

Thrips menyanthidis

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and femora brown, tarsi and extreme apices of tibiae almost yellow; major setae brown; antennal segment III light brown, IV–VII brown; fore wings shaded with base paler. Antennae 7-segmented; III–IV each with short forked sense cone, VII small. Head with 2 pairs of ocellar setae; pair III no longer than distance between 2 ocelli, arising on anterior margin of ocellar triangle; postocular setae pair I longer than ocellar setae III, postocular setae pair II very small.

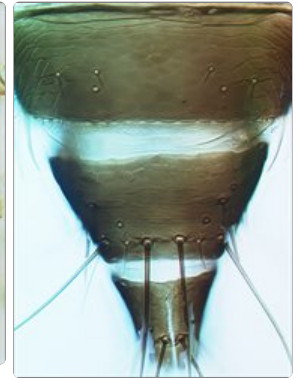
Pronotum with 2 pairs of long posteroangular setae; posterior margin with 3 pairs of setae; discal area with weak sculptured striae. Mesonotum with paired anterior campaniform sensilla; median setae arise well in front of posterior margin.

Metanotum with irregular reticulation medially, reticles more elongate on posterior third; median setae arising behind anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent. Fore wing first vein with 3 setae on distal half; second vein with 11–12 setae. Abdominal tergite II with 4 lateral marginal setae; tergites V–VIII with paired ctenidia, on VIII posteromesad to spiracles; tergite VIII posteromarginal comb absent medially, with several microtrichia laterally, discal setae S1 smaller than S2; pleurotergites with no discal setae, sculpture lines without microtrichia, posterior margin with few or no microtrichia; tergite IX with 2 pairs of campaniform sensilla, X with median split. Sternites with no discal setae; sternite I with 2–3 minute setae between hind coxae; sternite VII marginal setae S1 arise in front of margin.

Male smaller and paler than female; tergite VIII with no posteromarginal comb; tergite IX median setae slender; sternites III–VII with broad transverse pore plate.



Meso & metanota



Tergites VIII-X

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). Pitkin (1976b) considered that *Thrips menyanthidis* was probably a large dark form of *Thrips fuscipennis*, and the two were synonymised by Mound *et al.* (1976). Subsequently they were distinguished by zur Strassen (1982b), although the status of this species as being distinct from *fuscipennis* remains in doubt. The discriminant character states overlap with those of *fuscipennis*, and could still be interpreted as indicating a larger-bodied form. However, specimens from *Menyanthes trifoliata* lack metanotal campaniform sensilla, and the sculpture on the pleurotergites lacks dentate microtrichia.

Biological data

Feeding and breeding in the flowers of its host plant *Menyanthes trifoliata* [Menyanthaceae].

Distribution data

Described from material collected in northern England (Bagnall, 1923), and also known from north east Scotland, and one site in Surrey. It is recorded by zur Strassen (2003) from Norway to Albania.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Thrips menyanthidis Bagnall

Original name and synonyms

Thrips menyanthidis Bagnall, 1923: 59

Thrips paludivagus Priesner, 1930: 42

References

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