

# Acanthothrips nodicornis

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body dark brown, abdominal tergites III–VIII anterolaterally with chalky-white areas; antennae with segments III–V yellow at base; tarsi, also base and apex of mid and hind tibiae yellow; fore wing pale, sometimes with dark line medially on basal half. Antennae 8-segmented; segments III–VI constricted to apical neck; III–IV each with 3 stout sense cones. Head longer than wide; cheeks with prominent bristle-bearing warts; eyes large; maxillary stylets long and close together medially; postocular setae capitate but small, posterior to inner margin of eyes; mouth cone extending across prosternum. Pronotum reticulate, 5 pairs of capitate major setae present; basantra absent. Fore tarsus with prominent tooth; fore femora with sub-apical tubercle on inner margin. Fore wings parallel sided. Pelta reticulate; tergite IX setae blunt at apex. Male sternite VIII with median transverse pore plate.

## Related species

The genus *Acanthothrips* includes 13 species, of which *nodicornis* is Holarctic and *albovittatus* is from northern Europe. Of the other species, five are known only from North America, and six are from the Neotropics including Mexico. Priesner (1964) distinguished *Acanthothrips* from the worldwide genus *Hoplandrothrips* because the fore wings are parallel-sided rather than weakly constricted medially. However, although in *nodicornis* the fore wings are parallel-sided, in *albovittatus* and some of the American species the fore wings are constricted medially at least as much as in some species of *Hoplandrothrips*. The presence of an apical neck on antennal segments III and IV distinguishes species of *Acanthothrips* from those of the presumably closely related genus *Phlaeothrips* (Mound & Marullo, 1996), but the current generic classification of these fungus-feeding thrips possibly fails to reflect phylogenetic relationships. The European species, *albovittatus*, is distinguished from *nodicornis* by having uniformly dark antennae.

## Biological data

Breeding on dead branches of various tree species, and feeding on the hyphae of unidentified fungi.

## Distribution data

In Britain, this species has been taken infrequently but widely between Surrey and Inverness (Mound *et al.*, 1976), but it is widespread across the Holarctic (Mirab-balou *et al.*, 2011).

## Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE - PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

## Species name

*Acanthothrips nodicornis* (Reuter)

## Original name and synonyms

*Phloeothrips nodicornis* Reuter, 1880: 16

*Acanthothrips doaneii* Moulton, 1907: 64

*Machatothrips isshikii* Ishida, 1932: 7

*Acanthothrips americanus* Bagnall, 1933: 123

## References

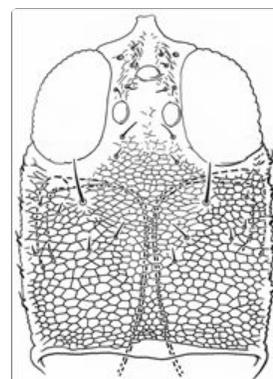
Mirab-balou M, Tong X, Feng J & Chen X (2011) Thrips



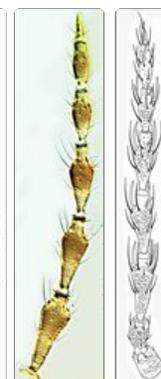
Female



Head & fore leg



Head



Antenna Antenna



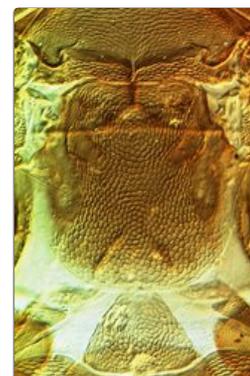
Antennal segments III-IV



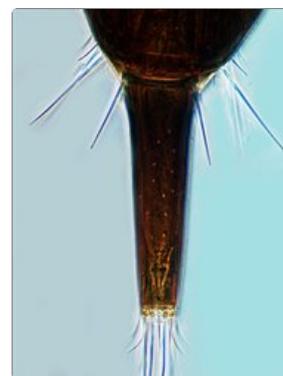
Fore femur



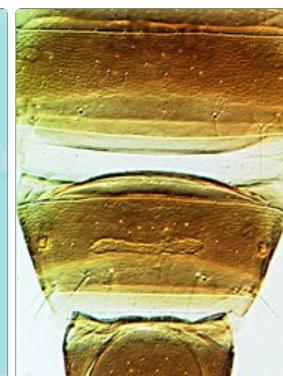
Female fore leg



Metanotum and pelta



Tergites IX-X (tube)



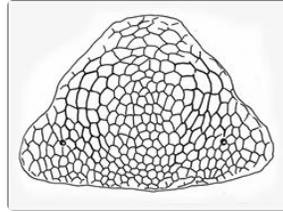
Male sternite VIII

(Thysanoptera) of China. *Check List* 7: 720–744.

Mound LA & Marullo R (1996) The thrips of Central and South America: an introduction (Insecta: Thysanoptera). *Memoirs on Entomology, International* 6: 1–487.

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

Priesner H (1964) Ordnung Thysanoptera. *Bestimmungsbücher zur Bodenfauna Europas* 2: 1–242.



Pelta



Forewing