

Stenchaetothrips biformis

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body brown to dark brown, tarsi and fore tibiae paler; antennal segments III and apex of II yellow, IV light brown, V–VII brown; fore wings evenly light brown, clavus darker. Antennae 7-segmented, III–IV each with short forked sense cone. Head about as long as wide or slightly longer, without sculpture between ocelli; 2 pairs of ocellar setae, pair II longer than pair III that arise just anterior to hind ocelli; postocular setae variable, pairs I and III usually as long as distance between hind ocelli, but one or both setae of pair I commonly absent; pair II short and arising behind this row of setae; maxillary palps 3-segmented. Pronotum with 2 pairs of long posteroangular setae; posterior margin with 2–3 pairs of setae. Metanotum longitudinally striate, striae converging posteromedially; campaniform sensilla absent, median setae arise behind anterior margin. Mesofurca without spinula. Fore wing first vein with 2–4 setae on distal half; second vein with complete row of about 12 setae. Tergites II–VIII with no sculpture medially, median setae small, wide apart; V–VIII with paired ctenidia laterally, on VIII posteromesad to spiracle; posteromarginal comb complete with irregular slender microtrichia. Sternites without discal setae, posterior margins with irregular, small dentate microtrichia; sternites IV–VI sometimes with small and poorly developed pore plate medially; setae S1 on sternite VII arising just in front of margin.

Male similar to female but smaller; tergites II–VII posterior margin with small, laterally pointing teeth, VIII with similar teeth arranged irregularly; sternites frequently bearing many discal microtrichia, posterior margins with irregular dentate microtrichia, III–VII with transverse pore plate.

Related species

The genus *Stenchaetothrips* currently includes 42 species, all associated with Poaceae and all originally from the Old World tropics, particularly Southeast Asia. The genus represents a radiation onto grasses derived from the genus *Thrips*. A suggestion that specimens of *S. biformis* from Europe on *Phragmites* can be distinguished from specimens on rice (Vierbergen, 2004) has been discussed and refuted (Mound, 2011b); there is considerable variation in the presence and length of the postocular setae within individual samples of *biformis* from Asia.

Biological data

The Oriental Rice Thrips lives on the leaves of various Poaceae in damp places in the tropics, and in England has been taken from *Phragmites* and *Phalaris*.

Distribution data

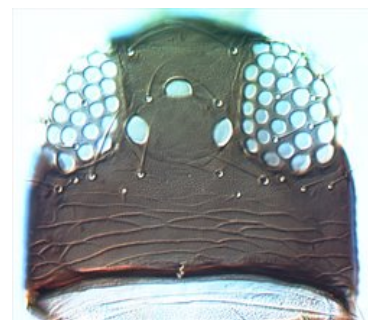
Described originally from Oxfordshire (Bagnall, 1913b), this species had otherwise been collected outdoors in Britain only from a couple of sites to the west of London, and one in southern Kent (Mound *et al.*,



Female



Head & thorax



Head



Antenna

1976 as *Baliothrips biformis*). However, since 2006 the species has been recorded from a number of new localities in southern England, and at three sites in Yorkshire including a sizeable population found in 2021 alongside the Pocklington Canal a few miles south east of York (Collins, 2011; 2021a). It is probably more widely distributed, but only locally common and so overlooked. It is unclear if the species is actively increasing in range within England. Known as a pest of seedling rice in Asia, the Oriental Rice Thrips has been recorded from eastern Europe, and across Asia from Iran to northern Australia. It has also been introduced into South America.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Stenchaetothrips biformis (Bagnall)

Original name and synonyms

Bagnallia biformis Bagnall, 1913: 237

Bagnallia biformis f. *adusta* Bagnall, 1913: 238

Bagnallia melanurus Bagnall, 1913: 238

Thrips (Bagnallia) oryzae Williams, 1916: 353

Thrips holorphnus Karny, 1925: 15

Plesiothrips o Girault, 1929: 1

Thrips dobrogensis Knechtel, 1964: 479

Chloethrips blandus zur Strassen, 1975: 78

References

Bagnall RS (1913b) Further notes on new and rare British Thysanoptera (Terebrantia) with descriptions of new species. *Journal of Economic Biology* **8**: 231–240.

Collins DW (2011) The Thysanoptera of Thorne and Hatfield Moors. *Thorne and Hatfield Moors Papers* **8**: 79–85.

Collins DW (2021a) Noteworthy recent records of species of Thripidae (Thysanoptera) in Great Britain. *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* **34**: 169–191.

Mound LA (2011b) Grass-dependent Thysanoptera of the family Thripidae from Australia. *Zootaxa* **3064**: 1–40.

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

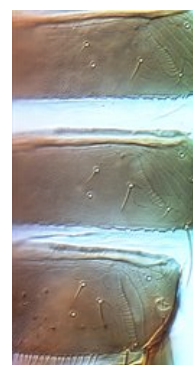
Vierbergen G (2004) Eight species of thrips new for the Netherlands and some taxonomical changes in *Stenchaetothrips*, *Thrips* and *Hoplothrips*. *Acta Phytopathologica et Entomologica Hungarica* **39**: 199–209.



Meso & metanota



Meso & metathoracic furcae



Tergites VI–VIII



Male sternites IV–VII



Fore wing

