

Aliceathrips mnestes



Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body and legs yellow, fore femora external margins shaded brown, abdominal segments IX–X brownish yellow but particularly shaded near posterior margins; antennal segment I white, II brown, III pale with extreme apex shaded, IV–V pale with apical quarter light brown, VI–VIII brown; fore wings and all major setae pale. Antennae 7-segmented, I with no dorso-apical setae, III–IV with sense cone simple. Head projecting conically in front of eyes, cheeks almost parallel; compound eyes with 5 pigmented facets; ocellar setae III 1.0–1.5 as long as an ocellus and arising between anterior margins of posterior ocelli; mouthcone large, maxillary palps 2-segmented. Pronotum slightly wider at posterior than anterior; posteroangular inner setal pair shorter than outer pair. Prosternal basantra with no setae; ferna continuous medially; meso and meta furca without spinula. Mesonotal anterior campaniform sensilla present. Metanotum weakly reticulate medially, median setae varying in distance from anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent. 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 slightly stouter than posterior setae, extending just beyond tergal posterior margin, posterior marginal setal pair I shorter than pair II; X with median split incomplete. Sternite II with 1–3 discal setae, III–VII with 5–9 discal setae; 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 elongate curved processes; sternites with no pore plates.



Related species

The genus *Aliceathrips* comprises five species, all from the northern half of Australia. *A. mnestes* is similar in structure to *A. australiensis* but differs from all of the species in this genus in having the antennae 7-segmented instead of 8-segmented. The male has no sternal pore plates.

Biological data

Feeding and breeding on the leaves of native grasses [Poaceae].

Distribution data

Recorded only from Northern Territory (Darwin) and Queensland (Torres Strait Islands).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Aliceathrips mnestes Mound

Original name and synonyms

Aliceathrips mnestes 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/zt03064p040.pdf>

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