

Leucothrips nigripennis

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and legs white, fore wings uniformly dark or black, antennal segment II dark, III–VII brown. Antennae 7-segmented, VII slender and longer than VI; sense cone forked on III–IV, segment VI with long simple sense cone arising close to base on inner margin. Head lacking sculpture. Pronotum transversely striate, with 2 pairs of prominent postero-angular setae. Metanotum with linear sculpture lines converging medially, median pair of setae small and arising medially; metathoracic furca extending into mesothorax. Tarsi all 1-segmented. Fore wing slender, pointed; first vein with 2 widely spaced setae on distal half, second vein without setae, postero-marginal cilia straight. Abdominal tergites II–VIII median setae long and close together; lateral thirds of tergites with transverse lines of sculpture bearing widely spaced, small microtrichia; VIII with postero-marginal comb of microtrichia. Sternites III–VII with 3 pairs of long postero-marginal setae.

Male with sense cone simple on antennal segments III–IV; sternites without pore plates.

Related species

Five species are recognized in the genus *Leucothrips*, all particularly pale in their body colour. One of these, *nigripennis*, is widely distributed around the world (Mound, 1999), one is known only from North America, but of the three species from the Neotropics two have been distributed across the Pacific to Hawaii and Japan (Masumoto & Okajima, 2017b). As with other species of the Dendrothripinae, the metathoracic furca is enlarged and lyre-shaped, extending to the mesothorax.

Biological data

Feeding, breeding and pupating on the fronds of various species of ferns.

Distribution data

The only record of this species in Britain is from 1909 when it was found on fern under glass in Newcastle (Bagnall, 1909a; Collins, 2010a). The species was probably originally from South America, but it has been introduced widely around the world, and recorded in temperate greenhouses from a number of European countries as well as from the USA (zur Strassen, 2003).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - DENDROTHRIPINAE

Species name

Leucothrips nigripennis Reuter

Original name and synonyms

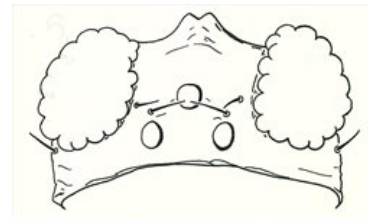
Leucothrips nigripennis Reuter, 1905: 108



Female



Head & pronotum



Head



Antenna



Antenna

Microthrips leucus Herrick, 1927: 278

Sporangiothrips acuminatus Daniel, 1985: 195

References

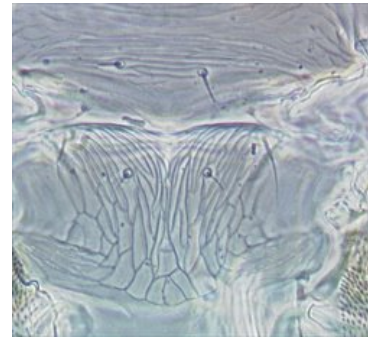
Bagnall RS (1909a) A contribution to our knowledge of the British Thysanoptera (Terebrantia), with notes on injurious species. *The Journal of Economic Biology* **4**: 33–41.

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

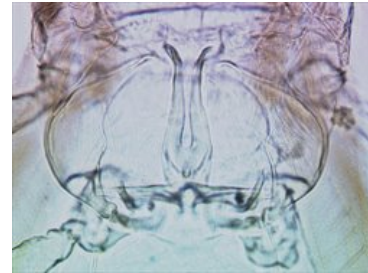
Masumoto M & Okajima S (2017b) Studies on Dendrothripinae (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) from Japan, with new records and one new species. *Zootaxa* **4362** (3): 405–420.

Mound LA (1999) Saltatorial leaf-feeding Thysanoptera (Thripidae: Dendrothripinae) from Australia and New Caledonia, with newly recorded pests of ferns, figs and mulberries. *Australian Journal of Entomology* **38**: 257–273.

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Meso & metanota



Metathoracic furca



Hind tibia & tarsus



Fore wing



Tergites IV–VIII