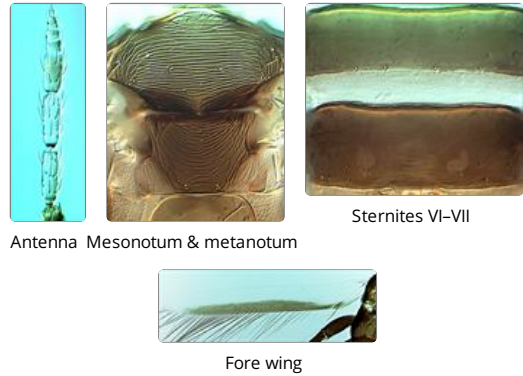


Aeolothrips nitidus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes of this species are fully winged and uniformly brown, including antennal segment I-II. However, the succeeding antennal segments are all unusually pale in color, with both III and IV yellow although IV usually has the pedicel almost black. The fore wing has a longitudinal dark band along the posterior margin that extends from the tip of the clavus to the wing apex, although the extent of the shading on the clavus is variable in the available specimens. Sternites IV-VI have the median two pairs of marginal setae arising at the margin, but the lateral two pairs arise well forward on the discal area.



Related species

The fore wing pattern and metanotal sculpture of *A. nitidus* is similar to that of *A. kuwanaii*, but the antennal segments are remarkably pale (Bailey, 1951: 63). 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, *A. fasciatipennis* described from Chile, but Mound & Marullo (1996) indicate this is probably the same as *A. fasciatus*.

Biological data

Adults and larvae were taken in considerable numbers on flowering greasewood, *Sarcobatus vermiculatus* [Chenopodiaceae], in Inyo Forest. This species is probably predatory on small Thripidae.

Distribution data

California, Idaho, Utah.

Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

Species name

Aeolothrips nitidus Moulton

Original name and synonyms

Aeolothrips nitidus Moulton, 1946: 59

References

Bailey SF (1951) The genus *Aeolothrips* Haliday in North America. *Hilgardia* 21: 43-80.

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