

# Rubiothrips validus

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body legs and antennae brown, tarsi paler; fore wing light brown. Antennae 8-segmented, segment VI with a constricted basal ring; segments III–IV with slender forked sense cone. Head and pronotum without long setae. Head with 3 pairs of ocellar setae, pair III arising between anterior margins of posterior ocelli, pair I anterolateral to first ocellus. Mesonotum with paired anterior campaniform sensilla, median setae arising far forward of posterior margin. Metanotum reticulate, median setae well behind anterior margin, campaniform sensilla present on anterior half of sclerite. Fore wing with venal setae shorter than half of wing width, first vein with 3 setae on distal half, second vein with about 8 widely spaced setae. Abdominal tergites with transversely reticulate sculpture lines, at least on posterior half of sclerites, median setae much longer than distance between their bases and arising on anterior half of each tergite; VIII with no posteromarginal comb; IX with 2 pairs of campaniform sensilla, and with a small seta between the major posterior median and sub-median setae; X with long median split; pleurotergites V–VII with marginal seta arising in front of margin. Sternites without discal setae, setae S1 on VII arising in front of margin.

Male similar to female; tergite IX without stout dorsal setae; sternites III–VI each with transverse pore plate.

## Related species

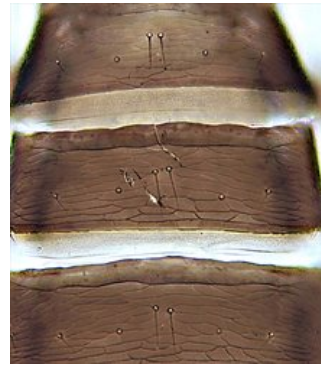
Ten species are currently listed in *Rubiothrips*, but only two are established in Britain, with a further five species recorded from elsewhere in Europe (Bhatti, 1978; zur Strassen 2003), two more from Iran (Minaei, 2013) and one from Japan (Masumoto & Okajima, 2017a). Of these ten species, seven are recorded as being associated with species of *Galium* [Rubiaceae], as are the species of the related genus *Belothrips*. The form of antennal segment VI and the setae on tergite IX differ in the two British species, *silvarum* and *validus* (zur Strassen, 2003).

## Biological data

Found on the leaves and flowers of its host plants. On the continent of Europe it has been associated with various species of *Galium* [Rubiaceae]. In Britain, it appears to be a species of damp places, having been found only on marsh bedstraw, *Galium palustre*. Furthermore, *G. palustre* remains the only confirmed true breeding host (Morison, 1970a).

## Distribution data

In Britain, it had been recorded only from northern Scotland (Pitkin, 1969; Morison, 1970a) until a recent record from Norfolk (Collins, 2021a). This thrips is widespread across central and eastern northern Europe, and is also recorded from Spain.



Tergites II-IV



Tergites VII-VIII



Antenna apex

## Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

### Species name

*Rubiothrips validus* (Karny)

### Original name and synonyms

*Anaphothrips validus* Karny, 1910: 46

*Anaphothrips validus* f. *adusta* Priesner, 1926: 193

### References

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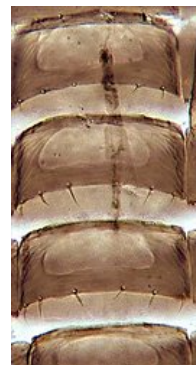
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Morison GD (1970a) Observations and records for some British Thysanoptera. X Thripidae, *Anaphothrips validus* Karny 1910, a species new to Britain. *Entomologist's Gazette* **21**: 33–38.

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Male pore plates