

# Franklinothrips orizabensis

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged, female with a wasp-like waist. Body, legs and antennae largely brown, but abdominal segments II–III sharply yellow except for anterior margins, segment X yellowish, antennal segments I–III yellow but III lightly shaded at apex, all femora with apices yellowish; fore wing banded, brown with a small sub-basal pale area, and a broad median pale area, but uniformly brown sub-apically. Antennae 9-segmented, unusually elongate, segment III about eight times as long as wide with long sensory area formed of irregular scallops. Head broadly recessed into anterior margin of pronotum. Metanotum with no sculpture medially, one pair of setae at anterior margin and one pair near posterior. Fore wing slender with apex rounded. Sternites IV–VI each with two pairs of marginal setae and two pairs of setae laterally on discal area.



Female



Antenna Head & thorax



Mesonotum & metanotum



Sternite VII of female



Fore wing

## Related species

Currently 16 species are listed in the genus *Franklinothrips*, all from tropical and subtropical countries, but more undescribed species are known from SE Asia (Mound & Reynaud, 2005). *F. orizabensis* is particularly similar in structure to *F. vespiformis*, but has the fore wings broader at the apex and without a pale sub-apical area.

## Biological data

Adults and larvae are predatory on the larvae of other thrips species. It has been the subject of extensive study, on its ant-mimicry (Johansen, 1983), and on its predatory behavior (Hoddle, 2003a,b). On avocado trees in southern California (Hoddle *et al.*, 2001a,b) it has proved to be a useful predator of the pest species, *Scirtothrips perseae*, and it has been marketed in Europe as a biocontrol agent against pest thrips in greenhouses (Mound & Reynaud, 2005). The species is reported to be associated with the foliage of trees and shrubs rather than on low growing plants, in contrast to *F. vespiformis*.

## Distribution data

Described from Mexico, and reported from Costa Rica and California.

## Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

## Species name

*Franklinothrips orizabensis* Johansen

## Original name and synonyms

*Franklinothrips orizabensis* Johansen, 1974: 249

## References

Hoddle MS, Oishi K & Morgan D (2001) Pupation biology of *Franklinothrips orizabensis* (Thysanoptera: Aeolothripidae) and harvesting and shipping of this predator. *Florida Entomologist* **84**(2): 272–281.

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