

Neoheegeria dalmatica

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Female dark brown, fore tarsi and apex of fore tibiae yellow, antennae brown but segment III yellow at base; major setae on head and pronotum dark but abdominal setae paler; fore wings pale. Antennae 8-segmented, III with 3 sense cones, IV with 4 sense cones. Head longer than wide; stylets retracted to postocular setae, maxillary bridge about 50% of head width; post-ocular setae long, pointed. Pronotum with 5 pairs of major pointed setae; epimeral sutures complete; prosternal basantra present. Mesopresternum divided into two triangular plates. Fore tarsi with no tooth. Fore wings broad, constricted medially, with 14–18 duplicated cilia; sub-basal setae arranged in triangle. Pelta triangular; tergites II–VII each with 2 pairs of sigmoid setae; tergite IX setae S1 as long as tube; tube shorter than head.

Male smaller than female, fore tarsus with tooth; tergite IX setae S2 short and stout; sternites without any pore plate.

Related species

Five species are now placed in the genus *Neoheegeria* (Minaei *et al.*, 2018). This is a group of southeastern European species associated with the flowers of Lamiaceae, all of which have three sense cones on the third antennal segment. In contrast, the genus was used at one time for various unrelated species of *Haplothrips* with long pronotal setae.

Biological data

Breeding in flowers (Minaei *et al.*, 2007) and pupating at soil level. In Britain, breeding is confirmed on *Stachys byzantina* [Lamiaceae], but this thrips is also known from *Stachys inflata* and possibly related plant species.

Distribution data

Since 2007, it has been recorded from three locations in the York area, where it is clearly established. Also recorded from Ashford, Kent (Collins, 2007). All records are on garden plants, and it seems likely that it is present on *S. byzantina* flowers in domestic gardens elsewhere. The range of this thrips is primarily across the southern Palaearctic from Spain and Algeria to Iran and Uzbekistan, with some more northern records including a couple from the Netherlands (e.g., Mantel & Vierbergen, 1996; Collins, 2007; Minaei *et al.*, 2007).

Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE - PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

Species name

Neoheegeria dalmatica Schmutz

Original name and synonyms

Neoheegeria dalmatica Schmutz, 1910: 344

Cryptothrips tenuipilosus Bagnall, 1914: 293

Neoheegeria nevskyi Moulton, 1946: 57

Neoheegeria ballotae Priesner, 1951: 365

Neoheegeria hamanni Priesner, 1961: 59

References

Collins DW (2007) Two species of thrips (Thysanoptera) new to Britain, *Neoheegeria dalmatica* Schmutz and *Frankliniella pallida* (Uzel), with an updated key to the British species of *Frankliniella* Karny. *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* **20**: 241–248.

Mantel WP & Vierbergen G (1996) Additional species to the Dutch list of Thysanoptera and new intercepted Thysanoptera on imported plant material. *Folia Entomologica Hungarica* **57** (Suppl.): 91–96.

Minaei K, Azemayeshfard P & Mound LA (2007) The southern Palaearctic genus *Neoheegeria* (Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae): redefinition and key to species. *Tijdschrift voor Entomologie* **150**: 55–64.

Minaei K, Fekrat L & Mound LA (2018) The genus *Neoheegeria* with a new species from Iran exhibiting wing-dimorphism



Female



Head & pronotum



Antenna

(Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae). *Zootaxa* 4455 (3): 563-570.