

Mycterothrips latus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body, legs and antennae light brown, tarsi and tibial apices yellowish brown, antennal segment III and base of IV yellow; fore wings shaded. Antennae 8-segmented; segment I with paired dorso-apical setae; segments III–IV each with apex slightly narrowed, sense cone forked; V broad at apex and VI broad at base, VIII longer than VII. Head slightly wider than long; eyes with a few weakly pigmented facets; 3 pairs of ocellar setae, pair III long, arising within ocellar triangle but close to anterior margins. Pronotum with 2 pairs of long posteroangular setae, two pairs of posteromarginal setae, about 20 discal setae. Mesonotum with paired campaniform sensilla anteromedially; median pair of setae far anterior to posterior margin. Metanotum transversely reticulate medially; median setal pair near anterior margin, no campaniform sensilla. Mesothoracic spinula weak or even absent, metathoracic spinula well-developed. Fore wing with 2 setae on distal half, near apex, second vein with about 10 setae. Abdominal tergites without ctenidia or craspeda; II–VII with no sculpture lines medially, lateral sculpture lines sometimes bearing microtrichia, a fringe of microtrichia on posterior margin laterally; tergites VI–VIII with median setal pair more than 0.5 as long as median length of tergite, VIII with complete comb of long, fine microtrichia; IX with 2 pairs of campaniform sensilla, X with median split about 0.5 length of tergite. Sternites without discal setae, setae S1 on VII arising in front of margin. Male similar to female but smaller; antennae 8-segmented, similar in form to female; sternites without discal setae or pore plates.

Related species

The genus *Mycterothrips*, with 27 species worldwide, is primarily but not exclusively Holarctic (Masumoto & Okajima, 2006). Five species are known from Europe, with two more in the wider Mediterranean area (zur Strassen, 2003). The species *latus* is unusual within the genus in that the mesosternal spinula is weakly developed.

Biological data

Feeding and breeding on leaves, particularly on *Betula* [Betulaceae], but probably pupating at ground level.

Distribution data

Described from a female taken in Northumberland in 1911 (Bagnall, 1912), and subsequently taken infrequently but widely in England and Scotland north to Inverness (Mound *et al.*, 1976). This thrips appears to have a Euro-Siberian distribution and has been reported as far south as Iran.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Mycterothrips latus (Bagnall)

Original name and synonyms

Physothrips latus Bagnall, 1912: 191

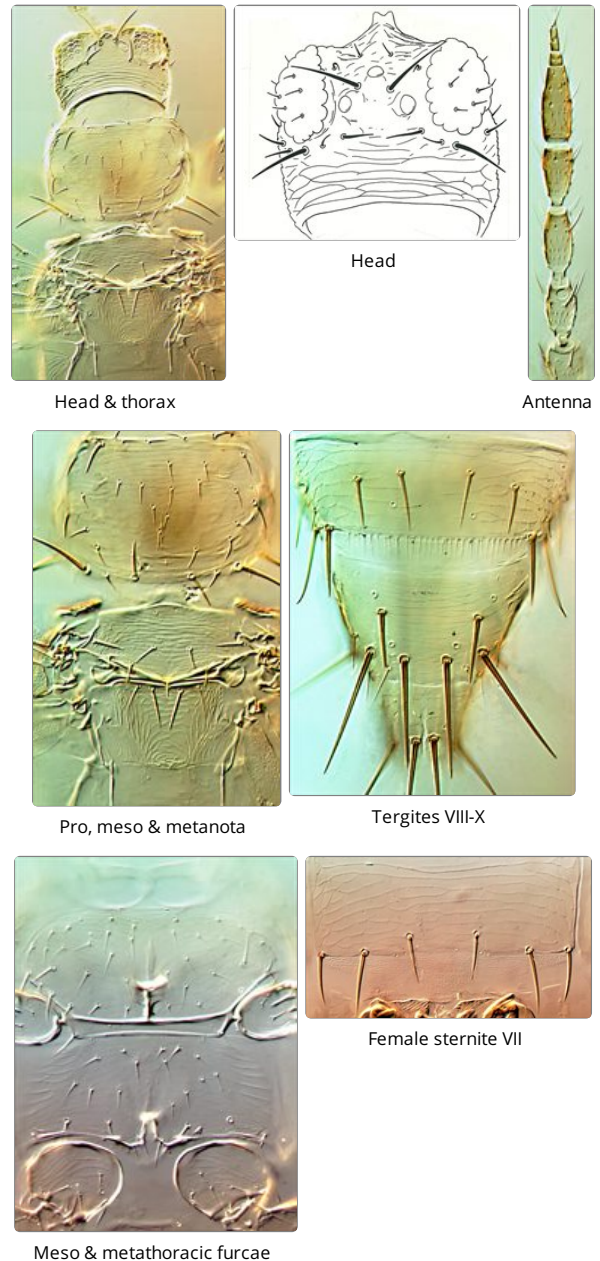
Physothrips propinquus Bagnall, 1921: 62

Taeniothrips propinquus f. *foliorum* Priesner, 1964: 76

References

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Thripidae) *Zootaxa* 1261: 1-90.

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.