

Thrips minutissimus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and legs brown, tarsi and apices of tibiae yellow, antennal segments II–III yellowish, paler than IV–VII; fore wings shaded, scarcely paler at base. Antennae 7-segmented; segments III–IV each with forked sense cone. Head with 2 pairs of ocellar setae; pair III arising on anterior margins of ocellar triangle, slightly shorter than side of ocellar triangle; postocular setae pairs I & III slightly longer than ocellar setae pair III, postocular setae pair II minute. Pronotum with 2 pairs of long posteroangular setae; posterior margin with 3 pairs. Mesonotum without anterior pair of campaniform sensilla, median setae in front of posterior margin. Metanotum with longitudinal reticulate sculpture medially; median setae arising near anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent. Fore wing first vein with 7–11 setae on distal half; second vein with complete row of about 14 setae. Abdominal tergite II with 4 lateral marginal setae, V–VIII with paired ctenidia, on VIII posteromesad to spiracles; tergite VIII posteromarginal comb complete, microtrichia long; pleurotergites III–VI with 3–4 discal setae, posterior margin with microtrichia; tergite IX with 2 pairs of campaniform sensilla, X with median split. Sternites III–VII with irregular row of 16 or more discal setae; VII with setae S1 arising in front of margin.

Male smaller than female; tergite VIII without posteromarginal comb; sternites III–V with small oval pore plate.

Related species

Thrips is the second largest genus in the Thysanoptera, and currently includes, worldwide, over 290 species. All members of this genus 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 minutissimus* is one of the species of *Thrips* genus with discal setae on both sternites and pleurotergites, and is unusual amongst that group in having a large number of setae on the first vein of the fore wing.

Biological data

Found in Spring, feeding and breeding in the flowers of its host plants. In Britain it was once thought to be specific to the catkins of *Quercus robor* [Fagaceae], but as on the mainland of Europe it is also found associated with various Rosaceae (zur Strassen, 2003), and even the catkins of *Salix caprea* [Salicaceae]. In Europe, it has also been recorded from *Carpinus* [Betulaceae].

Distribution data

Locally common and recorded widely in England and Scotland, from Kent to the northern Highland region (Mound *et al.*, 1976). This species occurs throughout northern Europe, and is also reported from Iran.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Thrips minutissimus Linnaeus

Original name and synonyms

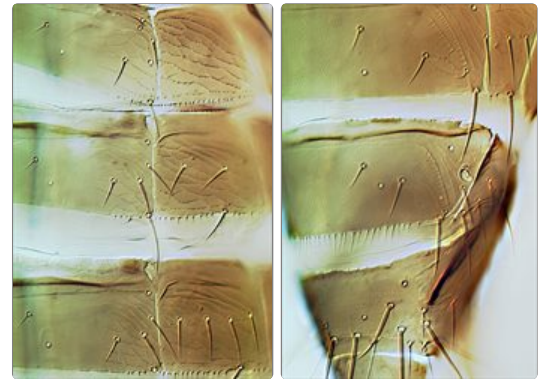
Thrips minutissimus Linnaeus, 1758: 457

Thrips minutissima var. *obscura* Coesfeld, 1898: 473



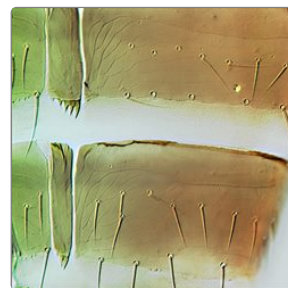
Antenna

Meso & metanota

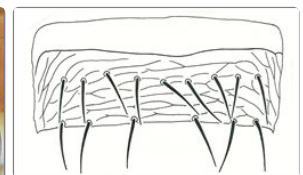


Pleurotergites II-IV

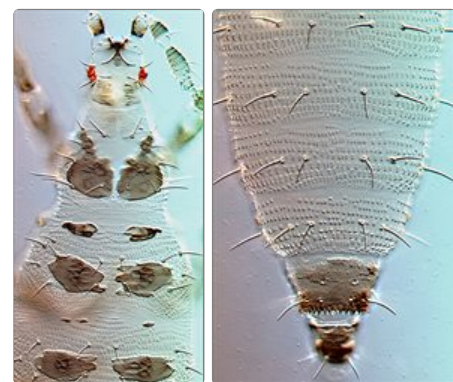
Tergites VII-IX



Sternites VI-VII

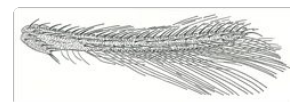


Sternite V



Larva II head & thorax

Larva II abdomen



Fore wing

Bagnallia variabilis Williams, 1913: 227

Thrips evestigatus Oettingen, 1944: 41

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.

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