

# Cryptothrips sordidatus

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes either long or short winged. Body and legs blackish brown; antennal segment III dark with pedicel yellow; major setae and fore wing pale. Antennae 8-segmented; segment III with 2 sense cones, IV with 3 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 18 duplicated cilia. Pelta broad; tergites each with only one pair of sigmoid wing-retaining setae; tergite IX setae finely acute, as long as tube. Males varying in size, large male with fore femora swollen, fore tarsus with prominent tooth.



Head and antennal segments

## 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. *C. sordidatus* was described as having the postocellar setae "about as long as eye diameter", and the third antennal segment dark, although Cott (1956: 37) states that the postocellar setae are longer than the eye length. There is a possibility that this species and *C. rectangularis*, 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

Recorded only from California.

## Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, IDOLOTHRIPINAE

## Species name

*Cryptothrips sordidatus* Hood

## Original name and synonyms

*Cryptothrips sordidatus* Hood, 1927: 199.

## 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.