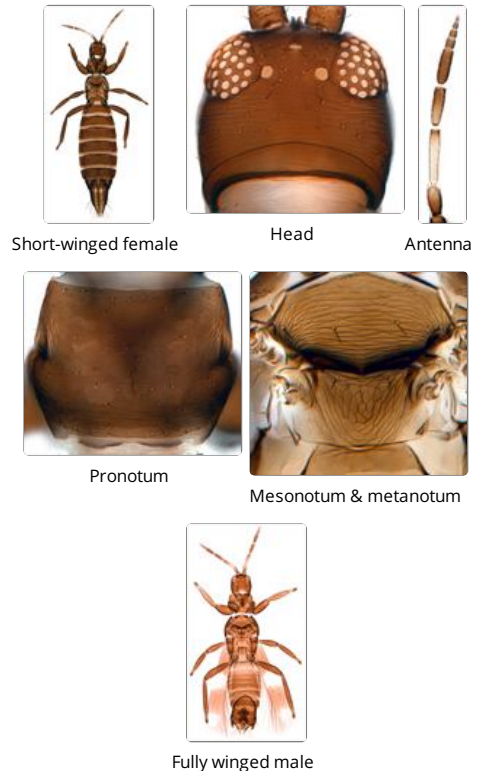


Aeolothrips auricestus

Distinguishing features

Described originally as having abdominal segments II–VI sharply yellow in contrast to the brown body, this species is considered by Bailey (1951) to exist also in a form with the abdomen uniformly brown. Both sexes fully winged, or with wings no longer than width of thorax. Body color uniformly brown, or with abdominal segments II–IV, V, or VI sharply yellow; antennal segment II yellow in apical half, III yellow with apex brown; legs brown; fore wings with 2 transverse dark bands. Antennae 9-segmented, segment III with linear sensorium short, IV with sensorium less than 0.5 as long as segment and scarcely curved at apex, V–IX forming a single unit with V about equal in length to VI–IX. Head and pronotum with no long setae. Fore tarsus apically with stout recurved ventral hamus. Median marginal setae on sternites arising at or close to margin, but lateral two pairs arise sub-marginally; sternite VII with two pairs of accessory setae arising almost medially on disc. Male without tergal tubercles; setae at base of claspers on tergite IX longer than clasper, without stout curved seta lateral to clasper.



Related species

A. auricestus often has the basal abdominal segments sharply yellow, as in *A. albicinctus* and *A. brunneipictus* that are also known in California. At least two other *Aeolothrips* species with the abdomen bicolored occur in western USA, *A. aureus* Moulton and *A. bicolor* Hinds, and these five species apparently all live at ground level as predators of small arthropods. However, winged females of the brown form of *A. auricestus* are similar in structure to those of other species in the *A. fasciatus* group. About 105 species are placed currently in the genus *Aeolothrips*. 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

Commonly with reduced wings. Associated with grasses, and presumably living at ground level; presumably predatory on other small arthropods.

Distribution data

Western North America (British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, northern California).

Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

Species name

Aeolothrips auricestus Treherne

Original name and synonyms

Aeolothrips auricestus Treherne, 1919: 184

References

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

International 6: 1-488.