Scolothrips ochoa

Distinguishing features


Female


Female


Antenna


Head & antennae


Head & pronotum


Meso & metanotum


Fore wing setae


Larva feeding on mite


Prepupa


Adult feeding on mite eggs

Female macroptera. Body mainly brown with red internal pigment; tarsi and apices of tibiae yellow; head, metanotum and abdominal segments brown, pronotum and mesonotum paler; abdominal segments III–VI with clear areas laterally, VIII–IX darkest; antennal segments IV–V much paler than remaining segments; major setae hyaline, but dark on pigmented, areas of fore wings; fore wings with two dark transverse bands. Antennae 8-segmented, with few or no microtrichia; segment I without paired dorso-apical setae; III–IV also V–VI broadly joined; III–IV with forked sense cone. Head wider than long, cheeks short and slightly incut behind large eyes; ocellar triangle strongly elevated, ocellar setae III long, finely barbed, arising within triangle; ocellar setae pairs I and II, also postocular setae, absent; vertex transversely reticulate. Compound eyes each with four pigmented facets ventrally; maxillary palps 2-segmented. Prosternal basantra without setae, ferna slender and widely separated, prospinasternum reduced to small median triangle; meso and metafurca each with strong median spinula. Pronotum transverse, surface transversely but irregularly reticulate, with no discal setae; 5 pairs of long, barbed major setae present (anteromarginal, anteroangular, posteromarginal, and two pairs posteroangular); 4 pairs of minor, weakly barbed, setae present (two pairs of anteromarginals, one (or two) pair of posteromarginals, one pair of midlaterals). Mesonotum transversely striate/reticulate; no anterior campaniform sensilla; median setal pair arising near middle of sclerite, lateral pair small. Metanotum longitudinally and narrowly reticulate; median setal pair wide apart near lateral pair and at anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent. Fore wing relatively broad with apex pointed; dark areas finely tuberculate; costal setae long with apices barbed, costal cilia small, present only medially; first vein with 10–11 long barbed setae in irregular continuous row, second vein with 6–8 long barbed setae; clavus with 3 veinal and 1 discal barbed setae; posteromarginal cilia strongly undulated. Tergites without craspedum; tergite I transversely reticulate; II–VIII with sculpture markings laterally, not extending to campaniform sensilla; median setae small, wide apart; VIII with neither comb nor craspedum; tergite IX elongate, without anterior campaniform sensilla; tergite X short with no longitudinal split. Sternites reticulate laterally, with three pairs of marginal setae, no discal setae; sternite VII posterior margin eroded medially.
Male not known.

Related species

Currently 14 species are recognised in the genus *Scolothrips*, with two further species described from the Canary Islands considered unrecognisable. The Australian species *S. ochoa* is similar to the Asian species *S. asura* in being strongly bicoloured with deep red internal pigments when alive, but differs from all the other members of the genus in lacking ocellar setae pairs I and II.

Biological data

Breeding and pupating on *Eucalyptus* leaves, and predatory on eggs and young nymphs of *Raoiella* mites [Acarina, Tenuipalpidae].

Distribution data

Known only from Australia (Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Scolothrips ochoa Mound, Tree & Goldarazena.

Original name and synonyms

Scolothrips ochoa Mound, Tree & Goldarazena, 2010: 64. .

References

Mound LA, Tree DJ & Goldarazena A (2010) A new species of predatory *Scolothrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) feeding on *Raoiella* mites (Tenuipalpidae) in Australia. *Zootaxa* **2620**: 63–68. **http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2010/f/zt02620p068.pdf**

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**