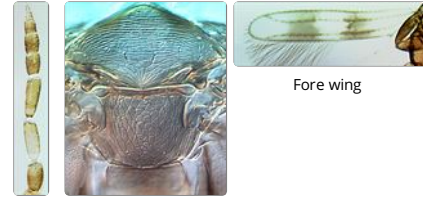


Desmothrips marilynae



Distinguishing features

Female macropterous. Body and legs brown; antennal segments brown but III paler in basal half; fore wing including clavus extensively pale with shaded veins and 2 weakly shaded transverse bands, apex mainly pale with ring vein dark. Head with postocular region longer than eye length; distal maxillary palp segment subdivided. Antennae 9-segmented, III with sensorium straight and extending to basal third of segment, without internal markings, sensorium on IV curving around segment apex. Mesonotum with 3 pairs of accessory setae medially. Metanotal reticles equiangular medially, with dot-like internal markings. Abdominal tergite I without sculpture; trichobothria on X scarcely twice as wide as base of major setae on X. Median sternites with 4 pairs of marginal setae but no discal setae although lateral marginals are displaced forwards; VII with 4 pairs of marginal setae, 3 pairs of discal setae laterally. Male similar to female but smaller. Abdominal tergite I with two longitudinal ridges. Median sternites apparently without discal setae, VII-VIII with at least 20 long fine setae arranged irregularly, IX with more than 30 long fine discal setae.



Antenna Meso & metanotum

Fore wing

Related species

The genus *Desmothrips* is known only from Australia, with 18 described species (Pereyra & Mound, 2010). The forewing of *D. marilynae* is unusual within this genus, in that the apical part of the wing membrane is almost colourless although with the ring vein dark. Also, the male has a large number of long fine setae on the posterior sternites.

Biological data

Adults of both sexes have been found in low numbers in flowers of various species of Myrtaceae in the genera *Beaufortia*, *Melaleuca* and *Verticordia*. The species presumably acts as a facultative predator on the larvae of other thrips species.

Distribution data

Known only from Western Australia, in the general area near Geraldton.

Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

Species name

Desmothrips marilynae Mound & Marullo

Original name and synonyms

Desmothrips marilynae Mound & Marullo, 1998: 941

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.