

Oxythrips quercicola

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body legs and antennae yellow, antennal segment II sometimes slightly darker than I and III; fore wings weakly and evenly shaded. Antennae 8-segmented, III and IV each with short forked sense cone. Head wider than long; 3 pairs of ocellar setae, pair III just anterolateral to ocellar triangle, about as long as distance between posterior ocelli; maxillary palps 3-segmented. Pronotum with one pair of posteroangular setae; discal area with transverse sculpture lines. Mesonotum with paired anterior campaniform sensilla, median setae on posterior half of sclerite. Metanotum reticulate medially; median setae posterior to anterior margin; campaniform sensilla present. Mesothoracic furca with spinula, metafurca with no spinula. Fore tarsal pulvillus without an apical claw. Abdominal tergites with neither craspedum nor ctenidia; tergites V–VIII with faint transverse sculpture lines medially; VIII with no posteromarginal comb; IX with 2 pairs of campaniform sensilla; X sub-equal in length to IX, with long median split. Pleurotergites with irregular reticulate lines, without microtrichia or discal setae. Sternites without discal setae; setae S1 on VII arise submarginally.

Male similar to female; tergite IX with 2 pairs of short stout setae; sternites III–VI with small pore plate.

Related species

There are 39 species listed in the genus *Oxythrips*, mainly from the Holarctic region, together with a further 12 species known only as fossils. A key to 18 species from Europe is provided by zur Strassen (2003), but some of these species remain poorly defined, including *halidayi*, *quercicola* and *ulmifoliorum*. These are currently distinguished on the basis that *halidayi* is dark brown, and that in the yellow bodied *quercicola* ocellar setae III are longer than in the light brown species *ulmifoliorum* (zur Strassen, 2003). Wing reduction is reported only for *halidayi*, but there is little biological evidence that three species are involved. The genus is probably related to *Anaphothrips*, but is distinguished because all of its species have a single pair of pronotal posteroangular setae (Masumoto & Okajima, 2017a).

Biological data

Feeding and breeding on the leaves of *Quercus* [Fagaceae].

Distribution data

Collected infrequently in Britain and, with the exception of an historic finding in Berkshire, entirely from Scotland and the far north of England (Mound *et al.*, 1976). The species was described from Scottish material (Bagnall, 1926), and is recorded elsewhere in Europe from Spain and Sicily (zur Strassen, 2003).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Oxythrips quercicola Bagnall

Original name and synonyms

Oxythrips quercicola Bagnall, 1926: 282

References

Bagnall RS (1926) On some new British Thysanoptera. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* 62: 279–285.

Masumoto M & Okajima S (2017a) *Anaphothrips* genus-group: key to world genera, with two new species and three new records from Japan (Thysanoptera, Thripidae). *Zootaxa* 4272 (2): 201–220.

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.