

Echinothrips americanus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body brown with red internal pigment; tarsi and apices of tibiae yellow, also antennal segments III–IV; fore wings brown but sharply white near base. Antennae 8-segmented, segments III & IV each with curved simple sense cone. Head with complex reticulate sculpture; three pairs of ocellar setae present, pair III anterolateral to ocellar triangle; inner margin of eyes with two pairs of stout postocular setae. Pronotum strongly reticulate, with two pairs of prominent posteroangular setae. Metanotum reticulate; median setae small, arising near anterior margin. Fore wing pointed, curving forward; first and costal veins with long capitate setae, second vein without setae. Abdominal tergites II–VIII with median paired setae long and close together; tergite lateral thirds with irregular rows of prominent microtrichia; VIII posteromarginal comb of microtrichia complete. Sternites with marginal setae arising in front of margin.

Male similar to female; sternites III–VIII each with up to 100 small circular pore plates.

Related species

This species is not known from California, but is included here as a potential invader because it has become widespread in greenhouse crops. The genus *Echinothrips* includes only eight species, all of which are found between eastern North America and southern South America (Mound & Marullo, 1996).

Biological data

Breeding on leaves of various plants, and sometimes causing leaf damage to plants in greenhouses, including *Impatiens* [Balsaminaceae], *Euphorbia pulcherrima* [Euphorbiaceae], *Dieffenbachia* and *Syngonium* [Araceae], *Cardamine hirsuta* [Cruciferae], *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* [Malvaceae].

Distribution data

Originally from eastern North America, from Illinois to Florida, but since 1995 widespread across Europe (Vierbergen *et al.*, 2006), and recorded from Thailand, Java and northern Australia (Mound *et al.*, 2013). Not yet known from California.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Echinothrips americanus Morgan

Original name and synonyms

Echinothrips americanus Morgan, 1913: 14

Dictyothrips floridensis Watson, 1919: 2

References

Mound LA, Tree DC & Sartiami D (2013) The greenhouse pest, *Echinothrips americanus* Morgan, recorded for the first time from Australia and Java. *Myrmecia* **49**: 54–57.

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



International 6: 1–488.

Vierbergen G, Cean M, Hatalané Szellér I, Jenser G, Masten T & Simala M (2006) Spread of two thrips pests in Europe: *Echinothrips americanus* and *Microcephalothrips abdominalis* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). *Acta Phytopathologica et Entomologica Hungarica* 41: 287–296.