

Hoplandrothrips vernus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Female brown; tarsi, distal half of fore tibiae, and apex of middle and hind tibiae yellow; fore wing shaded medially; major setae pale. Head with up to 7 pairs of small, stout cheek setae; maxillary stylets close together, retracted to compound eyes; 2 pairs of postocellar setae; postocular setae short, acute, closer together than in *choritus*.

Pronotum with scattered discal setae; major setae capitate; epimeral setae long, pale; other major setae smaller. Metanotum with sculpture striate medially but more open near posterior and anterior margins; median metanotal setae wide apart, acute; at least 4 pairs of small, scattered setae anterior to these. Prosternal basantra absent; mesopresternum broadly boat-shaped. Fore tarsal tooth variable in size. Fore wings with 9–17 duplicated cilia; sub-basal setae S1 and S2 expanded at apex, S3 longer, acute. Pelta variable, with transverse lateral lobes; tergite IX posteromarginal setae blunt, less than half as long as tube.

Male similar to female, head with cheek setae stouter; pronotum with less sculpture, anteroangular, mid-lateral, and posteroangular setae bluntly acute; metanotum with up to 6 pairs of scattered discal setae; fore wing with sub-basal setae S3 often shorter; sternite VIII with a sub-circular pore plate medially. Large males with pronotum elongate, not sculptured, with stout, median longitudinal apodeme; metanotum reticulate on a raised area; mesopresternum narrowly boat-shaped in contrast to female.

Related species

The genus *Hoplandrothrips* comprises about 120 species worldwide, particularly in tropical areas, but with nine species recorded from Europe, 16 from Australia, and four from New Zealand. *H. vernus* is unusual in having the postocular setae acute, very short and not extending to the posterior margin of the compound eyes. *H. choritus*, *H. ingenuus* and *H. vernus* constitute a New Zealand species-group with the following character states different from most other members of *Hoplandrothrips*: antennal segments dark (not bicoloured); segment III with a straight (not excavate) inner margin; mesopresternum entire (not divided); metanotum with 2 or more pairs of minor setae on anterior half of sclerite, and median major setae arising well behind them; fore femora lacking apical tubercles in male; fore wing scarcely constricted medially, and lacking a median 'pocket'.

Biological data

Fungus feeding on dead wood, mainly in New Zealand native forest.

Distribution data

Known only from New Zealand (ND, AK, CL, BP, TK / SD, NN).

Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

Species name

Hoplandrothrips vernus Mound & Walker

Original name and synonyms

Hoplandrothrips vernus Mound & Walker, 1986: 57.



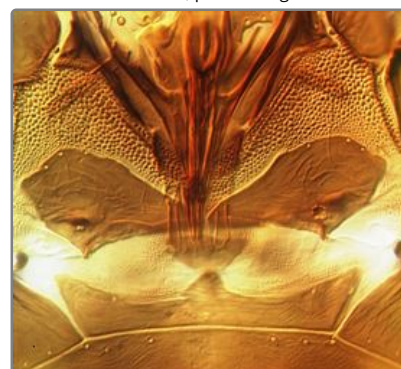
Antenna



Head & pronotum



Metanotum, pelta & tergite II



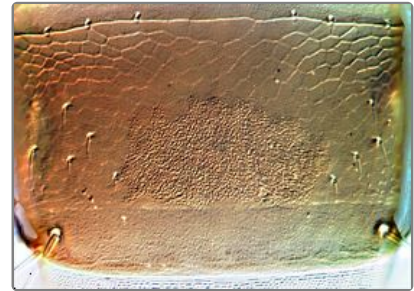
Female thoracic sternites

References

Mound LA & Walker AK (1986) Tubulifera (Insecta: Thysanoptera). *Fauna of New Zealand* 10: 1–140.



Male thoracic sternites



Male sternite VIII pore plate