

# Hercinothrips bicinctus

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body brown, head yellow at anterior; legs yellow, mid and hind femora brown; antennal segments III–V largely yellow; fore wing with extensive pale area medially between two darker bands. Head reticulate with transverse occipital ridge; ocellar setae III on anterior margins of triangle; three pairs of postocular setae present. Antennae 8-segmented, III and IV each with sense cone forked. Pronotum with no long setae. Metanotum irregularly reticulate medially, median setae arise medially. Tarsi 2-segmented. Fore wing with two complete rows of setae, posteromarginal cilia wavy. Abdominal tergites weakly reticulate medially, median pair of setae small; posterior margins without a craspedum, VIII with comb of microtrichia laterally; tergite X with longitudinal split almost complete.

Male similar to female; tergite IX with 3 pairs of stout, thorn-like setae dorsally; sternites III–VII with a minute (4 micron) transverse pore plate near anterior margin.

## Related species

Nine species are recognized in the genus *Hercinothrips*, all of them originally from Africa. Two are now widespread around the world, but a third, *H. dimidiatus*, was found in Portugal in 2015 causing damage to cultivated *Aloe arborescens*. *H. bicinctus* is very similar to *H. femoralis*, but has the fore wings more extensively pale medially. *Hercinothrips* species are unusual amongst Panchaetothripinae in having 2-segmented tarsi, and the fore wing with both longitudinal veins bearing a complete row of setae.

## Biological data

This species has been found on many different plant species, with no obvious pattern. Adults and larvae are sometimes abundant on older leaves; often breeding on banana fruits where these are touching in a developing hand (Mound & Wells, 2015). In New Zealand this species is recorded from a wide variety of introduced plants, including *Solanum nigrum*, *Cucurbita* spp., *Zantedeschia aethiopica*, *Escallonia macrantha* and *Coprosma robusta*. At Waitara (TK) it was found damaging the midrib area on the underside of *Solanum aviculare* leaves.

## Distribution data

Originally from Africa but now recorded from many tropical and subtropical countries, and also sometimes a pest in greenhouses in temperate countries. In New Zealand collected from Three Kings Islands / ND, AK, CL and TK. Collected from November to April in NZ.

## Family name

THRIPIDAE, PANCHAETOTHRIPINAE

## Species name

*Hercinothrips bicinctus* (Bagnall)

## Original name and synonyms

*Heliiothrips bicinctus* Bagnall, 1919: 258

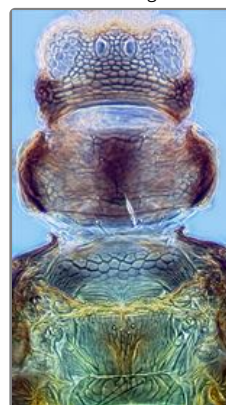
*Heliiothrips bifasciipennis* Girault, 1926: 1



Antennal segments III-VI



Fore wing



Head & thorax



Female tergites VII-X

## References

Martin NA (2017) Banana silvering thrips - *Hercinothrips bicinctus*.



Fore tibia & tarsus

<http://nzacfactsheets.landcareresearch.co.nz/factsheet/InterestingInsects/Banana-silvering-thrips--Hercinothrips-bicinctus.html>

Mound LA & Wells A (2015) Endemics and adventives: Thysanoptera (Insecta) Biodiversity of Norfolk, a tiny Pacific Island. *Zootaxa* **3964** (2): 183–210.

Mateus C, Franco JC, Caetano MF, da Silva EB, Ramos AP, Figueiredo E & Mound L (2015) *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* Hood (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), a new pest of *Aloe arborescens* Miller in Europe. *Phytoparasitica* **43**(5): 689–692.

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