

Hoplothrips pedicularius

Distinguishing features

Both sexes either fully winged or with wings shorter than thorax width. Body and femora of macropterae brown but abdominal segments VIII–X yellowish, tube with terminal grey band; tarsi and most of tibiae yellow; antennal segments III–V weakly bicoloured; micropterae with head, and sometimes pronotum largely yellow. Antennae 8-segmented; segment III with 3 sense cones, IV with 4; VIII constricted to basal neck. Head longer than wide, slightly wider across cheeks than across eyes; cheeks slightly constricted to base, without prominent setae; postocular setae long and pointed, wide apart; maxillary stylets retracted to eyes, close together medially. Pronotum without sculpture medially; with 5 pairs of slender pointed major setae in females; prosternal basantra absent. Fore tarsal tooth well-developed. Metanotum without sculpture medially. Fore wing parallel sided, with about 10 duplicated cilia. Abdominal tergite I, the pelta, with lateral margins confluent with tergite II; tergites II–VII with two pairs of weakly sigmoid wing-retaining setae but these are straight in micropterae; marginal setae S1 long and pointed; tergite IX setae S1 pointed, less than 0.7 as long as tube. Males varying in size, large males with fore femora swollen and large tarsal tooth; pronotum with stout median longitudinal apodeme, anteromarginal setae not elongate; tergite IX setae S2 short and stout; sternite VIII with narrow transverse pore plate usually interrupted medially, median length of pore plate about 10 microns.

Related species

The genus *Hoplothrips* includes about 120 named species, but there are no modern identification keys to any substantial number of species. The most common species are known to exist as both winged and wingless morphs. Moreover, these species exhibit considerable sexual dimorphism, and males of the same species vary in body size, with some structures exhibiting patterns of allometric growth. As a result, species identification is often difficult (Mound & Walker, 1986; Kobro & Rafoss, 2006; Okajima, 2006). *Hoplothrips pedicularius* is unusual amongst *Hoplothrips* species in Britain because of the pale colour of the terminal abdominal segments, and the tube which usually has a distinct grey terminal band.

Biological data

Breeding on dead branches and sometimes forming colonies on the trunk of dead Angiosperm trees, and often associated with *Stereum* fungus. Males exhibit competitive behaviour in attracting females (Crespi, 1986).

Distribution data

Widespread and common in Britain from Kent to northern Scotland, and also from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland (Mound *et al.*, 1976), this species is also common throughout Europe and into Russia, and has been reported from Japan (Okajima, 2006).

Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE - PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

Species name

Hoplothrips pedicularius (Haliday)

Original name and synonyms

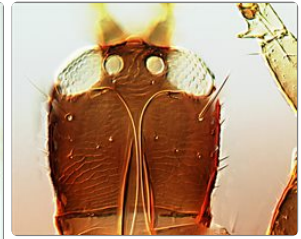
Phloeothrips pedicularius Haliday, 1836: 441

Phloeothrips flavipes Haliday, 1836: 442

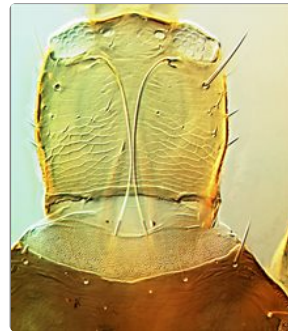
Phloeothrips apicalis Reuter, 1880: 25



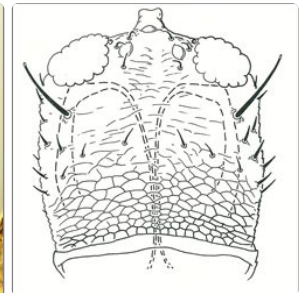
Female macroptera



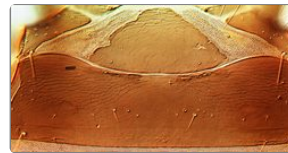
Head of female macroptera



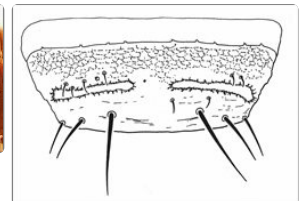
Head of female microptera



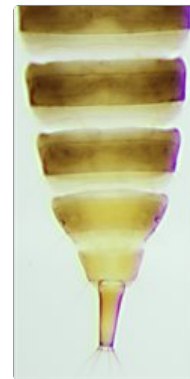
Head of female microptera



Pelta & tergite II



Male sternite VIII



Female tergites V-X

Phloeothrips brunnea Jordan, 1888: 547
Trichothrips propinquus Bagnall, 1910: 661
Trichothrips britteni Bagnall, 1926: 284
Hoplothrips arnoudi Mantel, 1964: 112

References

- Crespi BJ (1986) Territoriality and fighting in a colonial thrips, *Hoplothrips pedicularius*, and sexual dimorphism in Thysanoptera. *Ecological Entomology* 11: 119–130.
- Kobro S & Rafoss T (2006) Identification of adult males and females of *Hoplothrips* species (Thysanoptera: Tubulifera) known from Norway, and some deductions on their life history. *Entomologica Fennica* 17: 184–192.
- Mound LA, Morison GD, Pitkin BR & Palmer JM (1976) Thysanoptera. *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects* 1 (11): 1–79.
- Mound LA & Walker AK (1986) Tubulifera (Insecta: Thysanoptera). *Fauna of New Zealand* 10: 1–140.
- Okajima S (2006) The Suborder Tubulifera (Thysanoptera). *The Insects of Japan* 2: 1–720.