

Anascirtothrips arorai

Distinguishing features

Female macropterous; body small and yellow, faint brown markings laterally on tergites, sternites III–VII with dark antecostal ridge; antennal segments I–II pale, III–VII increasingly dark; fore wing pale. Antennae 7-segmented, III & IV each with stout forked sense cone. Head transverse with 3 pairs of ocellar setae, pair III anterolateral to ocellar triangle. Pronotum with no long setae, 5 pairs of posteromarginal setae and 2 pairs of discal setae medially on posterior half. Mesonotum with 4 setae arising in transverse row. Metanotum with median pair of setae not at anterior margin; campaniform sensilla absent. Fore wing first vein with 3 setae on distal half, second vein with 3 or 4 widely spaced setae; posterior cilia wavy. Tergites II–VII with one pair of setae close together medially, lateral thirds of tergites with many rows of closely spaced microtrichia, VIII with long posteromarginal comb, II–VII with comb laterally. Sternites with posteromarginal comb of short microtrichia, VII with median setae arising at margin.

Male similar to female but smaller, without sternal pore plates. Second instar larva yellow, legs and antennae weakly shaded; antennal segment II without microtrichia but with two large capitate setae at apex; dorsal surface of thorax and abdomen with granular sculpture, spiracles small, major setae short but broadly capitate.

Related species

Four species are currently placed in *Anascirtothrips*, the others being *A. discordiae* from Taiwan, *A. okinawanus* from Okinawa, and *A. arafura* from the northern coast of Australia. Each of these seems to be associated with the leaves of *Ficus* trees (Mound & Wang, 2000), and they are similar in many structural details to the species of *Scirtothrips*. However, they have antennae with only seven segments, and the pronotum has at least two discal setae on the posterior half.

Biological data

Feeding and breeding on young leaves, particularly of *Ficus benjamina* [Moraceae], but possibly also on *F. microcarpa* and some other *Ficus* species.

Distribution data

Known from India, northern Australia, Israel, and USA (Florida), presumably distributed by the extensive horticultural trade in *Ficus* plants; this thrips is a potential invader into California.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

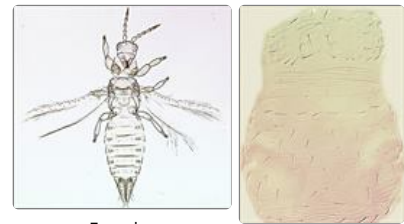
Anascirtothrips arorai Bhatti

Original name and synonyms

Anascirtothrips arorai Bhatti, 1961: 26

Anascirtothrips ficus Bhatti, 1967: 11

References



Female

Head & pronotum



Head & pronotum

Antenna

Meso & metanotum



Mesonotum & metanotum

Tergites VI–X

Sternites



Fore wing

Mound LA & Wang CL (2000) The genus *Anascirtothrips* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), from leaves of *Ficus* trees in India, Taiwan and Australia. *Chinese Journal of Entomology* 20: 327-333.