

# Parthenothrips dracaenae

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and femora brown, tibiae and tarsi yellow; antennal segments I–V largely yellow; fore wing mainly pale, but with a small dark cross band in basal half and a diffuse shaded area on the distal half. Antennae 7-segmented, VII slightly shorter than VI; III–IV with short, simple sense cone. Head strongly reticulate, cheeks constricted to basal neck; 3 pairs of translucent postocular setae. Pronotum reticulate, with 1 pair of flattened postero-angular setae. Metanotum reticulate medially, median setae arise on posterior half; metathoracic furca U-shaped but not long. Tarsi 1-segmented. Fore wing broad with constriction in basal third, membrane reticulate; veinal setae translucent, broad with thickened median rhachis; costa without cilia, postero-marginal cilia wavy. Abdominal tergites without craspeda, with weak reticulation laterally, median setae small; VIII with no marginal comb of microtrichia; tergite X with complete median division.

Male similar to female; sternites IV–VII with circular pore plate, larger on posterior sternites.

## Related species

This is the only species in the genus *Parthenothrips*, and the only other species with expanded fore wings within the sub-family Panchaethripinae are the Neotropical "peanut winged thrips" in the genus *Arachisothrips*.

## Biological data

Feeding, breeding, and pupating on the leaves of a wide range of plants, most of which have hard leaves, and known as the Parlour Palm Thrips. This species is frequently associated with the leaves of the cultivated kentia palm or parlour palm (*Howea forsteriana*) [Palmae], but is also commonly found on ferns such as *Adiantum* spp. [Pteridaceae].

## Distribution data

Occasionally found in Britain under glass or on indoor landscape planting (Mound *et al.*, 1976), and similarly elsewhere in Europe (zur Strassen, 2003). The Parlour Palm Thrips is widespread around the world in tropical and subtropical countries, but its country of origin remains a subject for speculation.

## Family name

THRIPIDAE - PANCHAETHRIPINAE

## Species name

*Parthenothrips dracaenae* (Heeger)

## Original name and synonyms

*Heliothrips dracaenae* Heeger, 1854: 365

*Parthenothrips concolor* Uzel, 1895: 172



Female



Antenna



Head & thorax



Head

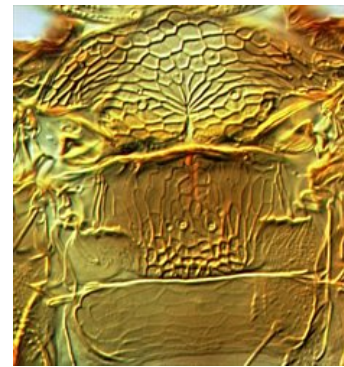
## References

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

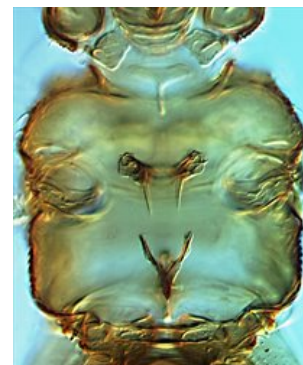
zur Strassen R (2003) Die terebranten Thysanopteren Europas und des Mittelmeer-Gebietes. *Die Tierwelt Deutschlands* 74: 1–271.



Head



Meso & metanota



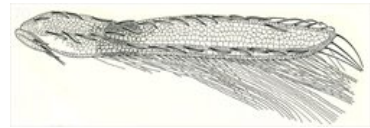
Meso & metathoracic furcae



Tergites VII-VIII



Fore wing



Fore wing



Fore wing costal seta