

Thrips physapus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and legs brown, tarsi and apex of fore tibiae yellow; antennal segments I–II dark brown, VI–VII light brown, III–V mainly yellow with apices shaded; fore wings light brown. Antennae 7-segmented; segments III–IV each with sense cone forked. Head with 2 pairs of ocellar setae; pair III small, arising on or just outside anterior margins of ocellar triangle; postocular setae I & III longer than II & IV. Pronotum with transverse lines of sculpture; 2 pairs of posteroangular setae, 3 pairs of posteromarginal setae. Metanotum with narrow longitudinal reticulation on posterior half, irregular lines at anterior; median setae close to anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent. Fore wing first vein with 3 setae on distal half; second vein with row of about 12 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 slender; pleurotergites without discal setae. Sternite II with 2 pairs of marginal setae, III–VII with 3 pairs; sternite II without discal setae, III–VII with about eight discal setae in irregular transverse row. Male yellow, smaller than female; tergite VIII posterior margin with no comb; sternites III–VII with broadly oval pore plate

Related species

Thrips physapus is the type species of the genus *Thrips*. Females of this species are very similar to females of *Thrips trehernei*, but have slightly shorter pronotal setae. However, the males of *T. physapus* are yellow, whereas those of *T. trehernei* are brown. Females of these two species have been distinguished by the following formula (Pitkin, 1976b):

physapus - $A+2B+C$ = less than 430 microns

trehernei - $A+2B+C$ = more than 450 microns

Where A=pronotal posteroangular seta length; B=tergite IX seta S3 length; C=tergite X length.

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 of its host plants, and in Britain common on *Taraxacum*, although also found in many other Asteraceae.

Distribution data

Recorded throughout Britain, with records from southern Wales and



Female



Head & pronotum



Antenna



Meso & metanota

northern Scotland (Mound *et al.*, 1976), but less common in Scotland than *T. trehernei* (Pitkin, 1976b). It has also been recorded from both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland (O'Connor, 2008), although the occurrence and distribution of *physapus* and *trehernei* across the island requires re-evaluation (Collin, 2024). The species is known across Europe, eastwards to Iran and Mongolia, and south to Morocco (zur Strassen, 2003).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THIRIPINAE

Species name

Thrips physapus Linnaeus

Original name and synonyms

Thrips physapus Linnaeus, 1758: 457

Thrips fusca Müller, 1776: 96

Thrips flavicornis Reuter, 1879: 219

Thrips physopus var. *adusta* Uzel, 1895: 175

Thrips physapus f. *annulata* Karny, 1907: 48

Thrips obscuricornis Priesner, 1920: 57

Thrips physapus var. *flavescens* Priesner, 1921: 28

Thrips physapus var. *quadrisetosus* Knechtel, 1923: 125

References

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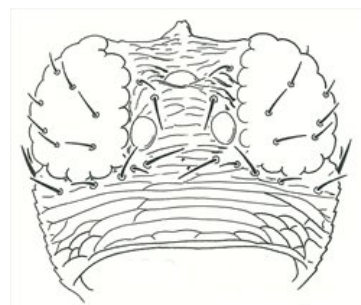
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Palmer JM (1992) *Thrips* (Thysanoptera) from Pakistan to the Pacific: a review. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Entomology Series* **61** (1): 1–76.

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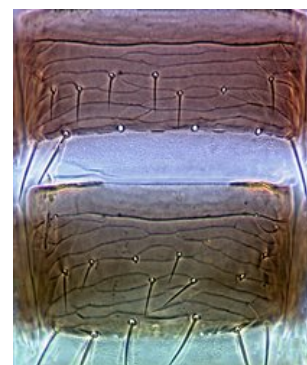
Head



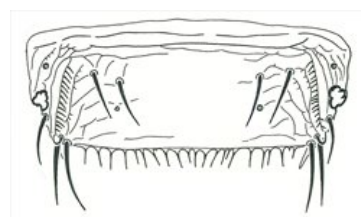
Metanotum



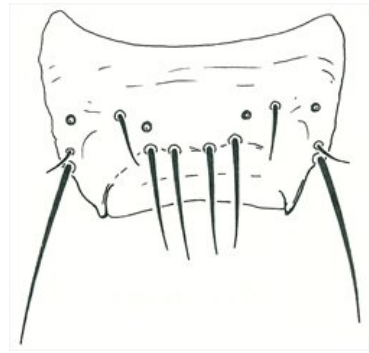
Female tergite VIII



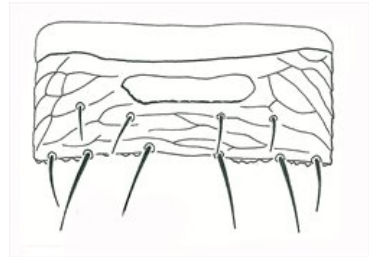
Female sternites VI-VII



Female tergite VIII



Male tergite IX



Male pore plate



Fore wing