Thrips alni

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and legs yellow, major setae light brown; antennal segments IV–VII uniformly brown; fore wings pale to lightly shaded. Antennae 7-segmented; segments III–IV each with short forked sense cone; VII short. Head with 2 pairs of ocellar setae; pair III no longer than distance between 2 ocelli, arising just outside ocellar triangle; postocular setae pair I slightly longer than ocellar setae III, pair II minute. Pronotum with 2 pairs of long posteroangular setae; posterior margin with 3 pairs of setae. Mesonotum with paired anterior campaniform sensilla. Metanotum with irregular longitudinal lines converging to posterior margin, at anterior with curving transverse lines; median setae arising behind anterior margin; campaniform sensilla present. Fore wing first vein usually with 3 setae on distal half; second vein with row of about 15 setae. Abdominal tergite II with 4 lateral marginal setae; tergites V–VIII with paired ctenidia laterally, on VIII posteromesad to spiracles; tergite VIII posteromarginal comb complete, microtrichia long and slender, discal setae S1 as long as setae S2; pleurotergites without discal setae, without microtrichia on sculpture lines or on posterior margin; tergite IX with 2 pairs of campaniform sensilla, X with median split. Sternites without discal setae; median setae on VII arising in front of margin. Male smaller than female; tergite VIII posteromarginal comb complete medially but microtrichia weak and irregular; sternites III–VI with narrow transverse pore plate.

Pro, meso & metanota

Tergites VII-IX

Related species

Thrips alni is very similar in colour and structure to the invasive pest species *Thrips palmi*, the only obvious differences being the greater length of the median pair of setae on tergite VIII of females in *alni*, and the absence of a pore plate on sternite VII of males. The genus *Thrips* is the second largest genus in the Thysanoptera, and currently includes, worldwide, over 300 species. All members of genus *Thrips* lack ocellar setae I on the head, and they all have ctenidia on tergite VIII posteromesad to the spiracles. Other characters, such as number of antennal segments, number of setae on the fore wing veins, and number of discal setae on the sternites are variable between species (Palmer, 1992; Nakahara, 1994; Mound & Masumoto, 2005).

Biological data

Feeding and breeding on the leaves of its host plants, and commonly associated with species of *Alnus* [Betulaceae], but also recorded from *Betula* and *Salix* [Salicaceae], all trees of damp woodlands.

Distribution data

Recorded in Britain only from Surrey and Norfolk (Mound *et al*., 1976), and not since 1966. It is widespread from north-eastern Europe eastwards to Siberia and Mongolia (zur Strassen, 2003).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Thrips alni Uzel

Original name and synonyms

Thrips alni Uzel, 1895: 189

Thrips humuli Priesner, 1920: 59
Thrips insperata Priesner, 1927: 418

References

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Nakahara S (1994) The genus *Thrips* Linnaeus (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) of the New World. *United States Department of Agriculture. Technical Bulletin* **1822**: 1–183.

Palmer JM (1992) *Thrips* (Thysanoptera) from Pakistan to the Pacific: a review. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Entomology Series* **61** (1): 1–76.

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