

Scirtothrips astibos



Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body brown; antecostal ridge on tergites III–VIII dark across full width of segments, on sternites III–VII strongly shaded; tergite IX dark brown; fore wings uniformly shaded; antennal segment II darker than I, III–IV mainly yellow, V pale at base, VI–VIII uniformly dark; compound eyes with 4 ventrolateral ommatidia pigmented. Head with postocular and ocellar region closely transversely striate; ocellar setae III short, their bases further apart than their length, arising within triangle anterior to tangent joining anterior margins of posterior ocelli; three pairs of post-ocellar setae each at least as long as ocellar setae pair III. Pronotum posteromarginal setae S2 slightly larger than S1 or S3; pronotal setae all slightly thick and blunt. Metanotum transversely striate anteriorly, longitudinally reticulate posteriorly; median pair of setae slightly posterior of margin.

Fore wing clavus with 4 marginal setae; first vein setae 3–4+6–7+1+1+1+1; second vein with 5 setae; posteromarginal fringe cilia straight. Tergites III–V with distance between bases of median setae two or three times the diameter of their basal pores; tergal microtrichial fields with 3 discal setae; VIII with discal microtrichia present anteromedially, posteromarginal comb complete; tergite IX with discal microtrichia on posterior half. Sternites with lateral microtrichial fields not extending mesad of marginal setae S2.

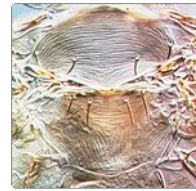
Male not known.



Female



Head & pronotum



Meso & metanotum



Tergites VI–IX



Sternites

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 major setae of *S. astibos* are all curiously stout with the apices slightly blunt, similar to those of *S. moneres*, and these are probably members of a species group that is associated with *Acacia*.

Biological data

Presumably feeding and breeding on leaves, and possibly of an *Acacia* species, but described from one female collected on *Leschenaultia* sp [Goodeniaceae].

Distribution data

Known only from Western Australia.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Scirtothrips astibos Hoddle & Mound

Original name and synonyms

Scirtothrips astibos Hoddle & Mound, 2003: 12.

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>

