

Thrips australis

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Female yellow to brown, typically yellow with brown postoccipital ridge on head, brown markings medially on each tergite, and tergites VIII–X brown; fore wings pale but shaded along veins, major setae often dark. Antennae 7-segmented, VI large and bullet-shaped. Head with ocellar setae III arising inside ocellar triangle. Pronotal posteromarginal transverse apodeme usually stout, postero-angular setae short.

Metanotum reticulate, reticles without internal markings, median setae arise behind anterior margin, campaniform sensilla present. Fore wing with first vein setal row almost uninterrupted; clavus with 6 marginal setae.

Abdominal tergite II with 4 lateral setae, VIII with marginal comb not developed medially. Sternites with 15–40 discal setae, 3 pairs of marginal setae; pleurotergites with 6–10 discal setae.

Male similar to female in structure, but smaller and paler; tergite VIII with no comb; tergite IX with 4 setae close set in a transverse row; sternites III–VII with small transverse pore plate anterior to about 10 discal setae.

Related species

There are 13 species of the genus *Thrips* recorded from New Zealand, of which five comprise an endemic group, out of a total of 280 species worldwide (Mound & Masumoto, 2005). All members of *Thrips* genus have paired ctenidia on the tergites, and on tergite VIII these are postero-mesad to the spiracles, and these species also lack ocellar setae pair I in front of the first ocellus. In contrast, *Frankliniella* species have ctenidia on tergite VIII antero-lateral to the spiracles, and a pair of setae is always present in front of the first ocellus. *Thrips australis* is an Australian species, and has the unusual characteristic of bearing 6, instead of 5, veinal setae on the fore wing clavus. However, a clavus with 6 veinal setae also occurs in some species from Africa, and the larvae are essentially similar to those of other members of the genus *Thrips* (Vierbergen *et al.*, 2010).

Biological data

Breeding in the flowers of *Eucalyptus* species, particularly in white flowers, but also of *Melaleuca* species [Myrtaceae] with white flowers.

However, when flowers on *Eucalyptus* trees die, adults of *australis* disperse in large numbers onto surrounding plants, and can then be found in the flowers of a very wide range of unrelated plants.

Distribution data

Widespread in New Zealand (ND, AK, BP, TO, HB / NN, MB, SI) where it has been found throughout the year. It occurs throughout Australia, and is found worldwide in association with *Eucalyptus* plantings.

Family name

THRIPIDAE, THRIPINAE

Species name

Thrips australis (Bagnall)

Original name and synonyms

Isoneurothrips australis Bagnall, 1915: 592

Thrips lacteicarpus Girault, 1926: 17



Antenna



Meso & metanotum

Thrips mediolineus Girault, 1926a: 18
Anomalothrips amygdali Morgan, 1929: 5

References

Mound LA & Masumoto M (2005) The genus *Thrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) in Australia, New Caledonia and New Zealand. *Zootaxa* 1020: 1–64.

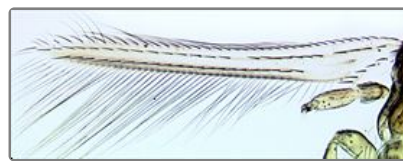
Mound LA, Tree DC & Paris D (2012) OzThrips – Thysanoptera in Australia. <http://www.ozthrips.org/>



Tergites VII-VIII



Female sternites



Fore wing