

# Thrips rhabdotus

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Female brown, legs brown with tarsi and fore tibiae yellow; antennal segment III yellow IV-VII brown; fore wings brown with base scarcely paler. Antennae 7-segmented, III & IV constricted at apex with small forked sense cone; VII short. Head wider than long, with 2 pairs of ocellar setae; pair III small and arising just outside anterior margins of ocellar triangle; postocular setae pair I slightly longer than ocellar setae III. Pronotum with well-developed transverse lines of sculpture; 2 pairs of long posteroangular setae present; posterior margin with 3 pairs of setae. Metanotum with closely spaced, converging, longitudinal striae on posterior half, with faint dotted lines between the main striae; median setae arising behind anterior margin; campaniform sensilla present. Fore wing first and second veins with complete rows of setae; clavus with 5 marginal setae. Tergite II with 4 lateral marginal setae, the anterior seta small and arising on pleurotergite; tergites V-VIII with ctenidia present laterally, on VIII postero-mesad to spiracles; posterior margin of VIII with complete but irregular comb of small microtrichia that sometimes arise in groups; pleurotergites without discal setae. Sternite II with 2 pairs of marginal setae, III-VII with 3 pairs, VII with median pair arising in front of margin; sternites without discal setae. Male yellow with brown head; sternites III-VII each with a small, transverse pore plate; tergite VIII comb of irregular groups of very small microtrichia, tergite IX S1 setae longer than S2 and slightly closer to S2 than to each other.

## Related species

There are 13 species of the genus *Thrips* recorded from New Zealand, out of a total of 280 species worldwide (Mound & Masumoto, 2005). Many of these species have the antennae clearly 7-segmented, whereas others have 8 segments. All members of *Thrips* genus have paired ctenidia on the tergites, and on tergite VIII these are postero-mesad to the spiracles, and they 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. rhabdotus* is unusual in having faint dotted lines between the main sculptured striae on the metanotum.

## Biological data

Presumably feeding and breeding in flowers, this species is recorded from roses, *Leucaena* and *Gardenia* flowers.

## Distribution data

Not recorded from New Zealand, but considered a high risk potential invader, this species was described from Tonga, and also recorded from Fiji (Palmer, 1992).

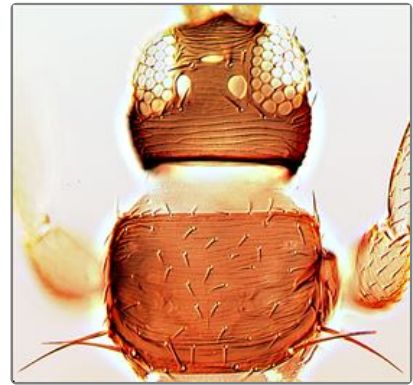
## Family name

THRIPIDAE, THRIPINAE

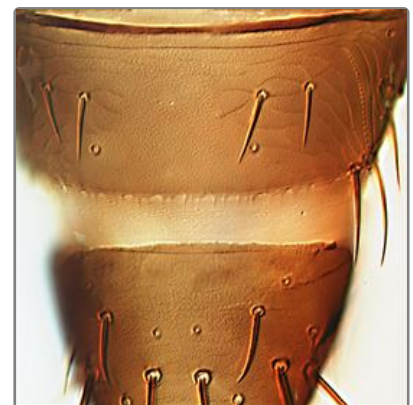
## Species name

*Thrips rhabdotus* Sakimura

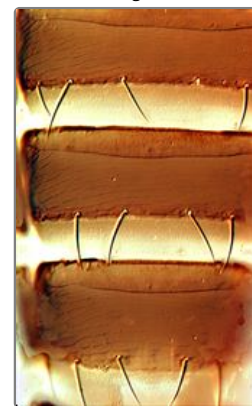
## Original name and synonyms



Meso & metanotum



Female tergites VIII-IX



Female sternites V-VII

*Thrips (Isothrips) rhabdotus* Sakimura, 1969: 74.

## References

Moritz G, Mound LA, Morris DC & Goldarazena A (2004) Pest thrips of the world – visual and molecular identification of pest thrips. CD-ROM published by CBIT Brisbane.

<http://www.cbit.uq.edu.au/software/pestthrips/default.htm>

Palmer JM (1992) *Thrips* (Thysanoptera) from Pakistan to the Pacific: a review. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Entomology* **61**: 1–76.



Male sternites and pore plates