

Acanthothrips albivittatus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body dark brown, with chalky-white band laterally from posterior margin of eye to abdominal tergite VIII; antennal segments uniformly dark; fore wing pale with darker line medially. Antennae 8-segmented; segments III–VI constricted to apical neck; III & IV with 3 stout sense cones. Head longer than wide; cheeks without prominent bristle-bearing warts; eyes large; maxillary stylets long and close together medially; postocular setae long and pointed; mouth cone extending across prosternum. Pronotum reticulate, 2 pairs of epimeral setae present; basantra absent. Fore tarsus with prominent tooth; fore femora with sub-apical tubercle on inner margin. Fore wings weakly constricted medially, granulate between sub-basal seta III and median constriction. Pelta reticulate; tergite IX setae long and pointed.

Male sternite VIII with median transverse pore plate; tergite IX setae similar to those of female.

Related species

The genus *Acanthothrips* includes 13 species, of which one is Holarctic, one is from northern Europe, five are known only from North America, and six are from the Neotropics including Mexico. Priesner (1964) distinguished this genus from the worldwide genus *Hoplandrothrips* on the basis that the fore wings are parallel sided. Although this is true of *A. nodicornis*, the fore wings of *A. albivittatus* and *A. argentifer* are constricted medially at least as much as in some species of *Hoplandrothrips*. The antennae of *A. albivittatus* are uniformly dark, whereas the median antennal segments are largely yellow in the other two species recorded from California.

Biological data

Breeding on dead branches and feeding on unidentified fungal hyphae

Distribution data

Eastern USA (?also California, Placerville - see Cott, 1956: 149)

Family name

PHLAEOTHRIPIDAE, PHLAEOTHRIPINAE

Species name

Acanthothrips albivittatus Hood

Original name and synonyms

Acanthothrips albivittatus Hood, 1908: 374.

References

Cott HE (1956) Systematics of the suborder Tubulifera (Thysanoptera) in California. *University of California, Berkeley, Publications in Entomology* 13: 1–216.

Priesner H (1964) Ordnung Thysanoptera (Fransenflügler, Thripse). in Franz H, *Bestimmungsbücher zur Bodenfauna Europas* 2: 1–242. Akademie-Verlag.

