

Rhipidothrips brunneus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged or micropterous. Body, legs and antennae largely brown, tarsi yellow, also apex of tibiae and base of mid and hind femora; antennal segments I-II brown, III almost yellow; fore wing pale with posterior margin weakly shaded. Antennae 9-segmented, VII-IX forming a unit, segments III-IV with sensorium transverse at apex. Head longer than wide, with less than 5 pairs of small ante-ocular setae; inter-ocular setae prominent, arising on anterior margin of ocellar triangle. Pronotum with 1 pair of long posteroangular setae, 2 (or 3) pairs of posteromarginals. Metanotum with elongate reticulation in macropterae, but irregular sculpture in micropterae, without microtrichia, median setae near posterior margin. Fore tarsus with strongly recurved hamus. Fore wing with cross veins visible. Abdominal tergites with transverse reticulation, trichobothria on X about as large as major setal bases. Sternites III-VI with 2 or 3 pairs of posteromarginal setae, lateral pairs arise submarginally; sternite VII with 4 pairs of posteromarginal setae, also 2 pairs of accessory setae, but no discal setae laterally. Male tergite I with paired longitudinal ridges scarcely one third as long as tergite.

Related species

Six species are recognised in the genus *Rhipidothrips*, although only *brunneus* and *gratiosus* are widespread in Europe. Two species are known only from south-eastern Europe, one from the Canary Islands, and one is recorded from Finland and France (zur Strassen, 2003). The two *Rhipidothrips* species found in Britain are distinguished by the colour of antennal segment II and the number of posteromarginal setae on the pronotum.

Biological data

Presumably phytophagous on Poaceae, and often on plants growing in damp places; in Britain recorded from *Bromus sterilis*. It is mentioned by Bailey (1954) as probably predatory on other thrips in California, but there seems to be little supporting evidence.

Distribution data

Described from a single female from Bognor Regis, West Sussex (Williams, 1913), and otherwise only recorded from three other locations in Sussex in 1929 and 1930, and from a water trap on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, in 2014 (Mound *et al.*, 1976; Clemons, 2015). It is widespread across western Europe, and has also been recorded from Finland and Russia south to Egypt and Iran. It has also been found in California and Oregon, as well as in Western Australia.

Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

Species name

Rhipidothrips brunneus Williams

Original name and synonyms

Rhipidothrips brunneus Williams, 1913: 216

Rhipidothrips cahirensis Priesner, 1932: 45

References

Bailey SF (1954) A review of the genus *Rhipidothrips* Uzel (Thysanoptera: Aeolothripidae). *Pan-Pacific Entomologist* **30**: 209-220.

Clemons L (2015) *Rhipidothrips brunneus* Williams, 1913 (Thysanoptera: Aeolothripidae) in north Kent. *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation* **127**: 30-31.

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



Female macroptera

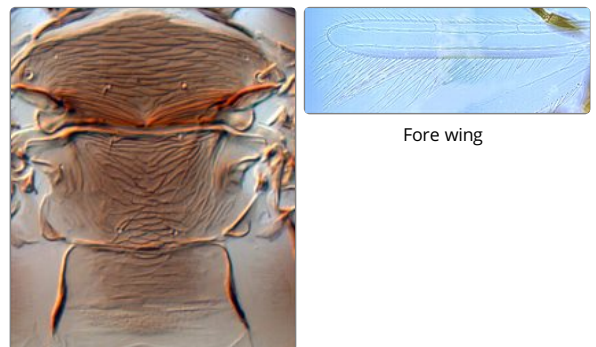
Short-winged female



Head & pronotum

Antenna

Meso & metanota of macroptera



Meso & metanota of microptera

Fore wing

Williams C B (1913) Records and descriptions of British Thysanoptera. *Journal of Economic Biology* **8** (4): 216–230.

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