

Desmothrips tenuicornis



Distinguishing features

Female macropterous. Body and legs brown; antennal segment III yellow with brown ring at apex, IV sometimes yellow at base, V–IX brown; fore wing brown at extreme base but clavus with apex pale, median brown area long, distal transverse pale area almost parallel-sided with pale costal vein. Head with postocular region as long as eye length; distal maxillary palp segment



Antenna Meso & metanotum

Fore wing

subdivided. Antennae 9-segmented, III–IV with sensorium curving around apex, weakly sinuate and extending to basal third of segment, without internal markings. Mesonotum with 2 pairs of accessory setae medially. Metanotal reticles with internal dot-like markings. Abdominal tergite I with weak transverse lines medially; trichobothria on X no larger than base of major setae on X. Sternites with 4 pairs of relatively small marginal setae, 6 to 8 pairs of discal setae mainly laterally but sometimes extending medially.

Male similar to female but smaller. Abdominal tergite I with two longitudinal ridges. Sternites with discal setae, at least laterally; VIII with about 14 discal setae in two irregular rows, IX with 3 or 4 discal setae.

Related species

The genus *Desmothrips* is known only from Australia, with 18 described species (Pereyra & Mound, 2010). *D. tenuicornis* is a member of the *D. australis* complex, but has antennal segment III more extensively yellow with just the extreme apex dark as in *Aeolothrips fasciatus*.

Biological data

Adults of both sexes have been found, often with larvae, in the flowers of many different plants, with no obvious specificity.

Distribution data

Widespread in eastern Australia between Adelaide and Charters Towers, but apparently not common; also recorded from Alice Springs, from Kakadu, and from Western Australia.

Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

Species name

Desmothrips tenuicornis (Bagnall)

Original name and synonyms

Orothrips tenuicornis Bagnall, 1916: 397

Desmothrips davidsoni Morison, 1930: 449

References

Mound LA (1967) A taxonomic revision of the Australian Aeolothripidae (Thysanoptera). *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)*. *Entomology*20: 41–74.

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.