

Aeolothrips tenuicornis

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Female with fore wings bearing two transverse dark bands, apical ring vein dark. Body, legs and antennae brown, but antennal segment II pale at apex, III pale in basal half. Antennae 9-segmented, segment III with linear sensorium no more than one-third as long as segment, IV with sensorium about half as long as segment; segments V–IX forming a single unit with V considerably longer than VI–IX. Head and pronotum with no long setae. Fore tarsus apically with stout recurved ventral hamus. Metanotum reticulate. Marginal setae on sternites arising at or close to margin; distance between median marginal pair on VII usually less than 1.5 times the length of these setae; paired accessory setae on VII arising further from the margin than their length.

Male fore wings similar to those of female; tergites IV–V each with pair of irregular tubercles, IX with paired bifurcate claspers, also paired sickle-shaped setae.

Related species

Over 100 species are placed in the genus *Aeolothrips*, mostly from the Palaearctic Region but with about 30 from the Nearctic including the western USA. *A. tenuicornis* is a member of a Eurasian species-complex, and the females are particularly similar to those of *propinquus*, from which it is distinguished by the shorter sensoria on antennal segments III and IV, and the location of the paired accessory setae on sternite VII more distant from the posterior margin.

Biological data

Presumably similar in biology to *intermedius* (see Bournier *et al.*, 1979), living as a facultative predator on mites and thrips larvae in flowers. This species is associated with the flowers of various plants in the families Asteraceae, Cruciferae, and Fabaceae, often in yellow flowers.

Distribution data

Described from material collected in Surrey (Bagnall, 1926), this species is common across southern England, but has been widely recorded in northern Scotland (Mound *et al.*, 1976). It is also recorded widely across central and southern Europe, as well as the Atlantic islands (zur Strassen, 2003), and is found in countries of the eastern Mediterranean, and further east in Iran (Alavi & Minaei, 2018).

Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

Species name

Aeolothrips tenuicornis Bagnall

Original name and synonyms

Aeolothrips tenuicornis Bagnall, 1926: 280

Aeolothrips anthyllidis Bagnall, 1932: 161

Aeolothrips clavicornis Bagnall, 1934: 122

Aeolothrips bucheti Bagnall, 1934: 484

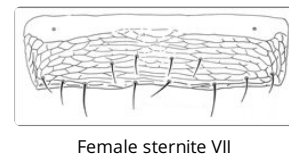
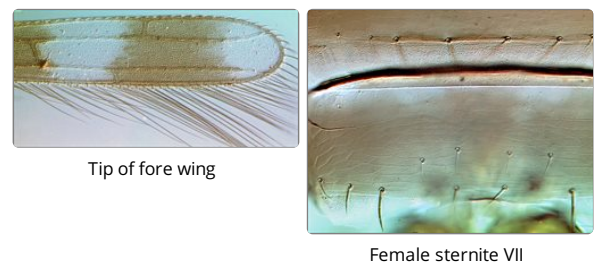
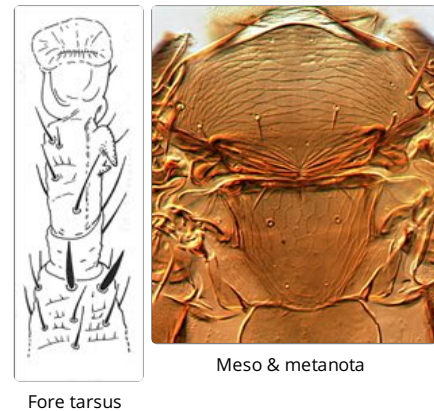
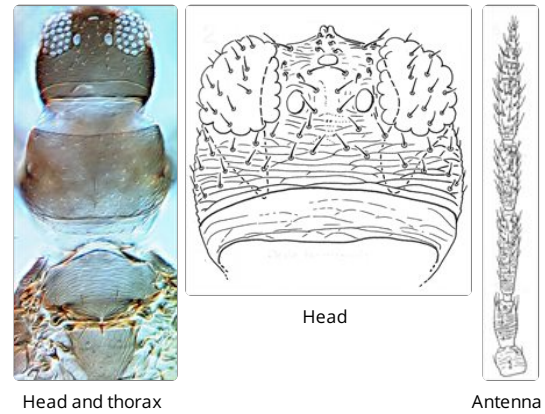
Aeolothrips ghabni Priesner, 1938: 215

References

Alavi J & Minaei K. (2018) Studies on the genus *Aeolothrips* (Thysanoptera: Aeolothripidae) in Iran, with a key to species. *Zootaxa* **4446** (3): 343–360.

Bagnall RS (1926) On some new British Thysanoptera. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* **62**: 279–285.

Bournier A, Lacasa A & Pivot Y (1979) Régime alimentaire d'un thrips prédateur, *Aeolothrips intermedius* (Thys.:)



Aeolothripidae). *Entomophaga* **24**: 353–361.

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

zur Strassen R (2003) Die terebranten Thysanopteren Europas und des Mittelmeer-Gebietes. *Die Tierwelt Deutschlands* **74**: 1–271.