

# Rhipidothrips gratiosus

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body, legs and antennae largely brown, pronotum usually yellow, also tarsi, apex of tibiae and base of mid and hind femora; antennal segment II yellow in contrast to segment I, segment III pale at base; fore wing pale with posterior margin weakly shaded. Antennae 9-segmented, VII–IX forming a unit, segments III–IV with irregular transverse sensorium at apex and a longitudinal row of 1 or 2 sensory areas ventrally. Head longer than wide, with 8 or more pairs of small ante-ocellar setae; inter-ocellar setae prominent, arising on anterior margin of ocellar triangle; postoccipital region reticulate. Pronotum with 1 pair of long posteroangular setae, 4 pairs of posteromarginals. Mesonotum with microtrichia on transverse sculpture lines. Metanotum with linear reticulate sculpture bearing microtrichia, median setae near posterior margin. Fore tarsus with strongly recurved hamus. Fore wing with cross veins faint. Abdominal tergites weakly sculptured, 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, 2 pairs of accessory setae, and 3 pairs of discal setae laterally.

## 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 species found in Britain are distinguished by the colour of antennal segment II, the number of posteromarginal setae on the pronotum, and the row of sensoria ventrally on antennal segments III and IV in *gratiosus*.

## Biological data

Presumably phytophagous on various Poaceae, especially cereal crops, *Avena*, *Hordeum* and *Triticum*. However, in California, Bailey (1954) recorded this species as presumably predatory on other thrips, but there seems to be no evidence for this among populations in Europe.

## Distribution data

In Britain, known only from various sites in southern and south eastern England before 1936, no further north than Oxfordshire (Morison, 1947-1949; Mound *et al.*, 1976). This species is widespread in southern areas of the western Palearctic as far south as Iran, and is also known from California.

## Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

## Species name



Female



Head & pronotum



Head



Antenna

*Rhipidothrips gratiosus* Uzel

### Original name and synonyms

*Rhipidothrips gratiosus* Uzel, 1895: 67

*Rhipidothrips uzelianus* Bagnall, 1934: 482

### References

Bailey SF (1954). A review of the genus *Rhipidothrips* Uzel (Thysanoptera: Aeolothripidae). *Pan-Pacific Entomologist* **30**: 209–220.

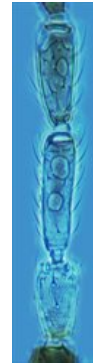
Morison GD (1947-1949) Thysanoptera of the London area. *London Naturalist, Supplement* **26**: 1-36; **27**: 37-75; **28**: 76–131.

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.



Antenna



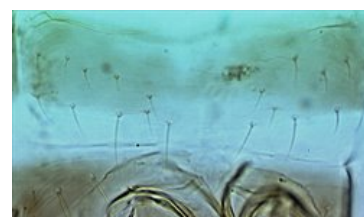
Antennal segments II-IV



Meso & metanota



Pronotum



Female sternite VII



Fore wing