

Thrips phormiicola

Distinguishing features

Both sexes usually micropterous. Female colour variable; brown, with thorax, femora, and middle and hind tibiae pale brown or yellowish; head and thorax sometimes yellow in contrast to brown abdomen; fore tibiae and tarsi, antennal segment III, and sometimes base of antennal segment IV yellow; fore wing rudiment pale when very short, shaded apically in hemimacropterae; fully developed wing pale at base but brown in distal three-quarters; major setae brown. Head slightly longer than wide, projecting in front of eyes; ocelli reduced; 1st ocellus often divided; postocular setae not arising in a straight line. Antennae 7-segmented (rarely 8-segmented), III and IV each with forked sense cone. Pronotum with 2 or 3 pairs of posteromarginal setae; surface faintly sculptured. Metanotum irregularly reticulate medially. Fore wing rudiment oval; 1st vein with 3 setae. Tergites with 4–6 lines of sculpture medially, setae relatively long; ctenidia not developed on tergite V, weak on VI, present on VII and VIII; tergite VIII with posteromarginal comb irregular, variable. Pleurotergites with 2 or 3 discal setae. Sternites with 5–7 discal setae. Fully winged females not common, median tergal setae short, tergites V–VIII with ctenidia. Male similar to female but smaller; sternites III–VII with transverse pore plate.

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. *T. phormiicola* is one of the five New Zealand endemic members of this genus that share the presence of three pairs of posteromarginal setae on sternite II. As in *T. obscuratus*, the number of antennal segments varies from 7 to 8. However, the head of *T. phormiicola* is relatively long, resembling the head shape of several unrelated Thripidae that live on grasses. The number of sternal discal setae is less than in *T. obscuratus*, and the posteromarginal comb on tergite VIII is very reduced. In *T. obscuratus* micropterae the ocelli are well developed and the median tergal setae are as small as in macropterae. However, in *T. phormiicola* the micropterae have very reduced ocelli, and the median tergal setae are as long as the lateral ones.

Biological data

The host plant of this thrips, *Phormium tenax*, is widespread in New Zealand, and is also native to the Chatham and Auckland islands. *T. phormiicola* has also been collected from *P. cookianum*.

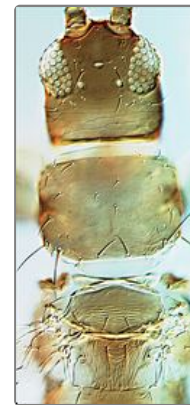
Distribution data

Known only from New Zealand, and collected in both North and South Islands (AK, TO, WI, WN / NN, MB and WD).

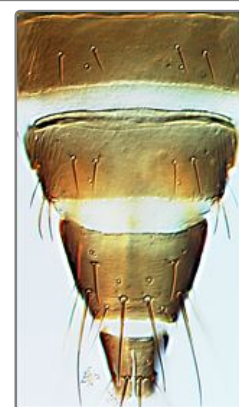
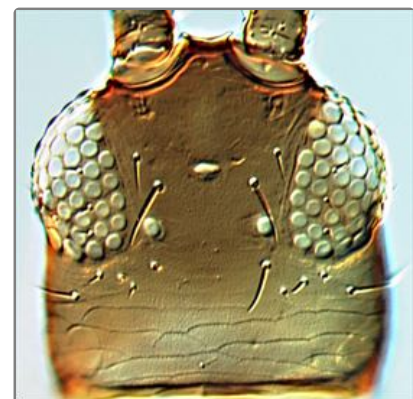
Family name



Antenna



Head & thorax



Female tergite VII-X

THRIPIDAE, THRIPINAE

Species name

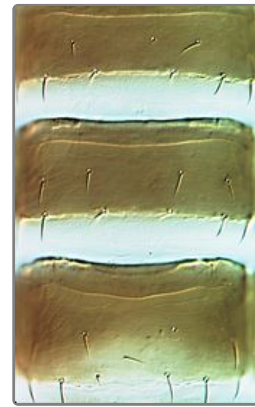
Thrips phormiicola Mound

Original name and synonyms

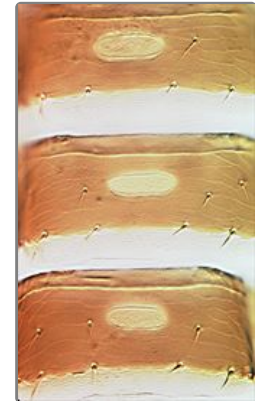
Thrips phormiicola Mound, 1978: 618.

References

- Mound LA (1978) Five new species of Thripidae (Thysanoptera) endemic to New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Zoology*5: 615–622
- Mound LA & Masumoto M (2005) The genus *Thrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) in Australia, New Caledonia and New Zealand. *Zootaxa* 1020: 1–64
- Martin NA & Mound LA (2004) Host plants for some New Zealand thrips (Thysanoptera: Terebrantia). *New Zealand Entomologist* 27: 119–123
- Mound LA & Walker AK (1982) Terebrantia (Insecta: Thysanoptera). *Fauna of New Zealand* 1: 1–113.



Female sternites V-VII



Male sternites and pore plates