

# Frankliniella deserticola

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and legs yellow without any shadings; antennal segment I pale, II–V with apex brown, VI light brown with yellow base; fore wing pale. Antennae 8-segmented, III & IV each with a forked sense cone. Head slightly wider than long; three pairs of ocellar setae present, pair III shorter than diameter of one ocellus, arising between anterior margins of posterior ocelli; postocular setae pair I present, pair IV shorter than diameter of hind ocellus. Pronotum with anteromarginal and anteroangular setae scarcely longer than discal setae, 2 pairs of posteroangulars long; one pair of minor setae medially between posteromarginal submedian setae; posteromarginal setae IV no larger than III. Metanotum with 2 pairs of setae close to anterior margin, campaniform sensilla present. Fore wing with 2 complete rows of veinal setae. Abdominal tergites V–VIII with paired ctenidia, VIII with ctenidia anterolateral to spiracle; posteromarginal comb on VIII with long, slender microtrichia on small triangular bases; tergite X clearly shorter than IX. Sternites III–VII without discal setae.



Head & pronotum



Antennae of two paratype females



Pronotum, mesonotum & metanotum



Tergites VI–IX

## Related species

This is one of 24 species constituting the *F. minuta* group (Sakimura & O'Neill, 1979). These are associated with flowers of the Asteraceae, and are from South and Central America and western USA. Californian paratypes of *F. deserticola* in the Ewart Collection at UCR have ocellar setae III arising between the posterior ocelli, on or just posterior to a tangent joining the anterior margins of these ocelli. This condition was illustrated by Sakimura & O'Neill (1979) for this species as well as for *F. ewarti* and *F. tuttlei*. These are currently distinguished by the color of the sixth antennal segment, which is slightly paler at the base in *F. deserticola* (two female paratypes illustrated here) but uniformly dark in the other two species. The validity of these three as distinct species requires field studies on their host associations. There are almost 240 species listed in the genus *Frankliniella*, with up to 130 further names placed into synonymy (Nakahara, 1997). This high rate of synonymy has been due to the previously unrecognized variability in size and color of so many species.

## Biological data

Presumably breeding in flowers, and recorded from *Hymenoclea salsola* and *Malacothrix* sp. [Asteraceae].

## Distribution data

Known only from California and Arizona.

## Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

## Species name

*Frankliniella deserticola* Sakimura & O'Neill

## Original name and synonyms

*Frankliniella deserticola* Sakimura & O'Neill, 1979: 18

## References

Nakahara S (1997) Annotated list of the *Frankliniella* species of the world (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). *Contributions on Entomology, International* 2 (4): 355–389.

Sakimura K & O'Neill K (1979) *Frankliniella*, redefinition of genus and revision of *minuta* group of species (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Technical Bulletin* 1572: 1–49.

