

Thrips simplex



Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body and legs dark brown, tarsi and antennal segment III yellowish brown; fore wings brown with base paler. Antennae 8-segmented. Head wider than long; ocellar setae pair III small, arising just inside anterior margins of triangle; postocular setae pairs I & III slightly longer than ocellar setae III, pair II minute. Pronotal external postero-angular setae slightly shorter than inner pair; posterior margin with 3 or 4 pairs of setae. Metanotum reticulate medially, reticles elongate on posterior half, with faint sculptured markings inside most reticles; median setae short and arising behind anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent. Fore wing first vein with about 7 setae on distal half, second vein with about 14 setae; clavus with 5 marginal setae. Tergite II with 3 lateral marginal setae; posterior margin of tergite VIII with complete but slightly irregular comb of microtrichia; pleurotergites without discal setae, sculptured with rows of coarsely ciliate microtrichia. Sternite II with 1 or 2 discal setae, III-VII with about 12 discal setae in single row.

Male macroptera. Smaller than female but similar in colour; tergite VIII with no posteromarginal comb; sternites III-VII each with large transverse pore plate, discal setae arising laterally.

Related species

Thrips simplex is an African species (Mound, 2010) with no close relatives in the Australian fauna. 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.

Biological data

Feeding and breeding in flowers and on the leaves of various Iridaceae, mainly *Gladiolus*, but also *Crocasmia* and *Neomarica*. The *Gladiolus* Thrips can cause serious streaking on the flowers of this valuable horticultural crop.

Distribution data

Originally from South Africa, but now widespread around the world wherever *Gladiolus* is grown.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Thrips simplex (Morison)

Original name and synonyms

Physothrips simplex Morison, 1930: 12

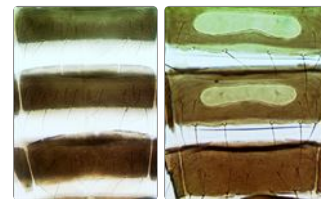
Taeniothrips gladioli Moulton & Steinweden, 1931: 20



Female Antenna Head & pronotum



Meso & metanota Tergites VII-VIII Pleurotergites



Sternites V-VII Male sternites V-VII



Abdominal tergite II Fore wing

Physothrips plurisetae Girault, 1933: 2
Taeniothrips quinani Moulton, 1936: 506
Taeniothrips gladiolicola Pussard, 1946: 774.

References

Mound LA (2010) Species of the genus *Thrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) from the Afro-tropical Region. *Zootaxa* 2423: 1–24. <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2010/f/zt02423p024.pdf>

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>