

Scolothrips latipennis



Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body yellow with pale grey markings laterally on pronotum and metascutellum, abdominal tergites with more extensive grey markings; pronotal setae dark; antennal segments III–VIII grey; fore wings pale with 2 small dark transverse bands, clavus dark except at apex. Antennae 8-segmented, III–IV with long forked sense cone. Head wider than long, without sculpture between ocelli; 3 pairs of ocellar setae present, pair III very long, arising on anterior margins of ocellar triangle; postocular setae small, pair I close together behind hind ocelli. Pronotum with 6 pairs of very long setae; one pair of discal setae on posterior third. Metanotum with weak reticulation, campaniform sensilla absent; median setae arising at anterior margin. Meso- and metafurca with spinula. Fore wing first and second veins each with 5–7 long setae; clavus with only 3 veinal setae, sub-terminal longer than terminal. Tergites with no sculpture medially; VIII without posteromarginal comb; X with no median longitudinal split. Sternites without discal setae, setae S1 on sternite VII arising in front of margin.

Male macroptera. Similar to female but smaller; sternites III–VIII with broadly transverse pore plate, shorter medially than laterally.



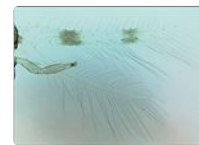
Female

Head & pronotum



Head & pronotum

Fore wing



Fore wing

Related species

Currently 14 species are recognised in the genus *Scolothrips*, with two further species described from the Canary Islands considered unrecognisable. There remain problems with the identification of two North American species, *S. pallidus* and *S. hoodi*, and these are possibly colour variants of *S. sexmaculatus* that remains known only from North America. Reports of *S. sexmaculatus* from Australia are now recognised as misidentifications of *S. rhagebianus*. The Mediterranean species *S. latipennis*, although similar in general appearance differs from both *S. rhagebianus* and *S. sexmaculatus* in lacking a pair of discal setae posteromedially on the pronotum.

Biological data

Breeding on leaves, and predatory on *Eotetranychus cucurbitacearum* [Tetranychidae] on leaves of watermelon [*Citrulus*], but also on Soybean [*Glycine*], and *Prunus*.

Distribution data

Recorded from various countries around the Mediterranean, also Australia (New South Wales).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Scolothrips latipennis Priesner

Original name and synonyms

Scolothrips latipennis Priesner, 1950: 54.

References

Mound LA (2011a) Species recognition in the genus *Scolothrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae), predators of leaf-feeding mites. *Zootaxa* 2797: 45–53. <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2011/f/zt02797p053.pdf>

