

Cryptothrips rectangularis

Distinguishing features

Both sexes either long or short winged. Body and legs blackish brown; antennal segment III variably yellow usually with apex dark; major setae and fore wing pale. Antennae 8-segmented; segment III with two sense cones, IV with three sense cones; segment VIII slender and narrowed to base. Head longer than wide, cheeks parallel, eyes relatively small; postocular setae longer than dorsal length of eye, postocellar setae considerably shorter; maxillary stylets broad, retracted to eyes and close together medially in head. Pronotum with 5 pairs of softly pointed major setae; epimeral sutures complete; basantra small, ferna transverse, mesopresternum slender medially. Fore tarsi with no tooth. Metanotum medially with weak sculpture. Fore wings parallel sided, with about 20 duplicated cilia. Pelta broad; tergites each with only one pair of sigmoid wing-retaining setae; tergite IX setae finely acute, almost as long as tube. Males varying in size, large male with fore femora swollen, fore tarsus with prominent tooth.



Female

Related species

Although 12 species are listed in *Cryptothrips* six of the older names involved cannot at present be applied to any known species. Of the other six species, three are from North America, one from Europe, and one each from Australia and New Zealand. The three species recorded from California are similar in general appearance, and currently there is no reliable distinction between them, either structural or biological. Cott (1956) illustrated *C. rectangularis* with the postocellar setae short, about as long as the diameter of an ocellus, and the third antennal segment is variably yellowish. There is a possibility that this species and *C. sordidatus*, and even *C. carbonarius*, all represent the same species as the northern European *C. nigripes* (Reuter).

Biological data

Apparently breeding on dead leaves and branches, and feeding on spores of unidentified fungi.

Distribution data

Apparently widespread from southern Illinois to California.

Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, IDOLOTHRIPINAE

Species name

Cryptothrips rectangularis Hood

Original name and synonyms

Cryptothrips rectangularis Hood, 1908: 307

Trichothrips salicis Watson, 1921: 80.

References

Cott HE (1956) Systematics of the suborder Tubulifera (Thysanoptera) in California. *University of California, Berkeley, Publications in Entomology*13: 1–216.

Mound LA & Palmer JM (1983) The generic and tribal classification of spore-feeding Thysanoptera (Phlaeothripidae: Idolothripinae). *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History). Entomology*46: 1–174.