

# Rhipidothrips brunneus

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged or micropterous. Body, legs and antennae largely brown, tarsi yellow, also apex of tibiae and base of mid and hind femora; antennal segments I–II brown, III almost yellow; fore wing pale with posterior margin weakly shaded. Antennae 9-segmented, VII–IX forming a unit, segments III–IV with sensorium transverse at apex. Head longer than wide, with less than 5 pairs of small ante-ocellar setae; inter-ocellar setae prominent, arising on anterior margin of ocellar triangle. Pronotum with 1 pair of long posteroangular setae, 2 (or 3) pairs of posteromarginals. Metanotum with elongate reticulation in macropterae, but irregular sculpture in micropterae, without microtrichia, median setae near posterior margin. Fore tarsus with strongly recurved hamus. Fore wing with cross veins visible. Abdominal tergites with transverse reticulation, trichobothria on X about as large as major setal bases. Sternites III–VI with 2 or 3 pairs of posteromarginal setae, lateral pairs arise submarginally; sternite VII with 4 pairs of posteromarginal setae, also 2 pairs of accessory setae, but no discal setae laterally. Male tergite I with paired longitudinal ridges scarcely one third as long as tergite.

## Related species

Six species are recognised in the genus *Rhipidothrips*, although only *brunneus* and *gratiosus* are widespread in Europe. Two further species are known from south-eastern Europe, one species only from the Canary Islands, and the fourth is recorded from Finland and France (zur Strassen, 2003). The two *Rhipidothrips* species found in Britain are distinguished by the colour of antennal segment II and the number of posteromarginal setae on the pronotum.

## Biological data

Presumably phytophagous on Poaceae, in Britain it is recorded mostly from *Bromus sterilis*, but also from *Phragmites australis*. All British records to date have been of micropterous females. It is mentioned by Bailey (1954) as probably predatory on other thrips in California, but there seems to be little supporting evidence.

## Distribution data

Described from a single female from Bognor, Sussex (Williams, 1913), and, until recently, otherwise only recorded from three other locations in Sussex in 1929 and 1930 (Mound *et al.*, 1976). Since 2014 there have also been two records from Kent and one from Cambridgeshire (Clemons, 2015; Collins, 2021b). It is widespread across western Europe, having been recorded from Finland and Russia south to Egypt and Iran. It has also been found in California and Oregon, as well as in Western Australia (Mound & Tree, 2020).

## Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE



Female macroptera



Female microptera



Head & pronotum



Antenna

## Species name

*Rhipidothrips brunneus* Williams

## Original name and synonyms

*Rhipidothrips brunneus* Williams, 1913: 216

*Rhipidothrips cahirensis* Priesner, 1932: 45

## References

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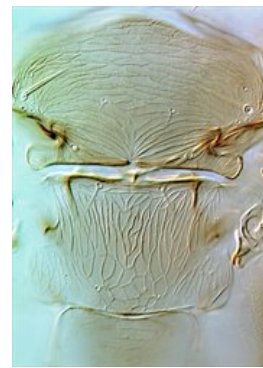
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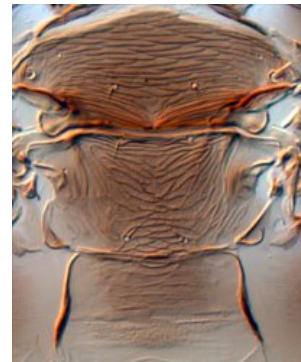
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Macroptera meso & metanota



Microptera meso & metanota



Fore wing