

Microcephalothrips abdominalis



Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body brown, fore tibiae, tarsi and antennal segment III paler; fore wings brown. Antennae 7-segmented, III-IV with sense cone small, usually forked. Head wider than long, only 2 pairs of ocellar setae present, pair III very short and anterolateral to ocellar triangle; postocular setae small.

Pronotum wider at posterior than anterior margin, with 2 pairs of short posteroangular setae, posterior margin with 5 pairs of setae; prosternal basantra with several setae. Metanotum with linear sculpture forming lens-like shape; campaniform sensilla present, median setae arise behind anterior margin. Mesofurca with spinula. Fore wing first vein with 3 setae on distal half, second vein with about 7 setae; clavus with 5 marginal setae.

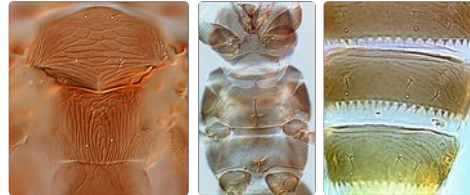
Tergites with sculpture lines medially on anterior half but not on posterior half; campaniform sensilla posterior to median setae; paired ctenidia present on tergites V-VIII, on VIII posteromesad to spiracle; tergite posterior margins with craspedum of triangular lobes, comb on VIII with slender microtrichia arising from broad bases. Sternites without craspeda, with double row of discal setae.

Male macroptera or microptera. Similar to female but smaller and paler; tergite VIII posterior margin with craspedum of triangular lobes similar to preceding segments; sternites with craspeda of triangular lobes, III-VII with small circular pore plate.



Male & female

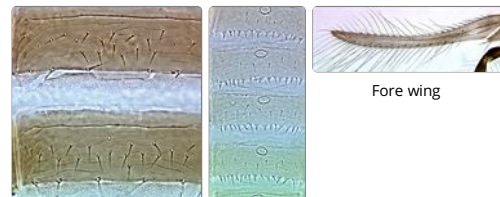
Antenna Head & thoracic tergites



Meso & metanotum

Thoracic sternites

Tergites VI-VIII



Sternites IV-V

Male sternites

Fore wing

Related species

There is only one species in the genus *Microcephalothrips*, and this shares many character states with the species of *Thrips* genus, in particular the abdominal ctenidia that are posteromesad to the spiracles on tergite VIII. However, the prosternum bears several setae, unlike any species of *Thrips*, and there is a distinctive lobed craspedum on the abdominal tergites.

Biological data

Breeding in the flowers of various Asteraceae, sometimes with large populations in *Helianthus* sunflowers.

Distribution data

Known from tropical and subtropical areas around the world, including in Australia Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Microcephalothrips abdominalis (Crawford DL)

Original name and synonyms

Thrips abdominalis Crawford DL, 1910: 157

Thrips femoralis Jones, 1912: 4

Thrips crenatus Watson, 1922: 35

Thrips microcephalus Priesner, 1923: 116

Thrips (Ctenothripiella) gillettei Moulton, 1926: 126

Thrips oklahomae Watson, 1931: 342

Microcephalothrips armatus Ananthakrishnan, 1956: 133
Aureothrips marigoldae Raizada, 1966: 278
Stylothrips brevipalpis Karny, 1927: 206
Paraphysopus burnsi Girault, 1927: 2
Microcephalothrips chinensis Feng, Nan & Guo, 1998: 257
Microcephalothrips jigongshanensis Feng, Nan & Guo, 1998: 258.

References

Mound LA & Marullo R (1996) The Thrips of Central and South America: An Introduction. *Memoirs on Entomology, International* 6: 1–488.