

Thrips simplex

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and legs dark brown, tarsi and antennal segment III yellowish brown; fore wings brown, base paler. Antennae 8-segmented; III–IV with forked sense cone. Head with 2 pairs of ocellar setae; pair III small, arising just inside anterior margins of ocellar triangle; postocular setae pairs I & III slightly longer than ocellar setae III, postocular setae pair II minute. Pronotum with 2 pairs of posteroangular setae, outer pair slightly shorter than inner pair; posterior margin with 3–4 pairs of setae. Metanotum reticulate medially, reticles elongate on posterior half, most reticles with faint internal markings; median setae short, arising behind anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent. Fore wing first vein with about 7 setae on distal half; second vein with about 14 setae. Abdominal tergite II with 3 lateral marginal setae; tergites V–VIII with paired ctenidia, on VIII posteromesad to spiracles; tergite VIII posteromarginal comb of microtrichia complete but slightly irregular; pleurotergites without discal setae, but bearing ciliate microtrichia. Sternite II with 2 pairs of marginal setae, III–VII with 3 pairs; sternite II with 1–2 discal setae, III–VII with about 12 discal setae in single row. Male smaller than female; tergite VIII with no posteromarginal comb; sternites III–VII with large transverse pore plate, discal setae arising laterally.

Related species

Thrips simplex has discal setae on the abdominal sternites, and is usually easily recognized as it is the only species of *Thrips* in Britain with both 8-segmented antennae and markings on the metanotum between the main lines of reticulate sculpture. 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

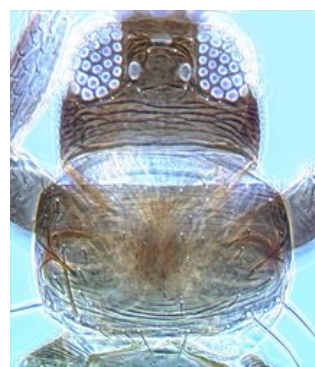
Feeding and breeding in the flowers and on the leaves of its host plants, the Gladiolus Thrips is largely specific to *Gladiolus* species, but also breeds on other Iridaceae.

Distribution data

Originally from southern Africa, this species is locally common around the world wherever *Gladiolus* flowers are grown. Potentially it could be found on this host anywhere in Britain, as its distribution is connected to the commercial trade in *Gladiolus* cut flowers. It can breed outdoors in Britain (Morison, 1957), but there is little evidence available from which to evaluate its potential to overwinter outdoors. Similarly distributed across Europe and temperate areas around the



Female



Head & pronotum



Antenna



Antenna

world.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THIRIPINAE

Species name

Thrips simplex (Morison)

Original name and synonyms

Physothrips simplex Morison, 1930: 12

Taeniothrips gladioli Moulton & Steinweden, 1931: 20

Physothrips plurisetae Girault, 1933: 2

Taeniothrips quinani Moulton, 1936: 506

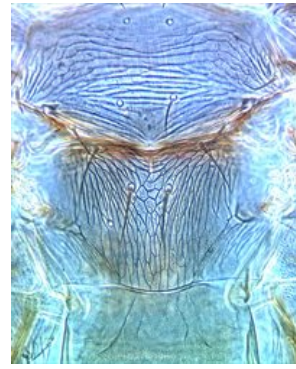
References

Morison GD (1957) A review of British Glasshouse Thysanoptera. *The Transactions of the Royal Entomological Society of London* **109** (16): 467–534.

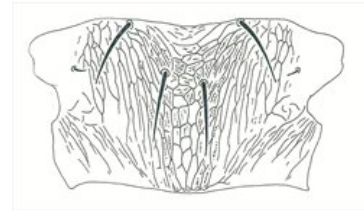
Mound LA & Masumoto M (2005) The genus *Thrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) in Australia, New Caledonia and New Zealand. *Zootaxa* **1020**: 1–64.

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.



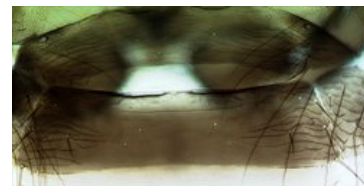
Meso & metanota



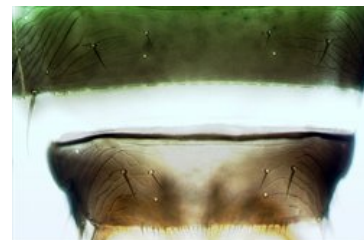
Metanotum



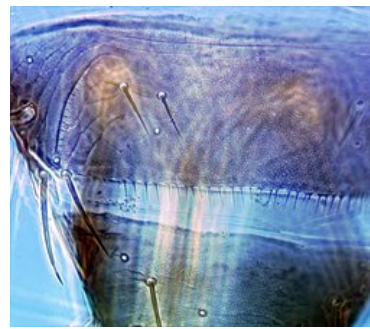
Pleurotergites



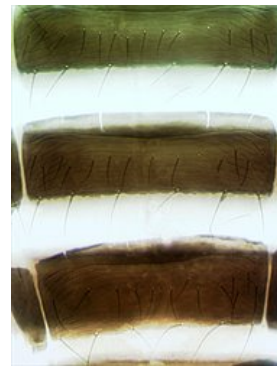
Abdominal tergite II



Tergites VII–VIII



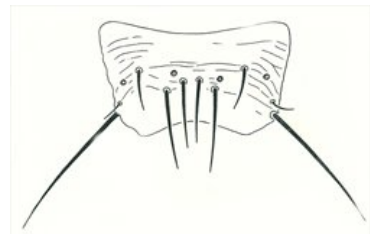
Tergite VIII



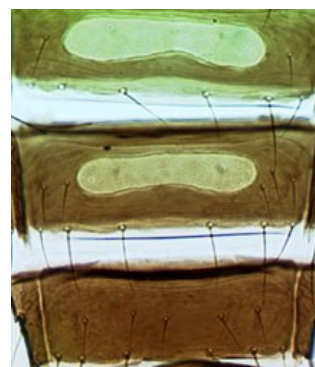
Sternites V-VII



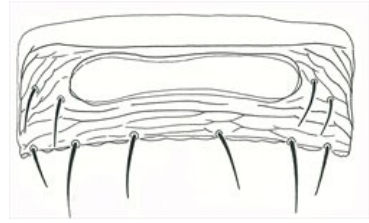
Fore wing



Male tergite IX



Male sternites V-VII



Male stemite V