

Thrips simplex

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Female dark brown, tarsi and antennal segment III yellowish brown; fore wings brown with base paler. Antennae 8-segmented. Head wider than long; ocellar setae pair III small, arising just inside anterior margins of triangle; postocular setae pairs I & III slightly longer than ocellar setae III, pair II minute. Pronotal external postero-angular setae slightly shorter than inner pair; posterior margin with 3 or 4 pairs of setae.

Metanotum reticulate medially, reticles elongate on posterior half, with faint sculptured markings inside most reticles; median setae short and arising behind anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent. Fore wing first vein with about 7 setae on distal half, second vein with about 14 setae; clavus with 5 marginal setae. Tergite II with 3 lateral marginal setae; posterior margin of tergite VIII with complete but slightly irregular comb of microtrichia; pleurotergites without discal setae, sculptured with rows of coarsely ciliate microtrichia. Sternite II with 1 or 2 discal setae, III-VII with about 12 discal setae in single row.

Male smaller than female but similar in colour; tergite VIII with no posteromarginal comb; sternites III-VII each with large transverse pore plate, discal setae arising laterally.

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. simplex* is generally recognised from the reticulate metanotum, of which many of the reticles have internal markings, and the fore wing first vein bears more than four setae on the distal half.

Biological data

Feeding and breeding in flowers and on leaves of Iridaceae, mainly *Gladiolus*, but also *Crocasmia*, and *Neomarica*. The Gladiolus Thrips can cause serious streaking on the flowers of this valuable horticultural crop.

Distribution data

Widespread in New Zealand on its host plant (AK, CL, BP, GB, WI and WN / MC). Although originally from South Africa, the Gladiolus Thrips is now widespread around the world wherever *Gladiolus* is grown.

Family name

THRIPIDAE, THRIPINAE

Species name

Thrips simplex (Morison)

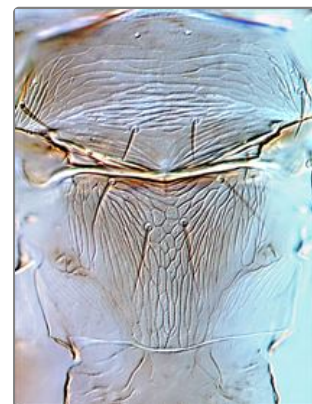
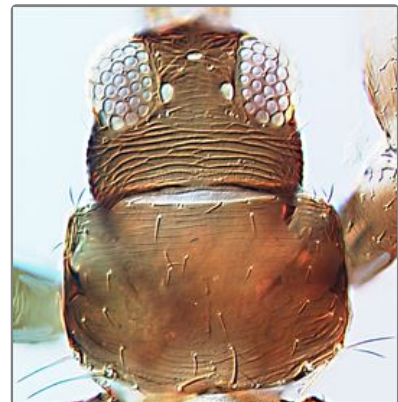
Original name and synonyms

Physothrips simplex Morison, 1930: 12

Taeniothrips gladioli Moulton & Steinweden, 1931: 20



Antenna



Meso & metanotum

Physothrips plurisetae Girault, 1933: 2
Taeniothrips quinani Moulton, 1936: 506

References

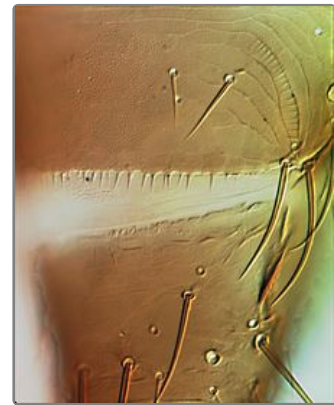
Moritz G, Mound LA, Morris DC & Goldarazena A (2004) Pest thrips of the world – visual and molecular identification of pest thrips. Cd-rom published by CBIT Brisbane.

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

Mound LA (2010) Species of the genus *Thrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) from the Afro-tropical Region. *Zootaxa* 2423: 1–24.

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

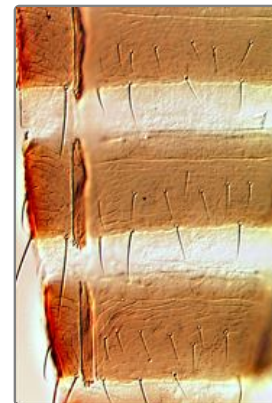
Mound LA, Tree DC & Paris D (2012) OzThrips – Thysanoptera in Australia. <http://www.ozthrips.org/>



Tergite VIII-IX



Pleurotergites



Female sternites



Male sternites and pore plates