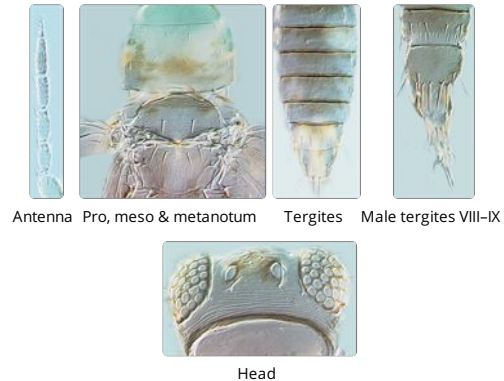


Scirtothrips kirrhos



Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body yellow, ocellar region brown, also anterior margin of mesonotum and median area of tergites II–VIII; antecostal ridges on tergites III–VIII dark across full width of segments, on sternites III–VII shaded full width of segments; fore wings weakly shaded; antennal segment I pale, II variably light brown, III–IV mainly yellow with apex brown, V–VIII dark. Head with vertex bearing closely spaced and transversely anastomosing striae, ocellar region with lines of sculpture scarcely visible; ocellar setae pair III close together, distance between their bases less than three times the diameter of the basal pores, arising almost on tangent joining anterior margins



of posterior ocelli; two pairs of post-ocular setae. Pronotum with transverse striae regular and closely spaced; posteromarginal setae S2 about twice the length of S1, S3 subequal to S1. Metanotal reticulation transverse anteriorly but almost equiangular on posterior half, median setae posterior of margin. Fore wing clavus with 4 marginal setae; first vein setae 10–12+1–2+1–2+0–1+0–1; second vein with 2–4 setae; basal posteromarginal fringe cilia wavy but distal cilia straight. Tergites III–V median setae short, distance between bases about 3 times the length of these setae; tergal microtrichial fields with 3 discal setae; VIII–IX without discal microtrichia medially, posteromarginal comb on VIII complete. Sternites III–VI with microtrichial fields weak, scarcely extending mesad of setae S3. Male macroptera. Similar in colour and sculpture to female, but smaller; tergite IX with pair of rather short, pale drepanae; aedeagus without stout spines.

Related species

The genus *Scirtothrips* comprises over 100 described species worldwide, with 21 species known from Australia most of which are endemics to this continent. These species all have the lateral thirds of the abdominal tergites covered in closely spaced rows of fine microtrichia, and in many species the sternites also bear similar microtrichia. The antennae are 8-segmented, except in *S. casuarinae* and *S. solus*, both fore wing veins have an irregular and incomplete setal row, and a median spinula is present on both the meso and metafurca. *S. kirrhos* is part of a species complex on *Acacia* foliage, together with *S. akakia*, *S. moneres* and *S. quadriseta*, in which the ocellar region lacks definite sculpture, and the first abdominal tergite lacks setae.

Biological data

Feeding and breeding on the young phyllodes of various *Acacia* spp, including *A. papyrocarpa* [Mimosaceae].

Distribution data

Known only from South Australia and Northern Territory.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Scirtothrips kirrhos Hoddle & Mound

Original name and synonyms

Scirtothrips kirrhos Hoddle & Mound, 2003: 23.

References

Hoddle MS & Mound LA (2003) The genus *Scirtothrips* in Australia (Insecta, Thysanoptera, Thripidae). *Zootaxa* 268: 1–40. <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2003f/zt00268.pdf>

