Scirtothrips albomaculatus

Distinguishing features


Female


Head


Antenna


Pronotum


Metanotum


Tergites VII–IX


Sternites

Female macroptera. Body yellow, rarely with brown marking medially on tergites, antecostal ridges brown on tergites III–VIII and sternites IV–VII; fore wings pale; antennal segments I–III pale, IV–VIII darker. Head about twice as wide as long, postocular and ocellar region closely striate; ocellar setae pair III arise near margins of triangle; compound eyes with no ommatidia strongly pigmented; three pairs of post-ocellar setae longer than ocellar setae pair III. Pronotum closely striate, setae S2 clearly longer than S1. Metanotal sculpture transverse anteriorly, longitudinally reticulate posteriorly; median pair of setae at anterior margin. Fore wing clavus with 4–5 marginal setae; second vein with 3–8 setae; posteromarginal fringe cilia all straight. Tergite I with no discal setae, III–V with bases of median setae close together; tergal microtrichial fields with 3 discal setae; VIII with discal microtrichia present anteromedially, posteromarginal comb complete; tergite IX with discal microtrichia present on posterior half. Sternites with microtrichia extending just mesad of S2; marginal setae arising in front of posterior margin.
Male macroptera. Similar to female in colour and sculpture, but smaller; tergite IX without drepanae; aedeagus without paired arrays of spines, but apex with series of small spines.

Related species

The genus *Scirtothrips* comprises over 100 described species worldwide, with 21 species known from Australia most of which are endemics to this continent. These species all have the lateral thirds of the abdominal tergites covered in closely spaced rows of fine microtrichia, and in many species the sternites also bear similar microtrichia. The antennae are 8-segmented, except in *S. casuarinae* and *S. solus,* both fore wing veins have an irregular and incomplete setal row, and a median spinula is present on both the meso and metafurca. The *S. albomaculatus* species group includes *S. eremicus*, *S. pilbara* and probably *S. astibos*, all of which are associated with *Acacia* species, although *S. albomaculatus* itself is probably associated with *Dodonaea*. These thrips have three (not two) pairs of setae in the postocular row, five (not four) pairs of pronotal posteromarginal setae, and the males lack drepanae on the ninth tergite. Within this species-group, indeed within the genus, *S. albomaculatus* is probably unique in the position of the sternal marginal setae that arise well in front of the posterior margin.

Biological data

Feeding and breeding on the leaves of *Dodonaea viscosa* [Sapindaceae], but adults taken from many plants, including *Citrus*, *Rosa*, and *Acacia* species.

Distribution data

New Caledonia and Australia (New South Wales, Lord Howe Is., South Australia, Queensland).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Scirtothrips albomaculatus Bianchi

Original name and synonyms

Scirtothrips albomaculatus Bianchi, 1945: 263.

References

Hoddle MS & Mound LA (2003) The genus *Scirtothrips* in Australia (Insecta, Thysanoptera, Thripidae). *Zootaxa* **268**: 1–40. **http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2003f/zt00268.pdf**