**Aeolothrips gloriosus**

**Distinguishing features**

Both sexes fully winged. Female wings with two dark transverse bands, ring vein pale around wing apex but weakly shaded between the dark bands. Body bicoloured, head and thorax yellow with variable brown areas medially, abdominal segments I–IV largely yellow, V–VI sometimes brown, VII–X dark brown; legs often yellow, but mid and hind tibiae sometimes brown; antennal segments I, II and basal half of III yellow, remaining segments dark brown. Antennae 9-segmented, segment III with linear sensorium about 0.5 of segment length, IV with sensorium broader and longer, curving around segment apex, V–IX forming a single unit with V slightly longer than VI–IX. Head and pronotum with no long setae; mouth cone long, maxillary palps 3-segmented. Fore tarsus apically with stout recurved ventral hamus. Abdominal tergite I with weak transverse reticulation; sternite VII with lateral two pairs of marginal setae arising submarginally, two pairs of accessory setae arising close to (or on) margin, between marginal setae S1 and S2.

Male with wings similar to female; body mainly yellow, head and tergites V–VII with brown mark medially, pterothorax light brown, abdominal segments VIII–X dark brown; antennal segments I–II and basal third of III yellow, remaining segments dark brown; tergite IX without paired claspers.

**Related species**

Over 100 species are placed in the genus *Aeolothrips*, mostly from the Palearctic Region but with about 30 from the Nearctic, including the western USA. *A. gloriosus* is readily distinguished from other *Aeolothrips* species in Britain by the bright yellow colour of much of its body, although the recorded British specimens were atypically darker (Mound et al., 1976).

**Biological data**

This species is presumed to be a facultative predator, feeding on a mixed diet of pollen and the larvae of other thrips in the flowers where it breeds. It is recorded from various flowering trees, including species of *Fraxinus*, *Olea*, and *Phillyrea* [Oleaceae], also *Sambucus* [Caprifoliaceae].

**Distribution data**

Recorded from only two locations in southern England, both in the mid-1950s (Lewis, 1961; Mound et al., 1976). Otherwise known from the Mediterranean area, from the Azores and Morocco to Turkey (zur Strassen, 2003), and then east to Iran, but with one recent record from Sweden (Gertsson, 2015).

**Family name**

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

**Species name**

*Aeolothrips gloriosus* Bagnall

**Original name and synonyms**

*Aeolothrips gloriosus* Bagnall, 1914: 375

**References**


