

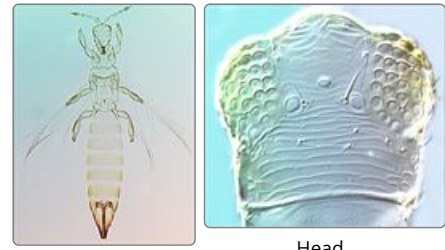
# Masamithrips melinus

## Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body, legs and antennae mainly yellow, abdominal segment X and lateral margins of IX shaded light brown, antennal segment VI light brown in distal 0.5–0.7; fore wing including clavus very weakly shaded in basal half, apex pale.

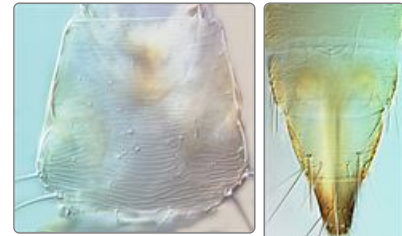
Antennae 8-segmented, segment I with no dorso-apical setae, sense cone on III–IV simple. Head broadest across eyes, cheeks straight, converging to base, anterior margin projecting conically in front of eyes; compound eyes with 5 pigmented facets; ocellar setae pair I far apart; III arising between mid-points of posterior ocelli; maxillary palps 2-segmented. Pronotum weakly trapezoidal, posterior margin with 4 pairs of setae, 2 pairs of sub-equal posteroangular setae. Prosternal basantra granulate, with about 4 pairs of setae; fernal plates scarcely connected medially; meso and meta furca without spinula. Mesonotal anterior campaniform sensilla present, median pair of setae distant from posterior margin. Metanotum medially with irregular sculpture; median setae just behind anterior margin, closer to lateral pair than to each other; no campaniform sensilla. Fore wing slender, first vein with 6–8 setae on basal half, 3 widely spaced setae on distal half; second vein with about 5 widely spaced setae; clavus with 4 or 5 veinal setae but no discal seta; posterior fringe wavy. Tergal sculpture weak but complete medially; II–VIII with broad craspedum, campaniform sensilla close to posterior margin; tergites V–VIII with few microtrichia laterally; setal pair S2 on VIII no longer than S1; tergite IX as long as X, with median dorsal setae extending well beyond posterior margin of tergite, longer and stouter than posterior median setae; X with complete split. Sternites with no marginal craspedum, II with about 6 discal setae, 2 pairs of marginal setae; III–VII with irregular row of about 10–15 discal setae; VII with no submarginal setae.

Male macroptera. Similar to but smaller than female, apex of abdomen yellow; tergite IX dorsal setae small and slender; sternite II with 2 discal and 3 pairs of marginal setae, VI–VII with broad pore plate on antecostal area.



Female

Head



Pronotum

Tergites VII-X

## Related species

The genus *Masimithrips* comprises six species, all from northern Australia. These share most character states with the species of *Monothrips*, but have only two maxillary palp segments and lack sternal craspeda. *Aliceathrips* species lack setae on the prosternal basantra, and have the head different in shape, and the species of *Caprithrips* are all wingless and have no long pronotal setae. Females of *melinus* are similar to those of *masamii*, but have antennal segment IV yellow, and the dorsal setae on tergite IX long and stout and extending well beyond the posterior margin of the tergite.

## Biological data

Feeding and breeding on the leaves of native grasses, including *Cymbopogon ambiguus* and *Cymbopogon refractus* [Poaceae].

## Distribution data

Known from Western Australia, Queensland, and New South Wales.

## Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

## Species name

*Masamithrips melinus* Mound

## Original name and synonyms

*Masamithrips melinus* Mound, 2011: 25.

## 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>