

# Aeolothrips fasciatus

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes with banded wings; median pale band shorter than distal dark band. Body and legs brown, antennal segment III yellow with only extreme apex dark. Antennae 9-segmented, segment III long and slender with linear sensorium scarcely 0.3 as long as segment, IV with sensorium almost 0.5 as long as segment and curved distally; segments V–IX forming a single unit with V about the same length as VI–IX. Head and pronotum with no long setae. Fore tarsus apically with stout recurved ventral hamus. Abdominal tergite X with pair of very small trichobothria. Marginal setae on sternites arising at or close to margin; sternite VII with two pairs of accessory setae arising well in front of margin.

Male tergites IV and V sometimes with very small paired dorsal tubercles; setae at base of bifurcate claspers on tergite IX much longer than clasper, with no stout curved seta lateral to clasper; antennal segment III almost fuscous rather than yellow, but abdominal segments III–V sometimes paler than II and VI.

## Related species

The complex of species related to *A. fasciatus*, including some from California such as *A. duvali*, requires considerable further study. Because of the similarity amongst females of these species, only males can currently be identified as *fasciatus* with confidence. About 105 species are placed currently in the genus *Aeolothrips*. Most of these are from the Palaearctic 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; although common in Chile, *A. fasciatipennis* Blanchard is known only from females. Mound & Marullo (1996) indicate this species is probably the same as *A. fasciatus*.

## Biological data

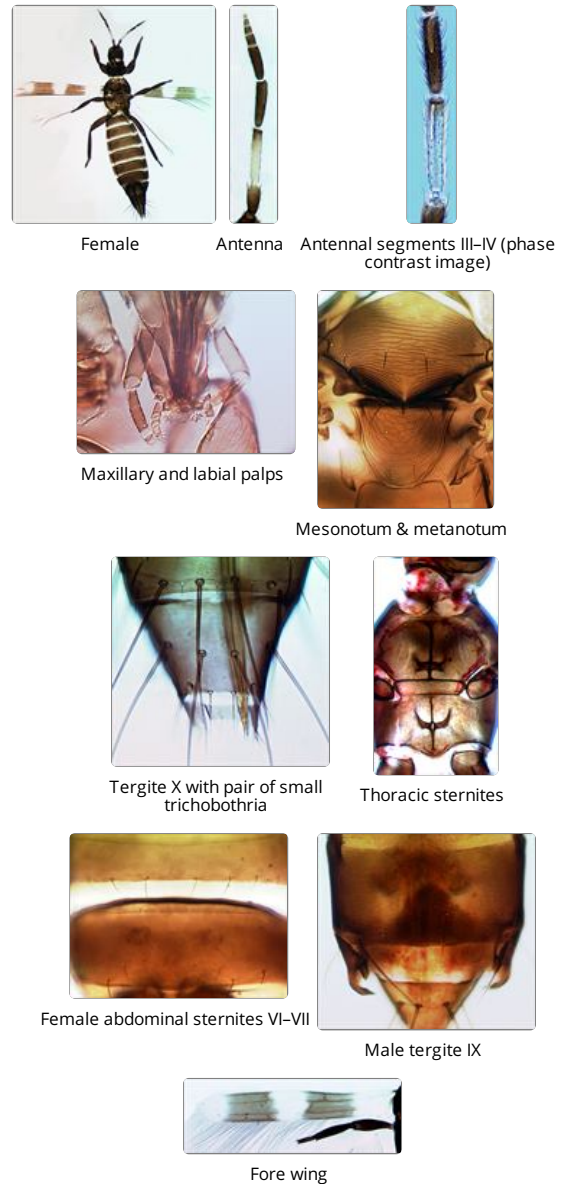
Found in the flowers of a range of plants, with no recorded specificity, but probably a facultative predator with a mixed diet of pollen and the larvae of other thrips.

## Distribution data

Probably originally from Europe, females identified as this species have been recorded widely around the world. In contrast, males have been studied only from Finland, Denmark, Slovakia, Azores, Hokkaido, New Zealand and Tasmania. Some of the published records that are based only on females are probably misidentifications of *A. intermedius* Bagnall, a common species in northern Europe that has a rather shorter third antennal segment. Moreover, some of the North American records are possibly misidentifications of the brown morph of *A. auricestus*. Currently, if males are not available, it is probably not possible to identify species confidently in this group. From both New Zealand and Tasmania (Australia) males and females have been studied that cannot be distinguished from European specimens of *A. fasciatus*. Females from Chile to which the name *A. fasciatipennis* has been applied cannot be distinguished from *A. fasciatus* females, but no males of this group have been seen from South America.

## Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE



## Species name

*Aeolothrips fasciatus* (Linnaeus)

## Original name and synonyms

*Thrips fasciatus* Linnaeus, 1758: 266

*Coleothrips trifasciatus* Fitch, 1855: 386

*Aeolothrips atricornis* Maltbaek, 1927: 14

*Aeolothrips justiciae* Post, 1961: 137

## References

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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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