

# Cranothrips sititor



## Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body, legs and antennae light brown to brown, fore tarsi and antennal segments III–IV yellowish; fore wings uniformly pale with posterior margin and clavus shaded. Antennae 9-segmented, segment I with short process; sensoria on III–IV incomplete dorsally, with internal markings; IX about as long as VIII. Head with ocellar setae III longer than, and arising on anterior margins of, ocellar triangle. Pronotum with numerous microtrichia, one pair of posteroangular setae, posterior margin with three pairs. Mesonotum with no microtrichia on anterior third, lateral setae short. Metanotum with numerous microtrichia on sculpture lines. Fore wing setae scarcely longer than width of veins. Fore tibial apex with two slender ventro-lateral setae. Abdominal tergites with weak sculpture lines medially, many microtrichia laterally; tergite VIII median setae about 0.4 as long as tergite; dorsal setae on IX–X moderately stout. Sternite II with 2 pairs of posteromarginal setae, III–VI with 4 pairs; median sternites with 6 to 10 discal setae, sternite VII with discal setae laterally but not medially. Male smaller than female, tergite I with pair of longitudinal ridges.



Head & thorax      Antennal segments (dorsal & ventral)



Meso & metanotum      Abdominal sternites IV–VI

## Related species

Twelve species are currently described in the genus *Cranothrips*, 11 from Australia and one from South Africa (Pereyra & Mound, 2009). *C. sititor* is similar to *C. vesper* in having rather short setae on tergite VIII, but has one pair of long pronotal posteroangular setae.

## Biological data

Locally abundant, breeding in the flowers of *Calandrinia* species [Portulacaceae], and presumably pupating at soil level. Large populations occur after rains in desert areas.

## Distribution data

Central Australia, in desert areas between Bourke (New South Wales), Alice Springs (Northern Territory) and western Queensland.

## Family name

MELANTHRIPIDAE

## Species name

*Cranothrips sititor* Mound

## Original name and synonyms

*Cranothrips sititor* Mound, 1972: 44

## References

Mound LA (1972) Further studies on Australian Aeolothripidae (Thysanoptera). *Journal of the Australian Entomological Society* 11: 37–54.

Pereyra V & Mound LA (2009) Phylogenetic relationships within the genus *Cranothrips* (Thysanoptera, Melanthripidae) with consideration of host associations and disjunct distributions within the family. *Systematic Entomology* 34: 151–161.

