

# Franklinothrips variegatus



## Distinguishing features

Female macropterous, with wasp-like waist. Body, legs and antennae mostly brown, femora often with apices yellowish; abdominal segments I-IV sharply yellow with anterior margins variably dark, X yellow in contrast to IX; antennal segments I-IV largely yellow; fore wing brown with three clear pale areas, sub-basally, medially and sub-apically. Head broadly recessed into anterior margin of pronotum. Antennae 9-segmented, unusually elongate; III about 8 times as long as wide with long sensory area formed of irregular scallops. Mesonotum without sculpture on anterior half. Metanotum with no sculpture medially. Fore wing slender with apex rounded. Abdominal tergite I anterior margin strongly constricted, tergites lacking sculpture; sternites IV-VI each with two pairs of marginal setae and two pairs of setae laterally on discal area.



Female

Male smaller than female with slender abdomen; antennal segments I-IV mainly brown.

## Related species

Currently 14 species are placed in the genus *Franklinothrips*, all from tropical and subtropical countries, although more undescribed species are known from Southeast Asia (Mound & Reynaud, 2005). The Australian species, *F. variegatus*, is possibly only a local form of a widespread Old-World species that is called *F. megalops* in Africa and *F. rarasae* in the Philippines. The differences between these named forms are slight, and are possibly associated with the degree of withdrawal of the head into the prothorax in slide-mounted specimens.

## Biological data

Collected from the leaves of various shrubs and trees the adults of both sexes run actively like small Formicidae or Bethyilidae.

## Distribution data

Widespread across northern Australia from Brisbane to the north of Western Australia. This species is possibly no more than an Australian form of a widespread species from Africa across Asia (Mound & Reynaud, 2005).

## Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

## Species name

*Franklinothrips variegatus* Girault

## Original name and synonyms

*Franklinothrips variegatus* Girault, 1927: 1

## References

Mound LA & Reynaud P (2005) *Franklinothrips*; a pantropical Thysanoptera genus of ant-mimicking obligate predators (Aeolothripidae). *Zootaxa* **864**: 1-16.