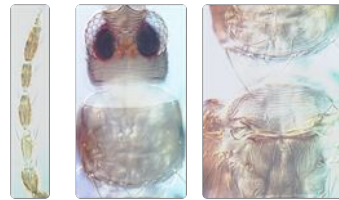


Thrips excaelatus

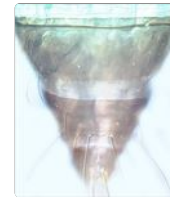


Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body brown, tarsi and apices of tibiae yellow, antennae brown with base of segment III yellow, fore wings shaded with base and apex paler. Antennae 7-segmented. Head about as broad as long, vertex with three transverse striae, ocellar region without sculpture; ocellar setae III arising on anterolateral margins of triangle; postocular setae I almost as long as ocellar setae III. Pronotum slightly wider than long, surface lacking sculpture, with about 10 discal setae; inner and outer postero-angular setae more than two thirds as long as pronotum; posterior margin with 3 pairs of setae and S1 twice length of S2 and S3. Fore tarsus ventrally with stout recurved apical hamus. Mesonotum with lines of sculpture close to campaniform sensilla. Metanotum with irregular partly elongate reticulation posteromedially, median pair of setae close to anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent. Fore wing first vein with 6–9 setae on distal half; clavus with 5 marginal setae, terminal seta longest. Abdominal tergites with no sculpture posterior to antecostal ridge; tergite II with 3 (or 4) lateral marginal setae; tergite VIII with ctenidia ending anterolateral to setae S3, posteromarginal comb with widely spaced slender microtrichia laterally but medially with very short microtrichia; tergite IX with 2 pairs of campaniform sensilla, median pair of setae much shorter than lateral pairs; tergite X with median split almost complete. Sternites and pleurotergites without discal setae.



Antenna Head & pronotum Meso & metanotum



Tergites VIII-X

Male not known.

Related species

There are 33 species of *Thrips* genus known from Australia (Mound & Masumoto, 2005), out of a total of 296 species worldwide (ThripsWiki, 2020). Many of these species have the antennae clearly 7-segmented, whereas others have 8 segments. Some species have two complete rows of setae on the fore wing veins, whereas others have the setal row on the first vein more or less widely interrupted. Moreover, some species have sternal discal setae, whereas other species have only marginal setae on the sternites. Despite this variation, all members of *Thrips* genus have paired ctenidia on the tergites, and on tergite VIII these are postero-mesad to the spiracles, and they also lack ocellar setae pair I in front of the first ocellus. In contrast, *Frankliniella* species have ctenidia on tergite VIII antero-lateral to the spiracles, and a pair of setae is always present in front of the first ocellus. *T. excaelatus* is unusual because of the long pronotal setae, the presence on the fore tarsus of a stout ventral hamus, and the lack of sculpture on the tergites. This species is a member of the Australian endemic *T. seticollis* group, in which the ctenidia on tergite VIII end anterolateral to setae S3.

Biological data

Probably feeding and breeding in the flowers of *Leucopogon ericoides* [Epacridaceae].

Distribution data

Known only from Australia (New South Wales).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Thrips excaelatus Mound & Masumoto

Original name and synonyms

Thrips excaelatus Mound & Masumoto, 2005: 23.

References

Mound LA & Masumoto M (2005) The genus *Thrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) in Australia, New Caledonia and New Zealand. *Zootaxa* 1020: 1–64. <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2005f/zt01020p064.pdf>

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