

Nesothrips propinquus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes usually wingless, female sometimes fully winged. Abdomen dark brown, head and thorax commonly yellowish, legs usually yellow; antennal segments I-IV usually yellow, distal segments brown; major setae brown, fore wing deeply shaded. Head wider than long, narrowed to base, eyes prolonged on ventral surface; one pair of ocellar setae arising between posterior ocelli, postocular setae finely pointed, about as long as eye; maxillary stylets broad, not retracted to postocular setae, wide apart and V-shaped. Antennae 8-segmented; segment III with 2 slender sensoria, IV with 4 sensoria; segment VIII slender and narrowed to base. Pronotum with five pairs of bluntly pointed major setae; epimeral sutures complete; basantra weakly sclerotized, ferna and mesopresternum transverse. Fore tarsi with no tooth. Metanotum with no sculpture medially. Fore wing parallel sided, broad, with no duplicated cilia. Pelta variable, broad with prominent and often separated lateral wings; tergites with one pair of sigmoid wing-retaining setae, weak in apterae; tergite IX setae pointed, shorter than tube; tube shorter than head.

Male usually wingless, very rarely winged. Large males with fore tarsal tooth large, and fore femora swollen.

Related species

The genus *Nesothrips* includes 31 species, of which 6 are endemic to New Zealand, 13 are from Australia, 9 described from various Pacific islands, and 3 from southeast Asia. *Nesothrips* species usually have a rather short head, with a pair of setae between the hind ocelli, and the maxillary stylets wide apart. The ventral prolongation of the eyes in *N. propinquus* is unusual in that it involves more than a single row of ommatidia.

Biological data

Feeding by imbibing fungal spores, particularly at the base of tussocks of grasses, but also found on dead twigs.

Distribution data

Widespread from New Zealand and southern Australia along the old sailing-ship route to Europe, including South Africa and islands in the Atlantic; also in California. Found widely in New Zealand, where it possibly originated (ND, AK, CL, WO, BP, GB, TO, TK, HB, WI, WN / SD, NN, MB, KA, BR, WD, MC, SC, CO, MK, DN, SL / Chatham Is.).

Family name

PHLAEOTHRIPIDAE, IDOLOTHRIPINAE

Species name

Nesothrips propinquus (Bagnall)

Original name and synonyms

Oedemothrips propinquus Bagnall, 1916: 408

Cryptothrips dimidiatus Hood, 1918: 145

Bagnalliella cestosa Karny, 1920: 41

Oedemothrips propinquus var. *breviceps* Bagnall, 1924: 634

Oedemothrips propinquus f. *obscuricornis* Bagnall, 1924: 634

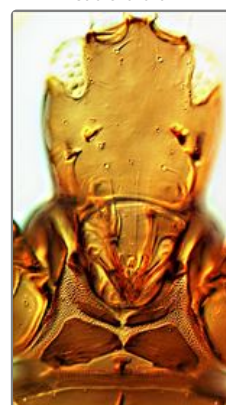
Neosmerinthothrips oleriae Moulton, 1949: 492



Antenna



Head & thorax



Prosternites and ventral view of eyes



Pronotum

Bolothrips similis Hartwig, 1948: 103

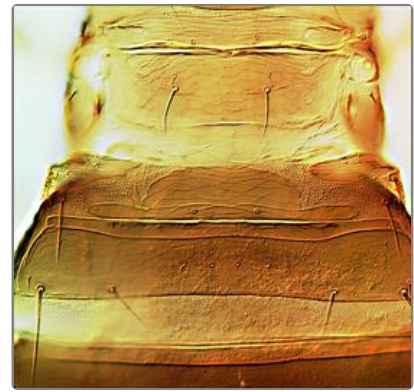
References

Eow LX, Mound LA, Tree DJ, Cameron SL (.2014) Australian species of spore-feeding Thysanoptera in the genera *Carientothrips* and *Nesothrips* (Phlaeothripidae: Idolothripinae). *Zootaxa* **3821** (2): 193–221.

Mound LA (1974) Spore-feeding thrips (Phlaeothripidae) from leaf litter and dead wood in Australia. *Australian Journal of Zoology*(supplement) **27**: 1–106

Mound LA (1974) The *Nesothrips* complex of spore-feeding Thysanoptera (Phlaeothripidae: Idolothripinae). *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)*, Entomology **31**: 107–188.

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



Meso & metanotum, pelta & tergite II



Meso & metanotum, pelta & tergite II