

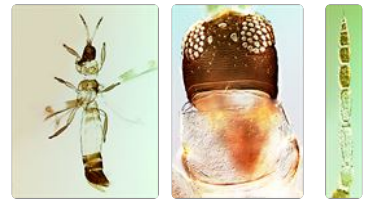
Desmothrips darwini



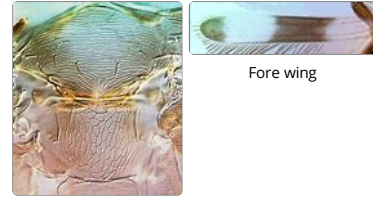
Distinguishing features

Female macropterous. Body sharply bicoloured; abdominal segments IV–VI yellow, I–III light brown, VII–X and head dark brown, pronotum and metanotum yellowish; legs mainly light brown; antennal segment III yellow, IV yellow with apex variably shaded, V–IX brown; fore wing (and clavus) brown at extreme base, with long median brown area and short dark area at apex, costal vein pale. Head with postocular region longer than eye length; distal maxillary palp segment subdivided. Antennae 9-segmented, III–IV with weakly sinuous sensorium extending to basal half of segment, with internal markings. Mesonotum with 2 or 3 pairs of accessory setae medially. Median metanotal reticles slightly elongate, with internal dot-like markings. Abdominal tergite I with transverse lines laterally but not medially; trichobothria on X smaller than base of major setae on X. Sternites usually with 4 pairs of marginal setae, VI with 2 pairs of discal setae laterally, VII with 4 pairs laterally but none medially.

Male similar to female but smaller, antennal segments I–II and all legs yellow. Abdominal tergite I with two longitudinal ridges. Sternite VIII with 3 pairs of lateral discal setae, IX with about 10 discal setae arranged irregularly.



Female Head and pronotum Antenna



Meso & metanotum

Fore wing

Related species

The genus *Desmothrips* is known only from Australia, with 18 described species (Pereyra & Mound, 2010). *D. darwini* is one of the distinctively bicoloured species in this genus, with abdominal segments IV–VI yellow in contrast to the remaining dark abdominal segments. This species is closely related to *D. postlei* from Western Australia.

Biological data

Collected from short grass and sedges, but there is no evidence that this species is predatory or an ant mimic, unlike *Gelothrips cinctus* with which it has been collected.

Distribution data

Known only from around Darwin.

Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

Species name

Desmothrips darwini Mound & Marullo

Original name and synonyms

Desmothrips darwini Mound & Marullo, 1998: 940

References

Mound LA & Marullo R (1998) Biology and identification of Aeolothripidae (Thysanoptera) in Australia. *Invertebrate Taxonomy* 12: 929–950.

Pereyra V & Mound LA (2010) Phylogenetic relationships within the genus *Desmothrips* (Thysanoptera, Aeolothripidae), an Australian genus of facultative flower-living predators. *Systematic Entomology* 35: 306–317.

