

Thrips major

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body colour variable, mainly brown but head and thorax sometimes paler; femora light brown, tibiae often yellow; major setae brown; antennal segment III mainly yellow, IV shaded at apex, V brown at least on distal half, VI–VII brown; fore wings pale to very weakly shaded. Antennae 7-segmented; III–IV each with forked sense cone. Head with 2 pairs of ocellar setae; pair III no longer than distance between 2 ocelli, arising just outside triangle; postocular setae pairs I & III slightly longer than ocellar setae III, postocular setae pair II smaller. Pronotum with 2 pairs of posteroangular setae; posterior margin with 3 pairs of setae; discal area with widely spaced irregular transverse striae. Mesonotum with paired anterior campaniform sensilla; median setae arise well in front of posterior margin. Metanotum with irregular, usually longitudinal, reticulation medially; median setae arising behind anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent or present. Fore wing first vein with 3 setae on distal half; second vein with 12–15 setae. Abdominal tergite II with 3 lateral marginal setae; tergites V–VIII with paired ctenidia, on VIII posteromesad to spiracles; tergite VIII posteromarginal comb absent medially, with several microtrichia laterally; pleurotergites with no discal setae, sculpture lines with many ciliate microtrichia, posterior margin with microtrichia; tergite IX with 2 pairs of campaniform sensilla, X with median split. Sternites with no discal setae; sternite I with no small setae between hind coxae; sternite VII marginal setae S1 arise in front of margin.

Male smaller than female and yellow; tergite VIII with no posteromarginal comb; tergite IX median setae slender, median pair arising anterior to lateral pair and anterior to campaniform sensilla; sternites III–VII with broad 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 major is one of the two most common flower-living thrips in Europe. It is distinguished from the other abundant flower-living species, *Thrips fuscipennis*, by the combination of having 3 lateral marginal setae on tergite II, and ciliate, rather than dentate, microtrichia on the pleurotergites.

Biological data

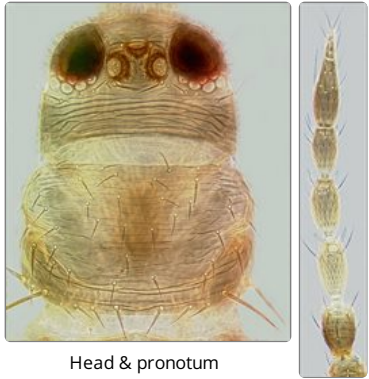
Feeding and breeding on leaves and in the flowers of its host plants, this polyphagous species is often associated with species of Rosaceae, and is also sometimes found in leaf buds.

Distribution data

Widely distributed and very common throughout Britain, apart from the northern half of Scotland, and it is also recorded from across the island of Ireland (Mound *et al.*, 1976). This species occurs throughout the Palaearctic as far south as Iran.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

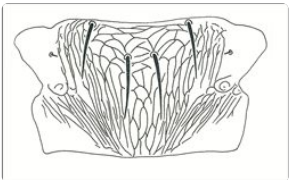


Head & pronotum

Antenna



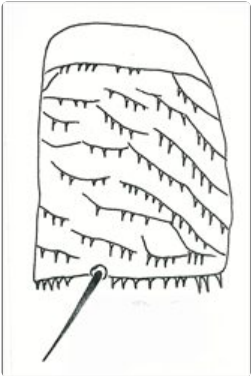
Meso & metanota



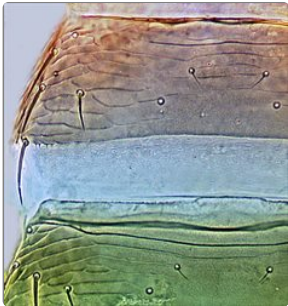
Metanotum



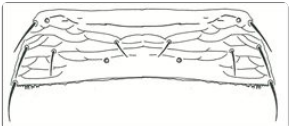
Pleurotergites III–IV



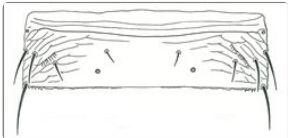
Pleurotergite II



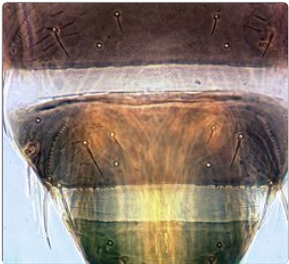
Tergites II–III



Tergite II



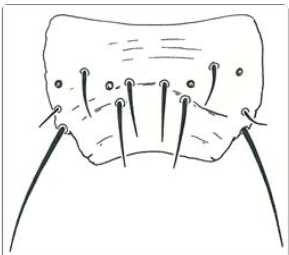
Tergite V



Tergite VIII



Fore wing



Male tergite IX

Species name

Thrips major Uzel

Original name and synonyms

- Thrips major* Uzel, 1895: 179
- Thrips major* var. *gracilicornis* Uzel, 1895: 180
- Thrips major* var. *adusta* Uzel, 1895: 180
- Thrips sarothamni* Priesner, 1925: 149
- Thrips fuscipennis* f. *corticina* Priesner, 1925: 369
- Thrips fuscipennis* var. *banatica* Priesner, 1927: 370
- Thrips fuscipennis* f. *ustulata* Priesner, 1927: 371
- Thrips fuscipennis* f. *dorsimaculata* Priesner, 1927: 371
- Physothrips inaequalis* Bagnall, 1928: 98
- Thrips phytolaccae* Priesner, 1951: 256
- Thrips ponticus* zur Strassen, 1970: 374
- Thrips permutatus* zur Strassen, 1971: 249

References

Mound LA & Masumoto M (2005) The genus *Thrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) in Australia, New Caledonia and New Zealand. *Zootaxa* **1020**: 1–64.

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

Nakahara S (1994) The genus *Thrips* Linnaeus (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) of the New World. *United States Department of Agriculture. Technical Bulletin* **1822**: 1–183.

Palmer JM (1992) Thrips (Thysanoptera) from Pakistan to the Pacific: a review. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Entomology Series* **61** (1): 1–76.