Rhamphothrips amyae

Distinguishing features


Antenna


Head & pronotum


Sternites VI–VII


Male tergites


Male fore tibial tooth

Female macroptera. Body and legs yellow, extreme apex of tergite X brown, antennal segments I–IV clear yellow, V–VIII uniformly brown; fore wings weakly shaded in basal half. Antennae 8-segmented, III–IV with forked sense cone. Head small, three pairs of ocellar and two pairs of postocular setae shorter than setae on compound eyes; ocellar setae pair III arising slightly posterior to tangent joining anterior margins of hind ocelli; mouth cone not extending beyond fore coxae. Pronotum about as wide as long, narrowed to anterior, surface with no sculpture lines, discal setae weak; one pair of posteroangular setae slightly prominent, posterior margin with about 6 pairs of setae. Mesonotal anterior campaniform sensilla present, median setae about one third of sclerite length from posterior margin. Metanotal median setae not at anterior margin, campaniform sensilla present; median area with closely spaced lines medially. Fore tibia with two stout apical setae but no tooth. Fore wing slender; first vein with about 7 setae basally, 3 widely spaced setae on distal half; second vein with 4 setae; clavus with 5 veinal and one discal setae. Prosternal basantra weakly sclerotised, ferna curved forwards medially; meso and metafurca without median spinula. Abdominal tergites II–VIII with weak transverse reticulation, posterior margins with broad unlobed craspedum; paired campaniform sensilla on II–VII posterior to small, widely spaced median setae, on VIII–IX anterior to the setae; X with median split almost complete. Sternites II–VI with broadly lobed craspedum, absent medially on VII; median two pairs of setae on VII elongate, closer to each other than to lateral pair. Ovipositor 215 microns long.

Male macroptera. Similar to female, but antennal segment IV weakly shaded. Fore tibia with well-developed apical tubercle; craspedum on tergite II unlobed, on III–VIII with large, laterally pointing, teeth but median area unlobed; tergite IX medially with pair of fine setae arising from slightly separated small tubercles, with no microtrichia laterally. Sternites with no pore plates; sternite IX with transverse band of microtrichia.

Related species

The genus *Rhamphothrips* currently includes 16 species (Mound & Tree, 2011), and each of them has the two median pairs of setae on sternite VII close together and distant from the lateral pair. Moreover, the head is particularly small, the mouth cone elongate, and the pronotum unusually long. *R. amyae* is similar to *R. cissus* but has sharply bicoloured antennae, the ovipositor is shorter, and the craspeda on tergites III–VIII of males are strongly toothed. The genus is closely related to *Exothrips*, a genus that includes a further 20 species that live on grasses, and have the head larger and the mouth cone shorter.

Biological data

Feeding and breeding on the leaves of *Callistemon* sp. [Myrtaceae].

Distribution data

Known only from Queensland, Australia.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Rhamphothrips amyae Mound & Tree

Original name and synonyms

Rhamphothrips amyae Mound & Tree, 2011: 41.

References

Mound LA & Tree DJ (2011) New records and four new species of Australian Thripidae (Thysanoptera) emphasise faunal relationships between northern Australia and Asia. *Zootaxa* **2764** : 35–48.
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