

Thrips vulgatissimus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and legs brown, tarsi and antennal segment III yellow; fore wings pale. Antennae 8-segmented; segments III–IV with sense cone forked. Head with cheeks convex, 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 shorter than ocellar setae pair III, postocular setae pair II minute. Pronotum with 2 pairs of long posteroangular setae; posterior margin with 3 (or 4) pairs. Metanotum with parallel lines of sculpture converging medially at posterior; median setae arising near anterior margin; campaniform sensilla present. Fore wing first vein with 3 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; pleurotergites with 3–4 discal setae. Sternite II with 2 pairs of marginal setae, III–VII with 3 pairs; sternite II with few discal setae, III–VII with 15 to 20 discal setae in irregular double row.

Male smaller than female; tergite VIII without posteromarginal comb; sternites III–VII with broadly transverse pore plate in front of discal setae.

Related species

Thrips vulgatissimus is one of a small group of species in this genus with discal setae on the pleurotergites as well as the sternites.

Although similar to *Thrips atratus* in structure, *T. vulgatissimus* has only three setae on the distal half of the first vein of the fore wing. It is most similar to *Thrips meridionalis* Priesner, a common pest of stone fruits in parts of the Mediterranean region. 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

Polyphagous, and feeding and breeding in the flowers of various host plants, but associated particularly with white flowers such as *Cerastium tomentosum* [Caryophyllaceae], and species of Apiaceae and Asteraceae. Adults can be found in large numbers in the flower umbels of roadside verge plants like *Anthriscus sylvestris* and *Heracleum sphondylium*.

Distribution data

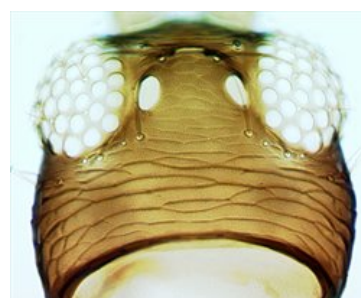
Common and widespread, found throughout Britain from the Isles of Scilly to the Shetland Islands, as well as across the island of Ireland (Mound *et al.*, 1976; O'Connor, 2008). Widespread across the



Female



Head & pronotum



Head



Antenna

northern Holarctic from Asia to North America, it has also been introduced to New Zealand (Mound & Walker, 1982; Nakahara, 1994; Mirab-balou *et al.*, 2011).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THIRIPINAE

Species name

Thrips vulgatissimus Haliday

Original name and synonyms

Thrips vulgatissimus Haliday, 1836: 447

Physopus pallipennis Uzel, 1895: 110

Physopus pallipennis var. *adusta* Uzel, 1895: 110

Taeniothrips lemanis Treherne, 1924: 87

Taeniothrips vulgatissimus f. *gracilis* Priesner, 1926: 298

Taeniothrips vulgatissimus f. *atricornis* Priesner, 1926: 298

Taeniothrips americanus Moulton, 1929: 130

Physothrips gentianae Bagnall, 1933: 653

Taeniothrips tahvanus Hukkinen, 1936: 139

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.

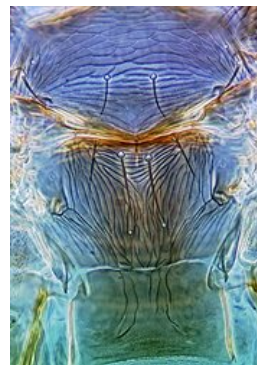
Mound LA, Morison GD, Pitkin BR & Palmer JM (1976) Thysanoptera. *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects* 1 (11): 1–79.

Mound LA & Walker AK (1982) Terebrantia (Insecta: Thysanoptera). *Fauna of New Zealand* 1: 1–113.

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

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

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



Pleurotergites



Tergite VIII



Sternites V-VII



Fore wing



Fore wing