

Scolothrips asura



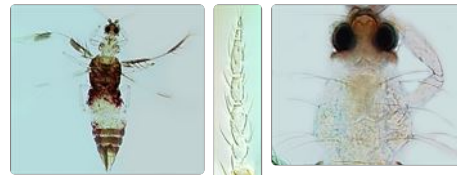
Distinguishing features

Female macroptera. Body brown with red internal pigment, legs yellow, also prothorax and abdominal segments III-V, IX-X variable yellow to brown; antennal segments I-II brown, III-V yellow, VI-VIII pale brown; fore wings with two dark transverse bands including clavus; major setae on body hyaline, forewing setae dark on dark bands, all major setae minutely barbed.

Antennae 8-segmented; segment I without paired dorso-apical setae; III-IV with long forked sense cone. Head wider than long, cheeks short and incut behind large eyes; ocellar triangle elevated, ocellar setae III long, arising within triangle; ocellar setae pair I long, 2 pairs of postocular setae behind ocelli; compound eyes each with four pigmented facets ventrally.

Prosternal basantra without setae, fema slender and incomplete medially; meso and metafurca each with strong median spinula.

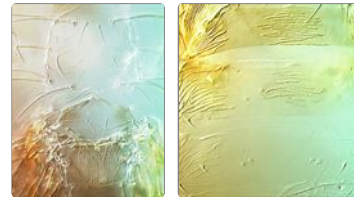
Pronotum transverse, surface with few transverse lines; with no discal setae; 6 pairs of long major setae (anteromarginal, anteroangular, midlateral, posteromarginal, and two pairs posteroangular. Mesonotum transversely striate; no anterior campaniform sensilla; median setal pair arising near middle of sclerite, lateral pair long. Metanotum striate medially but irregularly reticulate at anterior; median setal pair wide apart near lateral pair and at anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent. Fore wing relatively broad with apex pointed; dark areas finely tuberculate; costal setae long with apices roughened, costal cilia small, present only medially; first vein with about 8 long setae in irregular continuous row, second vein with 4 long setae; clavus with veinal and 1 discal setae; posteromarginal cilia strongly wavy. Tergites without craspedum; tergites I-II transversely striate medially; III-VIII with transverse lines laterally, not extending to campaniform sensilla; median setae small, wide apart; VIII with neither comb nor craspedum; tergite IX without anterior campaniform sensilla; tergite X with no longitudinal split. Sternites with three pairs of marginal setae, no discal setae; sternite VII setae S1 far ahead of posterior margin. Male not known.



Female

Antenna

Head & pronotum



Pro, meso & metanotum

Tergites I-III

Related species

Currently 14 species are recognised in the genus *Scolothrips*, with two further species described from the Canary Islands considered unrecognisable. There remain problems with the identification of two North American species, *S. pallidus* and *S. hoodi*, and these are possibly colour variants of *S. sexmaculatus* that remains known only from North America. Reports of *S. sexmaculatus* from Australia are now recognised as misidentifications of *S. rhagebianus*. The Asian species *S. asura* is strongly bicoloured, with deep red internal pigments when alive.

Biological data

Breeding on the leaves of various plants, including crops, and acting as a predator of Tetranychid mites.

Distribution data

India, Taiwan, Japan, and Australia (Queensland).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Scolothrips asura Ramakrishna & Margabandhu

Original name and synonyms

Scolothrips asura Ramakrishna & Margabandhu, 1931: 1035.

References

Mound LA & Tree DJ (2007) Oriental and Pacific Thripidae (Thysanoptera) new to Australia, with a new species of *Pseudodendrothrips* Schmutz. *Australian Entomologist* **34**: 7–14.

Mound LA, Tree DJ & Goldarazena A (2010) A new species of predatory *Scolothrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) feeding on *Raoiella* mites (Tenuipalpidae) in Australia. *Zootaxa* **2620** : 63–68.
<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2010/f/zt02620p068.pdf>

Mound LA (2011a) Species recognition in the genus *Scolothrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae), predators of leaf-feeding mites. *Zootaxa* **2797**: 45–53. <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2011/f/zt02797p053.pdf>