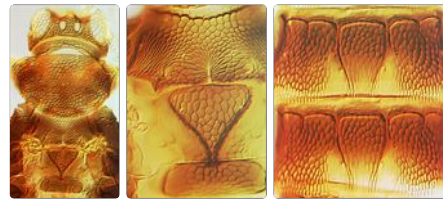


Helionothrips spinosus

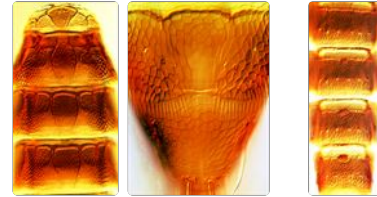


Distinguishing features

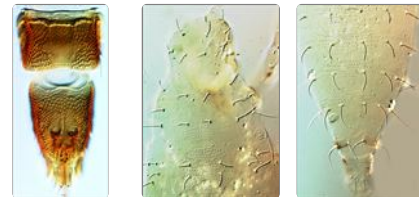
Female macropterous; body dark brown, tarsi yellow; antennal segments I-V yellow also basal half of VI. Fore wing brown, with small white patch sub-basally and diffuse paler area sub-apically. Head with short, convex cheeks; occipital ridge strong and close to margin of eyes; reticulation weak on posterior collar. Antennae 8-segmented, III and IV with long apical neck, sensorium long and forked; VIII about five times as long as VII. Pronotum reticulate, with semicircular hind margin and no long setae. Metanotum with triangular area of strong sculpture. Fore wing second vein with about 10 setae, first vein with about six setae at base and one or two distally. Abdominal tergites III-VII with distinctive arched sculpture; VIII with comb of long microtrichia interrupted medially; X with median split complete. Male with small circular glandular area near anterior margin on sternites VI-VIII; tergite IX with two pairs of spine-like setae followed by group of about six small tubercles.



Head & thorax Meso & metanotum Tergites III-IV



Tergites I-IV Female tergites VIII-IX Male sternites V-VII



Male tergites VIII-IX Larva II - head & thorax Larva II - abdomen

Related species

A total of 25 species are listed in *Helionothrips*, three from Africa, one from South America that is possibly not congeneric (Mound & Marullo, 1996), *H. spinosus* from Australia, and the rest from the Asian region.

Biological data

Adults and larvae are sometimes abundant on the older leaves of the scrambling vine, *Smilax australis* (Smilacaceae).

Distribution data

Common in *Eucalyptus* sclerophyll forests of eastern Australia, also Lord Howe Island.

Family name

THRIPIDAE, PANCHAETOTHRIPINAE

Species name

Helionothrips spinosus Wilson

Original name and synonyms

Helionothrips spinosus Wilson, 1975: 139

References

Wilson TH (1975) A monograph of the subfamily Panchaetothripinae (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). *Memoirs of the American Entomological Institute* 23: 1-354.