

# Aliceathrips engaius



## Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body and legs yellow; fore wing pale; antennal segment I pale, II light brown, III-V yellow with apex light brown, VI-VIII brown. Antennae 8-segmented, I with no dorso-apical setae, sense cone simple on III, forked on IV. Head projecting conically in front of eyes, cheeks almost parallel; compound eyes with 5 pigmented facets; ocellar setae I present, III 1.5 times as long as an ocellus and arising between anterior margins of posterior ocelli; mouth cone large, maxillary palps 3-segmented. Pronotum slightly wider at posterior than anterior; posteroangular inner setal pair shorter than outer pair.

Prosternal basantra with no setae; ferna continuous medially; metafurca without spinula, mesofurca with spinula. Mesonotal anterior campaniform sensilla present. Metanotal sculpture weak; median setae near anterior margin, closer to lateral pair than to each other; no campaniform sensilla. Fore wing slender, first vein with 3 widely spaced setae on distal half; second vein with few widely spaced setae; clavus with 4-5 veinal setae, no discal seta. Tergites with weak transverse sculpture medially; II-VIII with craspedum present, campaniform sensilla near posterior margin; tergite IX median dorsal setae weak, not extending to posterior margin, posterior marginal pair I equal in length to pair II; X with median split incomplete. Sternites III-VII with 4-10 discal setae, posterior margin with no craspedum; sternite II with 2 pairs of marginal setae, III-VII with 3 pairs, all arising at margin on VII.

Male macroptera smaller and paler than female; tergite IX with pair of stout dark processes; sternite III with transverse pore plate on antecostal area.



Antenna Head & thorax

Prosternites

Tergites I-III



Tergite VIII-IX

## Related species

The genus *Aliceathrips* comprises five species, all from the northern half of Australia. *A. engaius* differs from the other species in having the maxillary palps elongate and 3-segmented, the sense cone on the fourth antennal segment forked, and the median dorsal setae on tergite IX of females short and slender. The male has a pore plate only on sternite III, and paired conical processes on tergite IX.

## Biological data

Feeding and breeding on the leaves of various native grasses, including the following *Triodia hubbardi*, *Neurachne tenuifolia* and *Digitaria brownii* [Poaceae].

## Distribution data

Known only from Australia, Northern Territory (Macdonnell Ranges).

## Family name

THRIPIDAE - THIRIPINAE

## Species name

*Aliceathrips engaius* Mound

## Original name and synonyms

*Aliceathrips engaius* Mound, 2011: 10.

## References

Mound LA (2011b) Grass-dependent Thysanoptera of the family Thripidae from Australia. *Zootaxa* 3064 : 1-40.  
<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2011/f/z03064p040.pdf>

