

# Thrips vulgatissimus

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Female brown, tarsi and antennal segment III yellow; fore wings pale. Antennae 8-segmented, III-IV constricted to distinct apical neck. Head as wide as long, cheeks convex, ocellar setae pair III arising on anterior margins of ocellar triangle and slightly longer than side of triangle; postocular setae pairs I & III shorter than ocellar setae pair III, pair II minute. Pronotum posterior margin with 3 (or 4) pairs of setae. Metanotum with parallel lines of sculpture medially converging at posterior, median setae arising near anterior margin; campaniform sensilla present. Fore wing first vein with 3 setae on distal half, second vein with complete row of about 14 setae. Tergite II with 3 lateral marginal setae; posterior margin of VIII with complete comb of long microtrichia; pleurotergites with 3 or 4 discal setae. Sternite II with few discal setae, III-VII with 15-20 discal setae in an irregular double row. Male brown, smaller than female; tergite VIII without posteromarginal comb; sternites III-VII with broadly transverse pore plate in front of discal setae.

## 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. The European species *T. vulgatissimus* is similar in general appearance to the New Zealand flower thrips, *T. obscuratus*, but differs from that as well as the other endemic New Zealand species of genus *Thrips* in having only two (rather than three) pairs of setae on the posterior margin of the second abdominal sternite. Moreover, the fore wing of *T. obscuratus* has two complete rows of veinal setae.

## Biological data

This polyphagous species feeds and breeds in the flowers of various species, but commonly in white flowers of Caryophyllaceae.

## Distribution data

Recorded infrequently in New Zealand (AK, HB, MC) and southern Australia, but widespread in Europe and North America.

## Family name

THRIPIDAE, THRIPINAE

## Species name

*Thrips vulgatissimus* Haliday

## Original name and synonyms

*Thrips vulgatissimus* Haliday, 1836: 447

*Physopus pallipennis* Uzel, 1895: 110

*Taeniothrips lemanis* Treherne, 1924: 87



Antenna



Meso & metanotum

*Taeniothrips vulgatissimus* f. *gracilis* Priesner, 1926: 298  
*Taeniothrips vulgatissimus* f. *atricornis* Priesner, 1926: 298  
*Taeniothrips americanus* Moulton, 1929: 130  
*Physothrips gentianae* Bagnall, 1933: 653  
*Taeniothrips tahvanus* Hukkinen, 1936: 139

## 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) Oz Thrips – Thysanoptera in Australia. <http://www.ozthrips.org/>  
Mound LA & Walker AK (1982) Terebrantia (Insecta: Thysanoptera). *Fauna of New Zealand* 1: 1–113.  
zur Strassen R (2003) Die terebranten Thysanopteren Europas und des Mittelmeer-Gebietes. *Die Tierwelt Deutschlands* 74: 1–271.



Pleurotergites



Tergite VIII