

Chirothrips aculeatus

Distinguishing features

Female fully winged. Body, antennae and legs brown, tarsi paler, fore wings light brown. Antennae 8-segmented; segment II asymmetric but without a terminal sensorium; segment III with simple sense cone, IV with forked sense cone. Head small, prolonged in front of eyes with long preocellar area; only 2 pairs of ocellar setae, pair III anterolateral to fore ocellus; maxillary palps 3-segmented. Pronotum trapezoidal, with 2 pairs of prominent posteroangular setae. Metanotum weakly reticulate, median setae small and not arising at anterior margin; meso and metafurca with well-developed lateral flanges. Fore wing pointed; first vein distal half with 2 or 3 setae, second vein with 5 or 6 setae. Abdominal tergites medially with transverse sculpture lines, posterior margin with craspedum of small rounded or pointed lobes; ovipositor moderately developed, with rows of teeth. Posterior margin of sternites with row of small tubercles. Male micropterous, with minute wing lobe; head with no ocelli; antennal segment IV sense cone simple; sternites III-IV (sometimes also V-VII) with small circular pore plate.

Related species

Currently there are 42 species worldwide placed in the genus *Chirothrips*. In contrast, zur Strassen (1960) treated the genus in a broad sense, with a key to 50 species, whereas Bhatti (1990b) placed several of the species into six new genera. The generic classification was further reviewed by Nakahara & Foottit (2012). From Europe, zur Strassen (2003) recognised 14 species of *Chirothrips*, of which five have been taken in Britain. *C. aculeatus* differs from the other British species of *Chirothrips* in having the posterior margin of the abdominal tergites with a craspedum that consists of well-defined, clearly detached, round or pointed lobes.

Biological data

Each larva feeds and pupates within a single flower of its host plant (Minaei & Mound, 2010), and these include Poaceae in several genera, such as *Avena* and *Bromus*.

Distribution data

Recorded once in Britain, when twenty males were swept from grass at Cirencester, Gloucestershire, in 1931 (Mound *et al.*, 1976), but widespread in the western Palearctic south east to Iran.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Chirothrips aculeatus Bagnall

Original name and synonyms

Pezothrips (?) *pedestris* Karny, 1910: 55

Chirothrips aculeatus Bagnall, 1927: 567

Chirothrips angusticornis Bagnall, 1932: 186

Chirothrips moultoni Post, 1961: 137

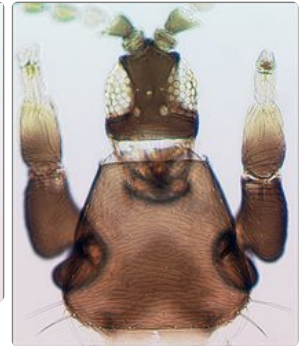
Chirothrips adusta Wetzel, 1963: 635

References

Bhatti JS (1990b) On some genera related to *Chirothrips* (Insecta: Terebrantia: Thripidae). *Zoology (Journal of Pure and Applied*



Female



Head, pronotum & fore legs



Head & antennae



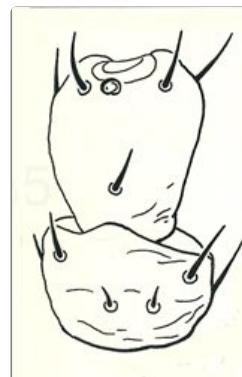
Antenna



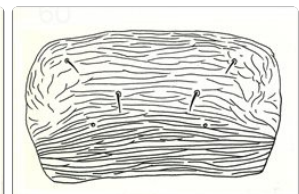
Forked sensorium on antennal segment IV



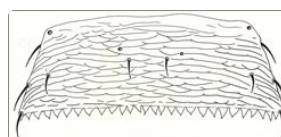
Female antennal segments I-IV



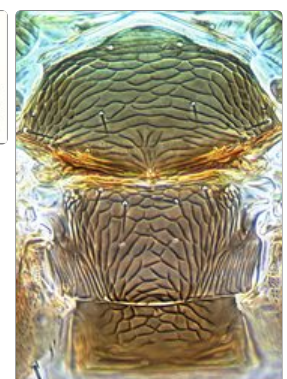
Male antennal segments I-II



Male metanotum



Female tergite II



Meso & metanota

Zoology 2 (4) 193–200.

Minaei K & Mound LA (2010) Grass-flower thrips of the genus *Chirothrips* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), with a key to species from Iran. *Zootaxa* 2411: 33–43.

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

Nakahara S & Footitt RG (2012) Review of *Chirothrips* and related genera (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) of the Americas, with descriptions of one new genus and four new species. *Zootaxa* 3251: 1–29.

zur Strassen R (1960) Key to and catalogue of the known species of *Chirothrips* Haliday, 1836 (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). *Journal of the Entomological Society of South Africa* 23 (1): 144–176.

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

