

Sophiothrips greensladei

Distinguishing features

Female rarely fully winged, usually apterous. Pale yellow, with brown markings on tibiae and tarsi; distal half of antennal segment III and all of segments IV–VIII pale brown; fore wings (when present) shaded. Head wider than long, dorsal surface sculptured, bearing 2 pairs of small setae; cheeks rounded, slightly constricted at base; ocelli present; ocellar setae short, slightly expanded at apex; cheek margins with a pair of short setae lying behind eyes, these slightly expanded at apex; maxillary stylets very short, restricted to mouth cone. Antennal segment II with dorsal setae stout, truncate; III with long pedicel and a small basal ring; VII slender, closely joined to VIII; segment III with 1 sense cone, IV with 2 sense cones.

Pronotum with anteroangular and epimeral setae slightly expanded at apex; no long posteroangular setae; basantra present. Mesopresternum transverse, entire. Metanotum with no sculpture medially; metathoracic sternopleural sutures very small. Fore tarsal tooth absent. Fore wings with 1 pair of very small, peg-like sub-basal setae. Pelta weakly sculptured, lateral lobes reaching almost to tergite II lateral margins; tergites II–VII each with 1 pair of wing-retaining setae; tergite IX posteromarginal setae S2 longer than S1 or S3, S1 pointed. S2 blunt; tube longer than head, anal setae short; sternites with about 10 discal setae. Female aptera similar but paler, ocelli and ocellar setae absent; metanotum broad, reticulate, with scattered discal setae; pelta oval, close to tergite II.

Male similar to female aptera, tergite IX setae S3 longer than S1 or S2; no tubercle ventrally between eyes; no tubercle on posterior margin of tergite IX.

Related species

The genus *Sophiothrips* comprises 31 species worldwide. Five of these are endemic to Australia, with one of these five also in New Zealand. Three further species constitute the *duvali*-group from New Zealand and Norfolk Island, in which antennal segment III bears 2 sense cones instead of just a single sense cone as in *S. greensladei* and the other *Sophiothrips* species. *S. greensladei* is also unusual in lacking a fore tarsal tooth in females.

Biological data

Usually collected in leaf litter but also from dead branches; presumably feeding on fungal hyphae.

Distribution data

Described from, and widespread in, eastern Australia, this species has also been taken at several sites in New Zealand (AK, CL, WN).

Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

Species name

Sophiothrips greensladei Mound & Walker

Original name and synonyms

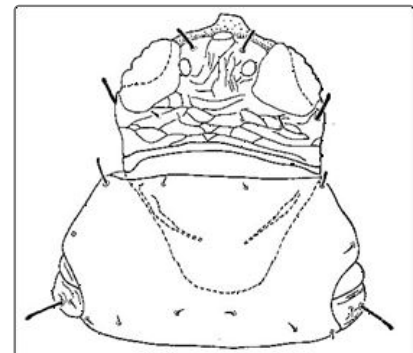
Sophiothrips greensladei Mound & Walker, 1982: 352

References

Mound LA & Tree DJ (2014) The minute, fungus-feeding species of *Sophiothrips* (Thysanoptera, Phlaeothripinae) from Australia and New Zealand. *Zootaxa* 3860 (2): 184–194.



Antenna



Head, thorax, pelta & tergite II

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