

Thrips nigropilosus

Distinguishing features

Female sometimes fully winged, but more commonly both sexes with wings shorter than thorax width. Body mainly yellow, abdominal tergites shaded medially, setae dark; antennal segments III–VII dark brown, II lighter, I white; fore wing pale (when present) with dark setae. Antennae 7-segmented; segments III–IV with short forked sense cone; segment VII slender. Head with 2 pairs of ocellar setae; pair III longer than side of ocellar triangle, arising lateral to fore ocellus; postocular setae pairs I & III shorter than ocellar setae III. Pronotum with 2 pairs of long posteroangular setae; posterior margin with 3 pairs of setae; three pairs of discal setae are larger than remaining discal setae, two near anterior margin and one near lateral margins. Metanotum with irregular reticulation; median setae arising behind anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent. Fore wing first vein with 1–3 setae on distal half; second vein with about 10 setae. Abdominal tergite II with 3 lateral marginal setae; tergites II–III with median pair of discal setae at least half as long as median length of tergite; tergites VI–VIII with paired ctenidia, on VIII posteromesad to spiracles; tergite VIII posteromarginal comb complete, microtrichia long and slender; pleurotergites without discal setae. Sternite II with 2 pairs of marginal setae, III–VII with 3 pairs, without discal setae. Male smaller than female; sternites III–VII with transverse pore plate.

Related species

Thrips nigropilosus is unusual because many adults of both sexes have short wings and the discal setae on the tergites, even of macropterae, are particularly long. 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 in the flowers and on the leaves of its host plants. Recorded in Britain from species of *Plantago* [Plantaginaceae], but more commonly associated with various Asteraceae, including *Achillea*, *Chrysanthemum*, and *Senecio*.

Distribution data

Generally distributed, but locally common, in Britain from Kent to northern Scotland (Mound *et al.*, 1976), it is also occasionally found in commercial glasshouses as a minor pest of ornamental flower production. This species is distributed across the northern Palaearctic to Japan (Mirab-balou *et al.*, 2011), and has been widely introduced around the world (for example, East Africa) as a pest on various cultivated Asteraceae, including crops of *Pyrethrum*.



Female macroptera



Female wing-length variants



Head & pronotum



Antenna

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THIRIPINAE

Species name

Thrips nigropilosus Uzel

Original name and synonyms

Thrips nigropilosus Uzel, 1895: 198

Thrips nigropilosa var. *laevior* Uzel, 1895:199

Thrips lactucae Beach, 1896: 224

Thrips nigropilosus ab. *umbratus* Priesner, 1920: 59

Thrips nigropilosus f. *pilosissima* Priesner, 1922: 92

References

Mirab-balou M, Tong X, Feng J & Chen X (2011) Thrips (Thysanoptera) of China. *Check List* **7**: 720–744.

Mound LA & Masumoto M (2005) The genus *Thrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) in Australia, New Caledonia and New Zealand. *Zootaxa* **1020**: 1–64.

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

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.



Meso & metanota



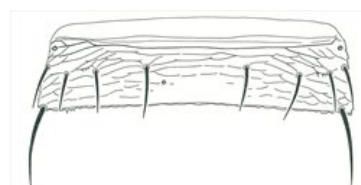
Pterothorax & tergites I-IV



Tergites I-V



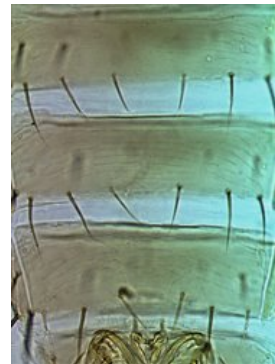
Tergites VI-VIII



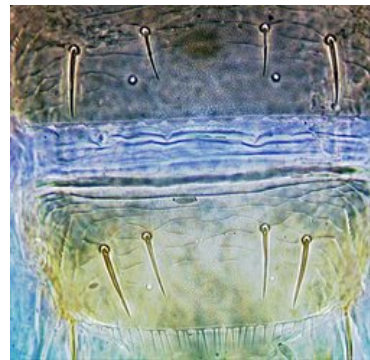
Tergite V



Fore wing



Sternites V-VII



Tergites VII-VIII