Echinothrips americanus

Distinguishing features
Both sexes fully winged. Body brown with red internal pigment; tarsi and apices of tibiae yellow, also antennal segments III–IV and sometimes base of V; fore wings brown but sharply white near base, also sometimes paler medially. Antennae 8-segmented, segments III & IV each with a curved simple sense cone. Head with complex reticulate sculpture; three pairs of ocellar setae present, pair III anterolateral to ocellar triangle; inner margin of eyes with two pairs of stout postocular setae. Pronotum strongly reticulate, with two pairs of prominent posteroangular setae. Metanotum reticulate; median setae small, arising behind but near anterior margin. Fore wing pointed, curving forward; first and costal veins with long capitate setae, second vein without setae. Abdominal tergites II–VIII with median paired setae long and close together; tergite lateral thirds with irregular rows of prominent microtrichia; VIII with complete posteromarginal comb of microtrichia. Sternites with marginal setae arising in front of margin. Male similar to female; sternites III–VIII each with up to 100 small circular pore plates.

Related species
The genus *Echinothrips* includes only eight species, all of which are found between eastern North America and southern South America (Mound & Marullo, 1996).

Biological data
Breeding on leaves of various plants, and sometimes causing leaf damage to plants in greenhouses, including *Impatiens* [Balsaminaceae], *Euphorbia pulcherrima* [Euphorbiaceae], *Dieffenbachia* and *Syngonium* [Araceae], *Cardamine hirsuta* [Cruciferae], *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* [Malvaceae].

Distribution data
Originally from eastern North America, from Illinois to Florida, but since 1995 widespread across Europe (Vierbergen et al., 2006), and recorded from Thailand, China, Java and northern Australia (Mound et al., 2013).

Family name
THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name
*Echinothrips americanus* Morgan

Original name and synonyms
*Echinothrips americanus* Morgan, 1913: 14
*Dictyothrips floridensis* Watson, 1919: 2.

References