

Thrips flavus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and legs yellow, major setae light brown; antennal segments IV–V brown distally, VI–VII brown; fore wings pale. Antennae 7-segmented; segments III–IV each with short forked sense cone; VII short. Head wider than long, with two pairs of ocellar setae; pair III small, arising within the ocellar triangle behind the first ocellus; postocular setae pair I slightly longer than ocellar setae III. Pronotum with 2 pairs of long posteroangular setae; posterior margin with 3 pairs of setae. Metanotum with irregular longitudinal lines not strongly converging at the posterior margin, at anterior with curving transverse lines; median setae arising behind anterior margin; campaniform sensilla present. Fore wing first vein with 3 (sometimes 2) setae on distal half; second vein with row of about 15 setae. Abdominal tergite II with 4 lateral marginal setae; tergites V–VIII with paired ctenidia laterally, on VIII posteromesad to spiracles; tergite VIII posteromarginal comb complete, microtrichia long and slender, discal setae S1 as long as setae S2; tergite IX with 2 pairs of campaniform sensilla, X with median split; pleurotergites without discal setae. Sternites without discal setae.

Male smaller than female; tergite VIII with marginal comb complete medially; sternites III–VII with narrow transverse pore plate.

Related species

The genus *Thrips* is the second largest genus in the Thysanoptera, and currently includes, worldwide, over 290 species. All members of genus *Thrips* lack ocellar setae I on the head, and they all have ctenidia on tergite VIII posteromesad to the spiracles. Other characters, such as number of antennal segments, number of setae on the fore wing veins, and number of discal setae on the sternites are variable between species (Palmer, 1992; Nakahara, 1994; Mound & Masumoto, 2005).

Thrips flavus is remarkably similar in structure to the invasive pest species from Asia, *T. palmi*, but has ocellar setae III arising inside the ocellar triangle behind the first ocellus, and the longitudinal sculpture on the metanotum scarcely converges at the posterior margin

Biological data

Polyphagous across its range, but in Britain often found in the flowers of *Ulex* [Fabaceae] (Morison, 1968a). In mid-summer, adults are likely to be encountered in the flowers of numerous plant species.

Distribution data

Recorded throughout Britain from Kent to Caithness (Mound *et al.*, 1976), and from both Northern Ireland as well as the Republic of Ireland (O'Connor, 2008). This species is abundant and widespread throughout Eurasia from Britain to China, Korea, Japan and Malaysia (Mound & Azidah, 2009; Mirab-balou *et al.*, 2011). Contrary to several published references, the species has not been recorded from North America.

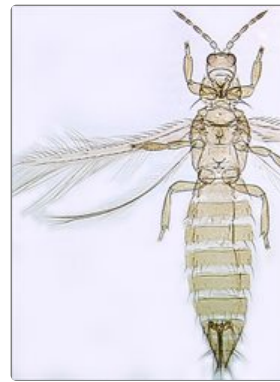
Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Thrips flavus Schrank

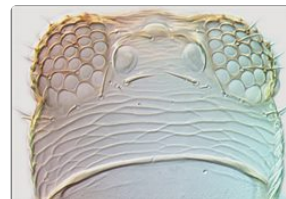
Original name and synonyms



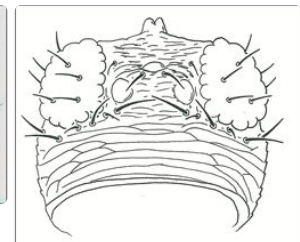
Female



Head & pronotum



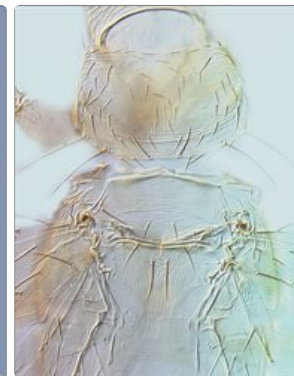
Head



Head



Antenna



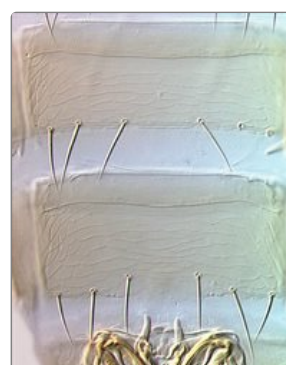
Pro, meso & metanota



Meso & metanota



Tergites VII-IX



Sternites VI-VII



Fore wing

Thrips flavus Schrank, 1776: 31
Thrips melanopa Schrank, 1776: 31
Thrips ochraceus Curtis, 1841: 228
Physothrips flavidus Bagnall, 1916: 399
Thrips flavidus Bagnall, 1916: 402
Thrips flavosetosus Priesner, 1919: 105
Thrips obscuricornis Priesner, 1927: 423
Physothrips flavus Bagnall, 1928: 98
Taeniothrips clarus Moulton, 1928: 287
Thrips kyotoi Moulton, 1928: 302
Thrips nilgiriensis Ramakrishna, 1928: 262
Taeniothrips luteus Oettingen, 1935: 183
Taeniothrips sulfuratus Priesner, 1935: 358
Thrips biarticulata Priesner, 1935: 358
Taeniothrips saussureae Ishida, 1936: 70
Taeniothrips rhopalantennalis Shumsher, 1946: 181

References

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- Mound LA & Azidah AA (2009) Species of the genus *Thrips* (Thysanoptera) from Peninsular Malaysia, with a checklist of recorded Thripidae. *Zootaxa* **2023**: 55–68.
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