

Mycterothrips nilgiriensis



Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body yellow with light brown markings on head and thorax; legs yellow, tergites brown medially; antennal segment I yellow, II-VIII uniformly brown to dark brown; fore wings and clavus uniformly brown. Antennae 8-segmented; segment I with paired dorso-apical setae; segments III-IV distal third narrowed and weakly neck-like, sense cone forked. Head slightly wider than long; eyes with five pigmented facets; 3 pairs of ocellar setae, pair III long, between posterior ocelli. Pronotum with 2 pairs of long posteroangular setae, two pairs of posteromarginal setae. Mesonotum without campaniform sensilla anteromedially; median pair of setae near posterior margin. Metanotum irregularly reticulate medially; median setal pair near anterior margin, no campaniform sensilla. Meso and metafurca with well developed spinula. Fore wing with 2 setae on distal half, near apex; clavus with 5 veinal and 1 discal setae. Abdominal tergites without ctenidia and craspeda; with numerous ciliate microtrichia on lines of sculpture; tergites II-VII with microtrichial comb laterally, VIII with complete long, fine comb. Sternites without discal setae.

Male macroptera. Similar to female but smaller; Antennae 8-segmented, segment VI more than 1.0 times as long as combined length of I-V, with numerous long setae and without microtrichia; sternites with 1-4 discal setae, but without pore plates.



Female antenna Male antenna Male

Related species

The genus *Mycterothrips*, with 27 species worldwide, is primarily Holarctic, but with several species occurring in the Old World tropics including Australia. Several species in the genus have antennae that exhibit remarkable sexual dimorphism. In *M. nilgiriensis* males have antennal segment VI longer than the total length of segments I-V, but females are difficult to distinguish from *M. desleyae* (Masumoto & Okajima, 2006).

Biological data

Apparently polyphagous, and feeding on the leaves and flowers of several plant species.

Distribution data

Described from India, and recorded from Nepal, Taiwan, and Australia (New South Wales and Queensland).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Mycterothrips nilgiriensis (Ananthakrishnan, 1960)

Original name and synonyms

Rhopalandrothrips nilgiriensis Ananthakrishnan, 1960: 37

Rhopalandrothrips orchidii Ananthakrishnan, 1961: 263

Physothrips crotus Bhatti, 1962: 37

Mycterothrips ravidus Wang, 1999: 236.

References

Masumoto M & Okajima S (2006) A revision of and key to the world species of *Mycterothrips* Trybom (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) *Zootaxa* 1261: 1-90.