

# Thrips physapus

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and legs brown, tarsi and apex of fore tibiae yellow; antennal segments I-II dark brown, VI-VII light brown, III-V mainly yellow with apices shaded; fore wings light brown. Antennae 7-segmented; segments III-IV each with sense cone forked. Head with 2 pairs of ocellar setae; pair III small, arising on or just outside anterior margins of ocellar triangle; postocular setae I & III longer than II & IV. Pronotum with transverse lines of sculpture; 2 pairs of posteroangular setae, 3 pairs of posteromarginal setae. Metanotum with narrow longitudinal reticulation on posterior half, irregular lines at anterior; median setae close to anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent. Fore wing first vein with 3 setae on distal half; second vein with row of about 12 setae. Abdominal tergite II with 3 lateral marginal setae; V-VIII with paired ctenidia, on VIII posteromesad to spiracles; tergite VIII posteromarginal comb complete, microtrichia slender; pleurotergites without discal setae. Sternite II with 2 pairs of marginal setae, III-VII with 3 pairs; sternite II without discal setae, III-VII with about eight discal setae in irregular transverse row.

Male yellow, smaller than female; tergite VIII posterior margin with no comb; sternites III-VII with broadly oval 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 physapus* is the type species of the genus *Thrips*. Females of this species are very similar to females of *Thrips trehernei*, but have slightly shorter pronotal setae. However, the males of *physapus* are yellow, whereas those of *trehernei* are brown. Females of these two species have been distinguished by the following formula (Pitkin, 1976b):

*physapus* -  $A+2B+C$  = less than 430 microns

*trehernei* -  $A+2B+C$  = more than 450 microns

Where A=pronotal posteroangular seta length; B=tergite IX seta S3 length; C=tergite X length.

## Biological data

Feeding and breeding in the flowers of its host plants, and in Britain common on *Taraxacum*, although also found in many other Asteraceae.

## Distribution data

Recorded throughout Britain to northern Scotland (Mound *et al.*, 1976), but less common in Scotland than *T. trehernei* (Pitkin, 1976b); it is also recorded from Northern Ireland as well as the Republic of Ireland (O'Connor, 2008). The species is known across Europe, eastwards to Iran and Mongolia, and south to Morocco (zur Strassen, 2003).

## Familyname

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

## Species name



Female



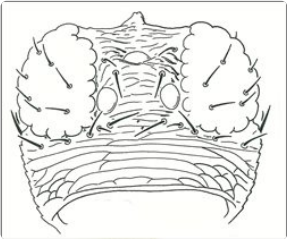
Head & pronotum



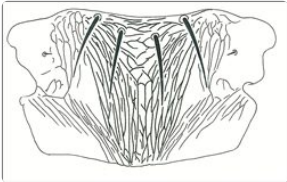
Antenna



Meso & metanota



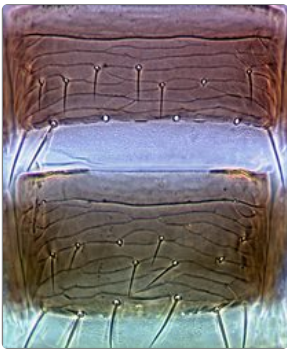
Head



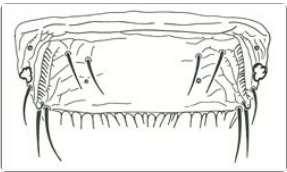
Metanotum



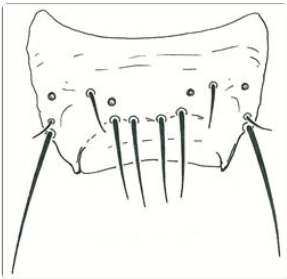
Female tergite VIII



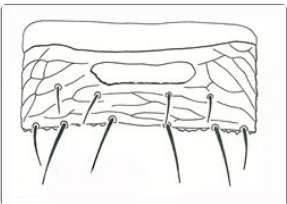
Female sternites VI-VII



Female tergite VIII



Male tergite IX



Male pore plate



Fore wing

*Thrips physapus* Linnaeus

## Original name and synonyms

*Thrips physapus* Linnaeus, 1758: 457

*Thrips fusca* Müller, 1776: 96

*Thrips flavicornis* Reuter, 1879: 219

*Thrips physopus* var. *adusta* Uzel, 1895: 175

*Thrips physapus* f. *annulata* Karny, 1907: 48

*Thrips obscuricornis* Priesner, 1920: 57

*Thrips physapus* var. *flavescens* Priesner, 1921: 28

*Thrips physapus* var. *quadrisetosus* Knechtel, 1923: 125

## 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.

O'Connor JP (2008) A review of the Irish thrips (Thysanoptera). *Irish Naturalists' Journal* **29**: 20–24.

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.

Pitkin BR (1976b) Notes on *Thrips physapus* L., *hukkineni* Preisner, and *fuscipennis* Haliday (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) in Britain. *Entomologist's Gazette* **27**: 173–178.

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