

Aeolothrips albicinctus

Distinguishing features

Usually micropterous, with wings shorter than thorax width; fully winged females rare, with wings relatively short and slender. Body color brown with abdominal segments II–III sharply yellow, mesothorax and abdominal segment X sometimes yellowish, antennal segments II and most of III yellow; legs brown; fore wing with two transverse dark bands, costa dark on pale area between the dark bands. Antennae 9-segmented, segments III–IV with linear sensorium short and straight, V–IX forming a single unit with V longer than VI–IX. Head and pronotum with no long setae; eyes strongly prolonged on ventral surface; maxillary palps 3-segmented. Fore tarsus apically with stout recurved ventral hamus. Abdominal tergite I with many closely spaced transverse striae; sternal marginal setae arising sub-marginally, particularly the two lateral pairs. Male micropterous; generally brown, or with mesothorax and abdominal segments I, II and part of IV yellow, abdominal segments IX and X darkest; IX without paired claspers.

Related species

In addition to *A. albicinctus*, two further species recorded from California have the basal abdominal segments sharply yellow, *A. auricestus* and *A. brunneipictus*. Moreover, at least two other *Aeolothrips* species occur in western USA with the abdomen bicolored, *A. aureus* Moulton and *A. bicolor* Hinds. These five species apparently all live at ground level as predators of small arthropods. About 105 species are placed currently in the genus *Aeolothrips* (Alavi & Minaei, 2018). Most of these are from the Palearctic Region (including the Mediterranean, Iran and northern India, but with five species extending through eastern Africa to South Africa), with about 30 species from the Nearctic (mainly western USA). Only one species of this genus is known from the Neotropics, *A. fasciatipennis* described from Chile, but Mound & Marullo (1996) indicate this is probably the same as *A. fasciatus*.

Biological data

Living at the base of grasses, and presumably predatory on mites; behavior distinctively active and wasp-like.

Distribution data

Widespread across Europe into Asia, also North America (Ontario, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Illinois, Iowa, California).

Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

Species name

Aeolothrips albicinctus Haliday

Original name and synonyms

Aeolothrips albicinctus Haliday, 1836: 451

Aeolothrips flavithorax Priesner, 1926: 102

References



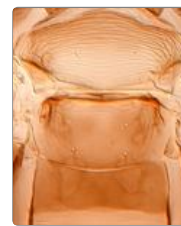
Ant-like female with short wings Antenna (bright field)



Head



Pronotum



Mesonotum & metanotum (wingless female)



Pterothorax and abdominal tergites I-II



Tergites I-II

Alavi J & Minaei K. (2018) Studies on the genus *Aeolothrips* (Thysanoptera: Aeolothripidae) in Iran, with a key to species. *Zootaxa* **4446** (3): 343–360.

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

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