

# Megalothrips bonannii

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body, legs and antennae brown to dark brown; antennal segments III–V bicoloured, yellow with apices brown; fore wings pale; major setae pale but setae on tergite IX and anal setae all brown. Antennae 8-segmented, segment III with 2 slender sense cones, IV with 4 similar sense cones; VIII with narrow pedicel. Head elongate, slightly elevated in midline, cheeks weakly convex, with one pair of short stout setae behind eyes; one pair of long setae on anterior margins of ocellar triangle, 3 pairs of shorter setae on vertex (postocellar, postocular and midvertex); maxillary stylets close together medially in head, retracted to compound eyes. Pronotum with no epimeral sutures; epimeral setae as long as antennal segment III with apices bluntly pointed, remaining major setae shorter; prosternal basantra present, mesopresternum transverse. Fore tarsus with no tooth. Fore wing broad, parallel sided, with about 30 duplicated cilia. First abdominal segment, pelta, with slender lateral wings; tube long with prominent setae along lateral margins.

Male with no fore tarsal tooth; abdominal tergite VI laterally with pair of drepanae extending beyond segment VII; tube similar to female.

## Related species

*M. bonannii* is closely related to *M. delmasi*, the other European species in this genus (Mound & Palmer, 1983). A large thrips species for Britain, *M. bonannii* is slightly smaller than *Bacillothrips nobilis*. The genus *Megalothrips* comprises eight species; 3 from North America, 3 from eastern Asia, and 2 from Europe. It is closely related to *Megathrips* and *Bacillothrips*, but has much longer maxillary stylets than species in either of those genera. Together with the tropical species-rich genus *Bactrothrips* it seems likely that these represent a single clade, within which recognition of smaller genera has limited phylogenetic significance.

## Biological data

Feeding on the spores of unidentified fungi on *Salix* [Salicaceae] and *Pinus* [Pinaceae] in Europe, and breeding on dead branches.

## Distribution data

Mostly recorded across central Europe, but also known from Spain and Italy (Marullo & zur Strassen, 1994), this species was taken in Britain on five occasions between 1935 and 1947, all at Wood Walton Fen in Cambridgeshire (Mound *et al.*, 1976).

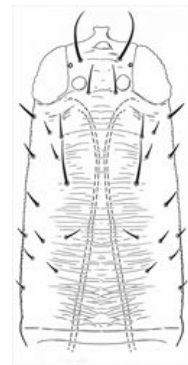
## Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE - IDOLOTHRIPINAE

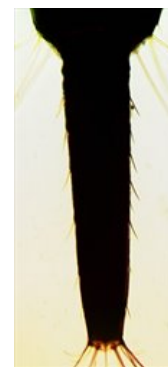
## Species name

*Megalothrips bonanni* Uzel

## Original name and synonyms



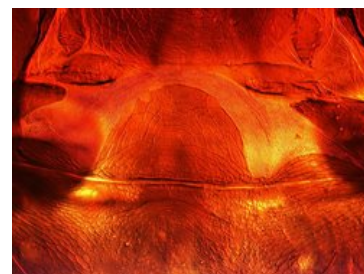
Head of *Megalothrips delmasi*



Tergite IX & tube



Antenna



Pelta



Pelta

*Megalothrips bonanni* Uzel, 1895: 227

## References

Marullo R & zur Strassen R (1994) Thysanoptera. In: *Checklist delle specie della fauna italiana* **40**: 1–7. Eds: Minelli A., Ruffo S. & La Posta S. - Calderini, Bologna, Italy.

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

Mound LA & Palmer JM (1983) The generic and tribal classification of spore-feeding Thysanoptera (Phlaeothripidae: Idolothripinae). *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History). Entomology* **46**: 1–174.