

# Limothrips cerealium



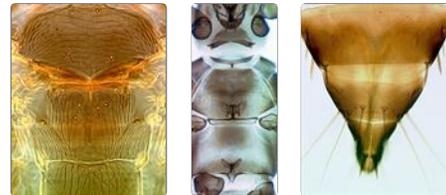
## Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body brown, tarsi yellow, antennal segment III light brown with pedicel yellow; fore wings light brown. Antennae 8-segmented, III asymmetric with simple sensorium on slight lateral prominence, IV with simple sense cone. Head longer than wide, projecting in front of eyes; with 3 pairs of ocellar setae; pair III anterolateral to ocellar triangle, scarcely longer than distance between two ocelli; postocular setae small. Pronotum with 1 pair of long posteroangular setae, posterior margin with 3 pairs of setae. Metanotum reticulate, campaniform sensilla present, median setae arise behind anterior margin. Meso- and metafurca without spinula. Fore wing first vein with 2 setae on distal half, second vein with about 8 setae. Tergites reticulate medially, paired campaniform sensilla close to posterior margin, craspedum not developed; tergite IX with 1 pair of stout thorn-like setae. Sternites II-VII with 5-10 discal setae, without craspeda.

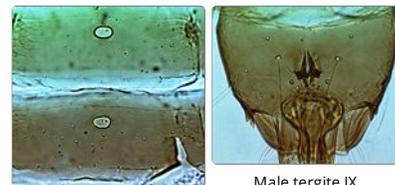
Male aptera. Head without ocelli; pterothorax transverse without wing buds; tergite IX with 2 pairs of equally small stout setae on tubercles, 1 pair medially, 1 pair laterally with elongate projection on one side; sternites III-VII with small sub-circular pore plate.



Female      Antenna      Head & pronotum



Meso & metanota      Thoracic sternites      Female tergites VIII-X



Male pore plates      Male tergite IX



Fore wing

## Related species

Females of the genus *Limothrips* are characterised by the presence of a pair of unusually stout setae on the ninth tergite. Eight species are listed in this European genus, although two are of doubtful validity. Three species are now widespread around the world in temperate areas, and all three have been found in southern areas of Australia with *L. cerealium* the most common. This species has the external apical margin of antennal segment III weakly prolonged laterally.

## Biological data

Feeding and breeding on the leaves of grasses and cereal crops including *Hordeum* and *Triticum* [Poaceae]. Adults swarm in late summer and are referred to as "Thunder Flies" in Europe, when they can cause serious problems by entering smoke detectors and causing fire alarms to sound.

## Distribution data

Worldwide in temperate areas, recorded widely in Australia (Tasmania, South Australia, Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Western Australia).

## Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

## Species name

*Limothrips cerealium* (Haliday)

## Original name and synonyms

*Thrips* (*Limothrips*) *cerealium* Haliday, 1936: 445

*Limothrips avenae* Hinds, 1902: 139

*Limothrips aptera* Karny, 1914: 56

*Limothrips minor* Bagnall, 1927: 565

*Limothrips astutus* Priesner, 1964: 115.

## References

Mound L, Collins D & Hastings A (2019) *Thysanoptera Britannica et Hibernica*. A guide to British thrips. Lucidcentral.org, Identic Pty Ltd, Queensland, Australia. [https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/british\\_thrips/](https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/british_thrips/)

zur Strassen R (2003) Die terebranten Thysanopteren Europas und des Mittelmeer-Gebietes. *Die Tierwelt Deutschlands* 74: 1–271.