

Parthenothrips dracaenae

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and femora brown, tibiae and tarsi yellow; antennal segments I–V largely yellow; fore wing mainly pale, but with a small dark cross band in basal half and a diffuse shaded area on the distal half. Antennae 7-segmented, VII slightly shorter than VI; III–IV with short, simple sense cone. Head strongly reticulate, cheeks constricted to basal neck; 3 pairs of translucent postocular setae. Pronotum reticulate, with 1 pair of flattened postero-angular setae. Metanotum reticulate medially, median setae arise on posterior half; metathoracic furca U-shaped but not long. Tarsi 1-segmented. Fore wing broad with constriction in basal third, membrane reticulate; veinal setae translucent, broad with thickened median rhachis; costa without cilia, postero-marginal cilia wavy. Abdominal tergites without craspeda, with weak reticulation laterally, median setae small; VIII with no marginal comb of microtrichia; tergite X with complete median division.

Male similar to female; sternites IV–VII with circular pore plate, larger on posterior sternites.

Related species

Known as the Parlour Palm Thrips, this is the only species in the genus *Parthenothrips*. Within the sub-family Panchaetothripinae, the only other species with expanded fore wings are the Neotropical "peanut winged thrips" in the genus *Arachisothrips*.

Biological data

Feeding, breeding, and pupating on the leaves of a wide range of plants, most of which have hard leaves. Frequently associated with the leaves of the cultivated kentia palm or parlour palm (*Howea forsteriana*) [Palmae], but also commonly found on ferns such as *Adiantum* spp. [Pteridaceae].

Distribution data

Occasionally found in Britain under glass or on indoor landscape planting (Mound *et al.*, 1976), and similarly elsewhere in Europe (zur Strassen, 2003). The Parlour Palm Thrips is widespread around the world in tropical and subtropical countries, but its country of origin remains a subject for speculation.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - PANCHAETOTHRIPINAE

Species name

Parthenothrips dracaenae (Heeger)

Original name and synonyms

Heliorthrips dracaenae Heeger, 1854: 365

Parthenothrips concolor Uzel, 1895: 172

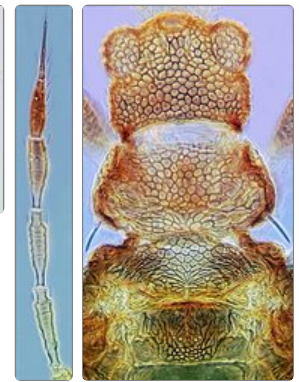
References

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.

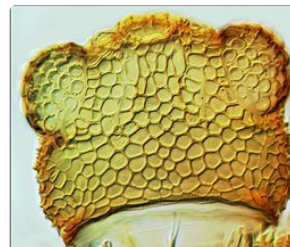


Female

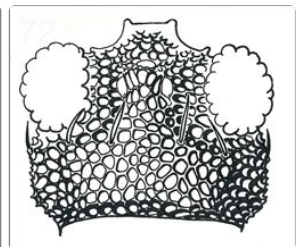


Antenna

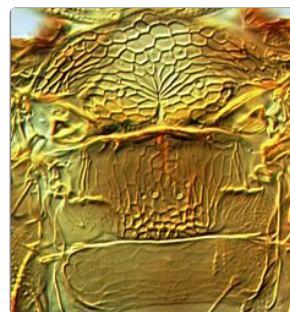
Head & thorax



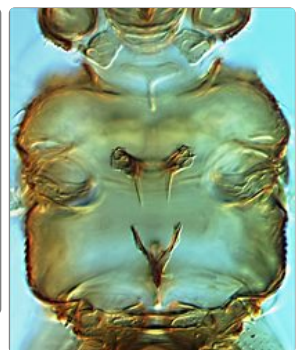
Head



Head



Meso & metanota



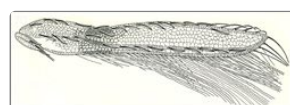
Meso & metathoracic furcae



Tergites VII-VIII



Fore wing



Fore wing



Fore wing costal seta