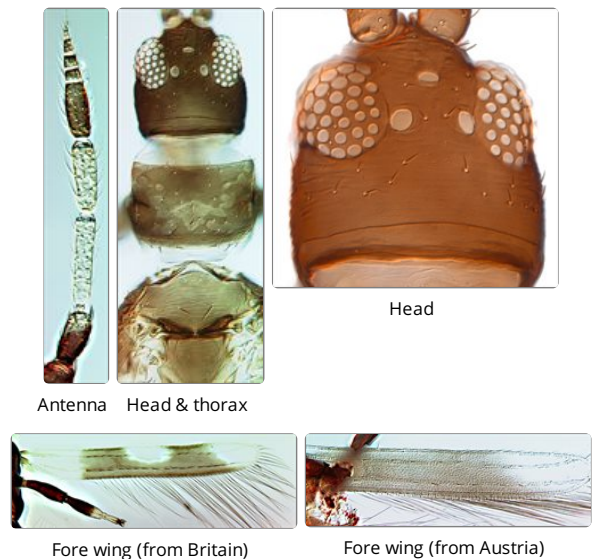


# Aeolothrips versicolor

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Female with fore wing variable, specimens from Britain have a pale area antero-medially but continental specimens are reported to usually have one long uninterrupted dark band. Body brown, tarsi and apices of tibiae yellow; antennal segments III–IV yellow in contrast to brown of remaining segments. Antennae 9-segmented, segment III with linear sensorium less than half 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 extending slightly in front of eyes; head and pronotum with no long setae. Fore tarsus apically with stout recurved ventral hamus. Metanotum weakly reticulate. Marginal setae on sternites arising at or close to margin; sternite VII median posteromarginal setae closer to setae S2 than to each other. Male fore wings similar to those of female, antennal segment III with apex brown; tergite IX without paired claspers, and without 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. The colour pattern of the fore wing of *A. versicolor* in Britain is usually similar to that of *A. melaleucus* but specimens of *versicolor* from the European continent usually have the fore wings with a complete dark area (Schliephake & Klimt, 1979; zur Strassen, 2003). However, the head of *versicolor* is more obviously prolonged in front of the eyes than in *melaleucus*, and the male of *versicolor* lacks claspers on tergite IX. Images under *melaleucus* in "Thrips of California 2012" (Hoddle *et al.*, 2012) are presumably of misidentified *versicolor*, and Bailey (1951: 79, Fig. 61) illustrates a similar head prolonged in front of the eyes.

## Biological data

Breeding on the leaves of various trees as a predator of mites and thrips larvae, and taken particularly on leaves of *Fraxinus* (Oleaceae).

## Distribution data

Collected infrequently across southern England as far north as Lincoln (Mound *et al.*, 1976), this species is widespread across Europe, from Norway southwards, and then eastwards through the Palaearctic, including Iran. It is also recorded from northern USA (zur Strassen, 2003).

## Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

## Species name

*Aeolothrips versicolor* Uzel

## Original name and synonyms

*Aeolothrips versicolor* Uzel, 1895: 69  
*Aeolothrips tibialis* Reuter, 1901: 33  
*Aeolothrips tiliae* Bagnall, 1913: 156  
*Aeolothrips similis* Priesner, 1919: 80  
*Aeolothrips maculosus* Bagnall, 1920: 62  
*Aeolothrips maculosus* var. *costalis* Bagnall, 1920: 62  
*Aeolothrips parvicornis* Bagnall, 1920: 62  
*Aeolothrips timofeevi* Zaitsev, 1921: 135

## References

Bailey SF (1951) The genus *Aeolothrips* Haliday in North America. *Hilgardia* 21 (2): 43–80.

Hoddle MS, Mound LA & Paris DL (2012) *Thrips of California 2012*. CBIT Publishing, Queensland.  
[http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/thrips\\_of\\_california/Thrips\\_of\\_California.html](http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/thrips_of_california/Thrips_of_California.html)

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

Schliephake G & Klimt K (1979) Thysanoptera, Fransenflügler, in: *Die Tierwelt Deutschlands* 66 Teil, G.Fischer Verlag, Jena. 1-477.

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