

Anascirtothrips arorai



Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body yellow, tergites II–VI with brown area laterally; antennal segments I–II white, III–VI yellow with apex brown, VII brown; fore wings pale with faint brown shading sub-basally and medially. Antennae 7-segmented, III–IV with forked sense cone. Head wider than long; 3 pairs of ocellar setae, pair III just outside ocellar triangle; 3 pairs of postocular setae.

Pronotum posterior half with 2 pairs of discal setae medially, 5 pairs of equally short posteromarginal setae. Mesonotal S1 setae arise in line with S2 setae. Metanotum with weakly transverse sculpture, median setae not at anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent. Prosternal ferna complete medially; basantra with or without one pair of setae; mesofurca without spinula, metafurca with spinula. Fore wing first vein with 3 setae on distal half; second vein with 3–4 setae; cilia wavy. Tergites I–VIII with median pair of setae close together; posterolateral tergal margins with fringe of microtrichia, complete medially on VIII; tergites II–VIII with 6–10 rows of discal microtrichia on lateral thirds; IX with many microtrichia on posterior half, X with no longitudinal split. Sternites II–VI with short microtrichia on posterior margin between bases of setae. Male macroptera. Similar to female but smaller; sternites without pore plates.



Female



Head & pronotum



Head & pronotum



Antenna



Meso & metanotum



Mesonotum & metanotum



Tergites VI–X



Sternites



Fore wing

Related species

The genus *Anascirtothrips* currently includes four species, all from Asia and apparently all associated with the leaves of *Ficus* trees. These species resemble those of the worldwide genus *Scirtothrips*, but have 7-segmented antennae, and the mesonotal two pairs of setae arise in almost a straight transverse line (Masumoto & Okajima, 2007). *A. arorai* differs from *A. arafura* in lacking a spinula on the mesothoracic furca, and in tergite VII lacking a complete comb of microtrichia on the posterior margin.

Biological data

Feeding and breeding on the leaves of *Ficus* spp [Moraceae], particularly *Ficus benjamina* cultivars, also *F. microcarpa* and *F. coronata*.

Distribution data

Widespread in India, introduced to southern Florida and northern Australia.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THIRIPINAE

Species name

Anascirtothrips arorai Bhatti

Original name and synonyms

Anascirtothrips arorai Bhatti, 1961: 26

Anascirtothrips ficus Bhatti, 1967: 11.

References

Mound LA & Wang C-L (2000) The genus *Anascirtothrips* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), from leaves of *Ficus* trees in India, Taiwan and Australia. *Chinese Journal of Entomology* 20: 327–333.

