

Limothrips denticornis

Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body brown, tarsi paler, antennal segment III light brown with pedicel yellow; fore wings light brown.

Antennae 8-segmented; III with external margin produced into a tooth; sense cone simple on III but forked on segment IV. Head longer than wide, distinctly projecting in front of eyes; with 2–3 pairs of ocellar setae, pair III anterolateral to ocellar triangle, scarcely longer than distance between two ocelli; postocular setae small; maxillary palps 2-segmented. Pronotum with 1 pair of long posteroangular setae, posterior margin with 3 pairs of setae. Metanotum reticulate, campaniform sensilla present, median setae arise behind anterior margin. Meso- and metafurca without spinula. Fore wing first vein with 2 setae on distal half, second vein with about 10 setae. Tergites reticulate medially, paired campaniform sensilla close to posterior margin, craspedum not developed; tergite X with 1 pair of stout thorn-like setae. Sternites II–VII with 10–16 discal setae, without craspeda.

Male aptera. Head without ocelli; pterothorax transverse without wing buds; tergite IX with 2 pairs of small stout setae on tubercles, 1 pair medially, 1 longer pair laterally; sternites without pore plates.

Related species

Although eight species are listed in the genus *Limothrips*, no more than six of these are likely to be valid (zur Strassen, 2003). They all live on various grasses, and are distinguished from other grass-living Thripinae by the stout pair of thorn-like setae at the apex of the tenth abdominal segment. Although they are originally from Europe, three species are now widespread around the world. *L. denticornis* is distinguished by the strong lateral prolongation of the external margin of antennal segment III.

Biological data

Feeding and breeding on the leaves and in the flowers of many Poaceae including cereal crops, particularly *Avena*.

Distribution data

Recorded across Britain from Kent to Inverness, and also from both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland (Mound *et al.*, 1976; O'Connor, 2008), this species is abundant in Europe and its range extends as far southeast as Iran. It has been introduced to North America (Stannard, 1968) and to Australia.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Limothrips denticornis (Haliday)

Original name and synonyms

Thrips (*Limothrips*) *denticornis* Haliday, 1836: 445

Thrips kollari Heeger, 1852: 484

Thrips (*Limothrips*) *bidens* Reuter, 1879: 212

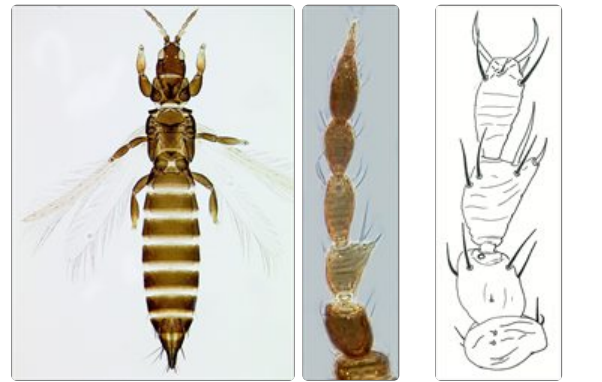
Thrips secalina Lindeman, 1887: 301

Limothrips denticornis ab. *adustus* Priesner, 1920: 52

Limothrips incertis Bagnall, 1926: 462

References

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



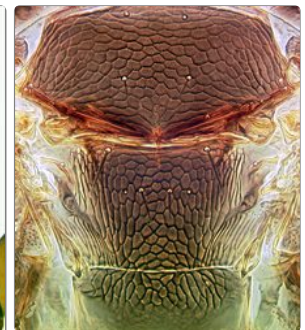
Female

Antenna

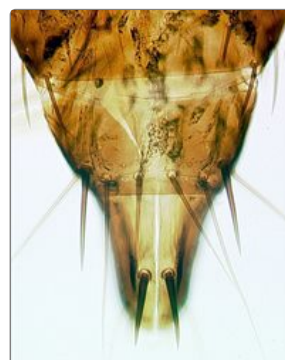
Antennal segments I-IV



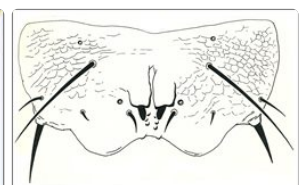
Head & pronotum



Meso & metanota



Female tergites VIII-X



Male tergite IX



Fore wing

O'Connor JP (2008) A review of the Irish thrips (Thysanoptera). *Irish Naturalists' Journal* **29**: 20–24.

Stannard LJ (1968) The thrips, or Thysanoptera, of Illinois. *Bulletin of the Illinois Natural History Survey* **29**: 213–552.

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