

Thrips atratus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and legs brown, tarsi yellowish brown, antennal segment III usually brown in British specimens but elsewhere sometimes yellowish, slim or with moderately convex sides; fore wings shaded in distal two-thirds. Antennae 8-segmented; segments III–IV each with forked sense cone. Head with cheeks convex, with 2 pairs of ocellar setae; pair III arising on anterior margins of, and slightly longer than side of, ocellar triangle; postocular setae pairs I & III well-developed but shorter than ocellar setae pair III, postocular setae pair II minute. Pronotum anterior margin longest setae no more than 1.5 times as long as discal setae; with 2 pairs of long posteroangular setae; posterior margin with 3 (or 4) pairs. Mesonotum with anterior campaniform sensilla, median setae arise well in front of posterior margin. Metanotum with closely spaced parallel lines of sculpture converging medially at posterior; median setae arising near anterior margin; campaniform sensilla present. Fore wing first vein with 5 or more setae on distal half; second vein with complete row of about 14 setae. Abdominal tergite II with 3 lateral marginal setae, V–VIII with paired ctenidia, on VIII posteromesad to spiracles; tergite VIII posteromarginal comb complete, microtrichia long and regular; pleurotergites each with 3–4 discal setae, posterior margin not dentate; tergite IX with 2 pairs of campaniform sensilla, X with median split. Sternite II with few or no discal setae, III–VII with 8–20 discal setae in irregular double row, most numerous on posterior sternites; sternite VII setae S1 arise in front of margin. Male similar to female but smaller; tergite VIII without posteromarginal comb; tergite IX median setae slender; sternites III–VII with broadly transverse pore plate in front of discal setae, these pore plates progressively smaller on posterior sternites.

Related species

Thrips atratus is one of three *Thrips* species in Britain that have eight antennal segments, the abdominal sternites as well as the pleurotergites with discal setae, and at least five setae on the distal half of the fore wing first vein. However, it lacks a pair of long anteromarginal setae on the pronotum (cf. *T. verbasci*) and antennal segment III is slim and brown, concolorous with II and IV (cf. *T. linariae*) (Collins, 2019). It also shares most character states with *Thrips vulgatissimus*, but that species has fewer setae on the first vein of the fore wing. 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



Female



Pronotum



Head & pronotum



Antenna

Feeding and breeding in the flowers of its host plants, and associated particularly with species of Caryophyllaceae and Lamiaceae.

Distribution data

Recorded across Britain north to the Shetland Islands, and also from Northern Ireland as well as the Republic of Ireland (Morison, 1929; Mound *et al.*, 1976; O'Connor, 2008), this Holarctic species is widespread in both Europe and North America (Nakahara, 1994; zur Strassen, 2003).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Thrips atratus Haliday

Original name and synonyms

Thrips atratus Haliday, 1836: 447

Physothrips atrata var. *adusta* Uzel, 1895: 108

Ceratothrips britteni Bagnall, 1914: 2

Taeniothrips longicornis Priesner, 1926: 305

References

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O'Connor JP (2008) A review of the Irish thrips (Thysanoptera). *Irish Naturalists' Journal* **29**: 20–24.

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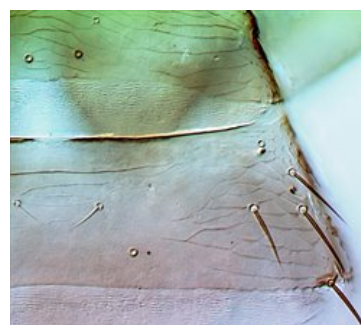
zur Strassen R (2003) Die terebranten Thysanopteren Europas und des Mittelmeer-Gebietes. *Die Tierwelt Deutschlands* **74**: 1–271.



Antenna



Meso & metanota



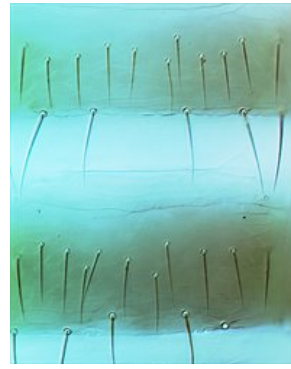
Tergite II



Tergite VIII



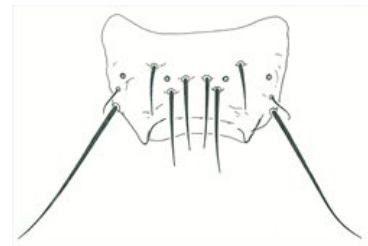
Fore wing



Female sternites VI-VII



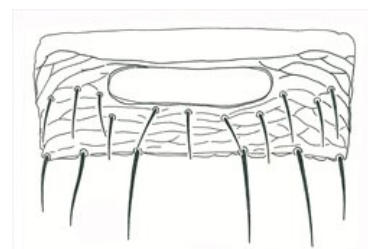
Female sternites V-VII



Male tergite IX



Male sternites III-V



Male sternite V