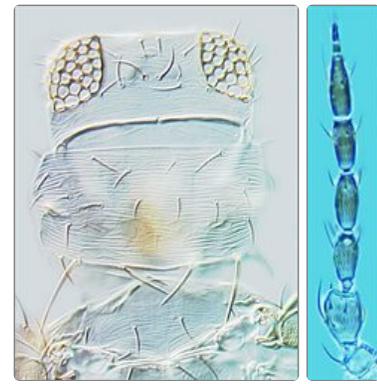


Scirtothrips inermis

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body yellow, antecostal ridges on tergites and sternites dark; fore wings shaded near base but pale distally; antennal segment I pale, II–VIII darker. Antennae 8-segmented, III and IV each with forked sense cone. Head with vertex closely striate, ocellar region with several transverse lines; ocellar setae pair III about twice as long as diameter of one posterior ocellus, close together between midpoints of posterior ocelli; two pairs of post-ocular setae. Pronotum with transverse striae not closely spaced, distance between lines about equal to diameter of a discal setal pore; posteromarginal setae S2 50–65 microns long, length more than twice diameter of antennal segment II. Metanotal reticulation almost equiangular on posterior half; median setae close to anterior margin. Fore wing clavus with 4 marginal setae; first vein setae with about 10 setae; second vein with 2–3 setae; all posteromarginal fringe cilia straight. Tergite I without long discal setae, III–V with median setae longer than distance between bases; tergal microtrichial fields with 4–6 discal setae; VIII with discal microtrichia anteromedially, posteromarginal comb complete; IX without discal microtrichia. Sternites III–VI with microtrichial fields extending just mesad of setae S2.

Male similar to female but smaller; without drepanae on tergite IX.



Head & pronotum

Antenna



Meso & metanota

Tergites IV-X



Fore wing

Related species

The genus *Scirtothrips* comprises over 100 described species worldwide, mostly in warmer countries. These species resemble species of *Neohydatothrips* in having the lateral thirds of the abdominal tergites covered in closely spaced rows of fine microtrichia, but the most closely similar genus is *Drepanothrips*. *S. inermis* is similar to *dorsalis* in having the fore wing cilia straight, and tergite VIII with discal microtrichia, but the sternites lack microtrichia medially, and the pronotal posteroangular setae are much longer.

Biological data

Feeding and breeding on leaves, and recorded from a wide range of shrubs and trees.

Distribution data

Discovered breeding outdoors on *Laurus nobilis* in Central London in 2000 (Collins, 2006) and subsequently found under glass at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and at a commercial nursery, the latter also on *L. nobilis* (Collins, 2010a). Known mainly from western Mediterranean countries and the Atlantic islands, this species has also been found in southern Australia where it is common on Norfolk Island (Mound & Wells, 2015), New Zealand, Cape Verde Islands and California (Mound & Stiller, 2011).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Scirtothrips inermis Priesner

Original name and synonyms

Scirtothrips inermis Priesner, 1933: 186

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