

Limothrips cerealium

Distinguishing features

Female fully winged. Body brown, tarsi yellow, antennal segment III light brown with pedicel yellow; fore wings light brown. Antennae 8-segmented, III asymmetric with simple sense cone on slight lateral prominence, IV with simple sense cone. Head longer than wide, projecting in front of eyes; with 3 pairs of ocellar setae; pair III anterolateral to ocellar triangle, scarcely longer than distance between two ocelli; postocular setae small. Pronotum with 1 pair of long posteroangular setae, posterior margin with 3 pairs of setae. Metanotum reticulate, campaniform sensilla present, median setae arise behind anterior margin. Meso- and metafurca without spinula. Fore wing first vein with 2 setae on distal half, second vein with about 8 setae. Tergites reticulate medially, paired campaniform sensilla close to posterior margin, craspedum not developed; tergite IX with 1 pair of stout thorn-like setae. Sternites II–VII with 5–10 discal setae, without craspeda. Male apterous. Head without ocelli; pterothorax transverse without wing buds; tergite IX with 2 pairs of equally small stout setae on tubercles, 1 pair medially, 1 pair laterally with elongate projection on one side; sternites III–VII with small sub-circular pore plate.

Related species

Females of the genus *Limothrips* are characterised by the presence of a pair of unusually stout setae on the ninth tergite. Eight species are listed in this European genus, although two are of doubtful validity. Three species are now widespread around the world in temperate areas, and although all three have been found in southern areas of Australia only the most common species, *L. cerealium*, is known from New Zealand. This species has the external apical margin of antennal segment III weakly prolonged laterally.

Biological data

This thrips feeds and breeds on the leaves of grasses and cereal crops, including *Hordeum* and *Triticum* (Poaceae). In Europe, adults of this species are referred to as "Thunder Flies" because of their habit of swarming in late summer. These swarms can cause serious problems by entering smoke detectors and causing fire alarms to sound.

Distribution data

This European species is widespread in New Zealand, and is found worldwide in temperate areas.

Family name

THRIPIDAE, THRIPINAE

Species name

Limothrips cerealium (Haliday)

Original name and synonyms

Thrips (Limothrips) cerealium Haliday, 1836: 445

Limothrips avenae Hinds, 1902: 139

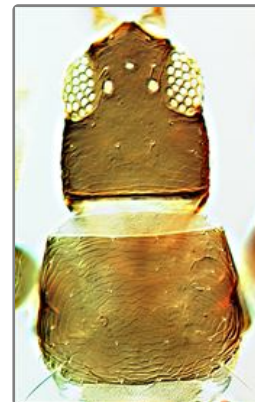
Limothrips aptera Karny, 1914: 56

Limothrips minor Bagnall, 1927: 565

Limothrips adusta Maltbaek, 1927: 14



Antenna



Limothrips cerealium ssp. *astutus* Priesner, 1964: 115

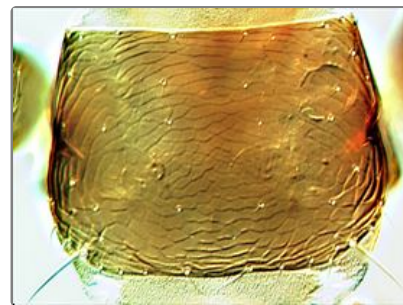
Limothrips syriacus Jensen, 2009: 83

References

Mound LA, Tree DC & Paris D (2012) OzThrips – Thysanoptera in Australia.

<http://www.ozthrips.org/>

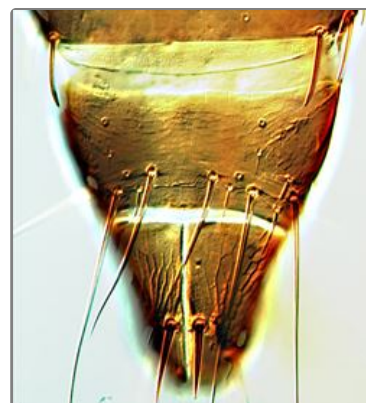
zur Strassen R (2003) Die terebranten Thysanopteren Europas und des Mittelmeer-Gebietes. *Die Tierwelt Deutschlands* 74: 1–271.



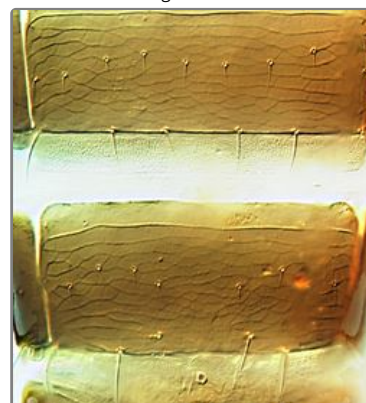
Pronotum



Meso & metanotum



Tergites VIII-X



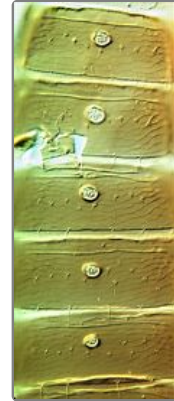
Female sternites VI-VII



Fore wing



Male tergites VII-IX



Male sternal pore plates