

# Poecilothrips albopictus

## Distinguishing features

Females fully winged. Body brown, pronotum chalky white laterally; tarsi yellow, also base and apex of mid and hind tibiae; antennal segments III–V yellow at base; fore wing shaded medially. Antennae 8-segmented; sense cones on segments III–IV stout, two on III, four on IV; segment VIII constricted at base. Head longer than wide, wider across cheeks than across eyes; postocular setae minute; maxillary stylets retracted to eyes, close together medially; mouth cone long, extending to mesosternum. Pronotum with five pairs of capitate setae; basantra absent; mesopresternum transverse but curving away medially from eroded anterior margin of mesoeusternum. Fore tarsus with no tooth. Meso and metanotum striate, with dots between the striae. Fore wing parallel sided, with about 10 duplicated cilia. Pelta triangular; tergites II–VII with two pairs of wing retaining setae of which the anterior pair on each tergite is straight not sigmoid; tergite IX setae S1 and S2 capitate, about half as long as tube. Male not known.

## Related species

Only two other species are listed in the genus *Poecilothrips*. These are *P. nubilus* Faure from South Africa, and *P. dens* Moulton from California, but relationships among these three species remain far from clear. *P. albopictus* is unusual amongst the British species of Phlaeothripinae in having a long, slender and pointed mouth cone.

## Biological data

Breeding on dead branches and tree trunks of various angiosperm trees, including *Betula* [Betulaceae], *Castanea*, *Fagus* [both Fagaceae], *Populus* [Salicaceae] and *Tilia* [Tiliaceae], and presumably feeding on fungal hyphae or their break-down products.

## Distribution data

First recorded in England near Ascot in 1971 (Kishan, 1972), with three subsequent records from Surrey (eg., Palmer, 1986). Found from Sweden through central Europe south to the Adriatic Sea, and also recorded from North America and New Zealand (Mound & Walker, 1986).

## Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE - PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

## Species name

*Poecilothrips albopictus* Uzel

## Original name and synonyms

*Poecilothrips albopictus* Uzel, 1895: 264

*Phloeothrips ornatus* Hood, 1913: 165

*Cephalothrips harrisoni* Bagnall, 1926: 658

*Poecilothrips lupini* Moulton, 1929: 133



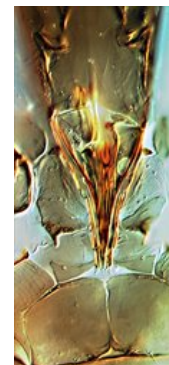
Female



Head



Head & pronotum



Mouth cone and prosternites

## References

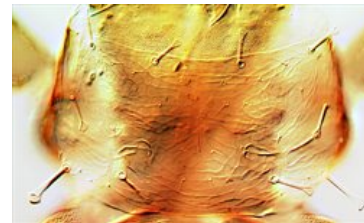
Kishan S (1972) *Poecilothrips albopictus* Uzel (Thysanoptera, Tubulifera) new to Britain, with some critical notes on the genus. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* **108**: 60–61.

Mound LA & Walker AK (1986) Tubulifera (Insecta: Thysanoptera). *Fauna of New Zealand* **10**: 1–140.

Palmer JM (1986) Thrips in English oak trees. *Entomologist's Gazette* **37**: 245–252.



Antenna



Pronotum



Meso & metanota



Tergites IV-V



Tergites IX-X

