; **28**: 76–131.

Mound LA (1968) A review of R. S. Bagnall's Thysanoptera collections. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Entomology Supplement* **11**: 1–181.

zur Strassen R (1982a) Holz- und rindenbewohnende Fransenflügler (Thysanoptera) an zersägtem Pappelholz im Rheinland. *Entomologische Zeitschrift* **92**: 113–123.