

# Hercinothrips femoralis

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body brown, head with pair of yellow longitudinal areas; legs yellow, mid and hind femora brown; antennal segments III-V largely yellow; fore wing brown but pale at apex and sub-basally, and with submedian area variably lighter. 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 reticulate medially, median setae arise medially. Tarsi all 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 with sternal marginal setae minute, sternites III-VII with slender transverse pore plate.

## 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. femoralis* is very similar to *H. bicintus*, but has the fore wings extensively dark 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

Adults and larvae usually live on mature leaves, but of many different plant species with no obvious pattern of association.

## Distribution data

Originally from Africa, but now widespread around the world in tropical and subtropical areas (Roditakis *et al.*, 2006). Also common in temperate areas in greenhouses. Recently recorded from the Carpathian mountain area in Slovakia (more than 1,000 m a.s.l., coldest altitudes ever published) (Masarovic *et al.*, 2014). In New Zealand collected at Christchurch in 1934, in the potting shed at the Botanical Gardens.

## Family name

THRIPIDAE, PANCHAETOTHRIPINAE

## Species name

*Hercinothrips femoralis* (Reuter)

## Original name and synonyms

*Heliiothrips femoralis* Reuter, 1891: 166

*Heliiothrips cestri* Pergande, 1895: 390

*Heliiothrips apicalis* Bondar, 1931: 86

## References

Masarovic R, Doricová M, Prokop P, Fedor P (2014) "Testing the limits" — an interesting record of the exotic banded greenhouse thrips *Hercinothrips femoralis* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae: Panchaetothripinae) at high Carpathian mountain altitudes. *Biologia* (Bratisl). **69**: 1631–1634.



Antennal segments III-V



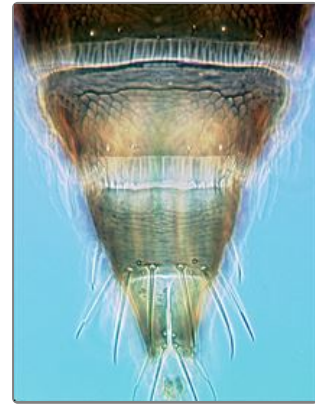
Fore wing



Head & thorax

Roditakis E, Mound LA, Roditakis NE (2006) First record in Crete of *Hercinothrips femoralis* in greenhouse banana plantations. *Phytoparasitica*, **34**: 488–490.

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



Tergites VII-X