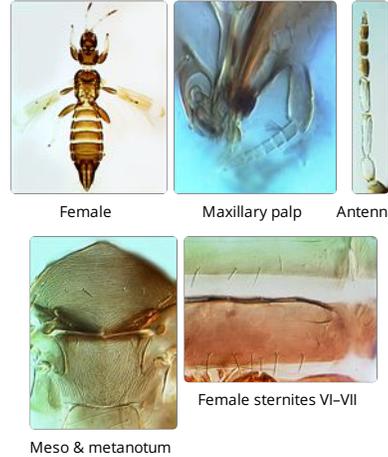


Desmothrips aliceae



Distinguishing features

Female macropterous. Body brown, abdomen paler medially in newly emerged individuals; femora brown, mid and hind tibiae and tarsi clear yellow; antennal segments III–IV yellow with extreme apex brown, V–IX brown; fore wing brown at extreme apex and base, with long median brown area and two clear transverse bands; costal vein pale around distal pale area. Head with postocular region as long as eye length; distal maxillary palp segment subdivided. Antennae 9-segmented, III–IV with sensorium broad, extending to basal half or basal third of segment, without internal markings; V–VIII with sensorium base elongate. Mesonotum with only 1 or 2 pairs of accessory setae medially. Metanotal reticles transverse to almost concentric at anterior, small and almost longitudinal medially, with internal dot-like markings. Abdominal tergite I with faint transverse lines medially; trichobothria on X no larger than base of major setae on X. Sternal chaetotaxy irregular, usually with 4 pairs of marginal setae and 0 to 4 pairs of discal setae laterally but none medially. Male similar to female but smaller, pronotum and fore femora more yellow; antennal segment IV more extensively brown. Abdominal tergite I with two longitudinal ridges. Sternal marginal setae arising submarginally, at least laterally; sternite IX with no discal setae.



Related species

The genus *Desmothrips* is known only from Australia, with 18 described species (Pereyra & Mound, 2010). *D. aliceae* is particularly unusual because the tibiae and tarsi are clear yellow in contrast to the brown femora.

Biological data

Host plants

Breeding in the flowers of *Brachychiton populneus* (Sterculiaceae).

Life history

Adults of both sexes were found with a few larvae only in the flowers of their host-plant trees that were growing on an area of limestone platform at Wee Jasper, near Canberra. Other flowering plants in the vicinity supported different species of *Desmothrips*. The *Brachychiton* flowers also contained large numbers of *Thrips imaginis*, on which *D. aliceae* was presumably predatory.

Distribution data

Described from Wee Jasper, just West of Canberra, but possibly widespread across drier parts of Australia. A few specimens from near Kununurra in the north of Western Australia were identified tentatively as this species.

Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

Species name

Desmothrips aliceae Pereyra & Mound

Original name and synonyms

Desmothrips aliceae Pereyra & Mound, 2010: 311

References

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.

Copyright © 2020. All rights reserved.