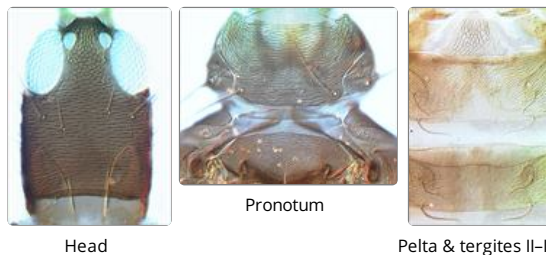


Gynaikothrips uzeli

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body brown, tarsi and apices of tibiae yellow, also antennal segments III–VII largely yellow, VIII light brown; fore wings pale. Antennae 8-segmented; segment III with one sense cone, IV with 3 sense cones. Head longer than wide, slightly constricted behind eyes; postocular setae with apices bluntly pointed, scarcely extending to posterior margin of eye; maxillary stylets retracted almost to postocular setae, about one third of head width apart. Pronotum with major setae variable; anteromarginals minute, anteroangulars and midlaterals usually about half as long as the elongate posteroangulars and epimerals; epimeral sutures often not complete. Fore tarsus with small or minute tooth. Metanotum longitudinally reticulate. Fore wing parallel sided, with about 15 duplicated cilia. Pelta broadly triangular; tergites II–VII with two pairs of sigmoid wing-retaining setae; tergite IX setae S1 about 0.8 as long as tube. Male smaller than female; no fore tarsal tooth; tergite IX setae S2 short and stout.



Related species

Almost 40 species are listed in the genus *Gynaikothrips*, mainly from Southeast Asia. However, the genus remains poorly defined, and species recognition is difficult. *G. uzeli* is particularly similar to *G. ficorum*, but has the pronotal posteroangular setae long as well as the epimeral setae. *G. uzeli* has been reported from Texas and California (Boyd & Held, 2006). Populations from *Ficus* galls in the Asian tropics sometimes show considerable variation in the lengths of the pronotal setae, such that distinction between species remains uncertain.

Biological data

Breeding within rolled-leaf galls, and apparently specific to *Ficus benjamina* [Moraceae]. Tree *et al.* (2015) discussed host specificity of this thrips.

Distribution data

Widespread across the Oriental region to northern Australia and New Caledonia; introduced to the southern parts of USA including California (Boyd & Held, 2006), also some Latin American countries including the Galapagos Islands, Brazil and Argentina.

Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

Species name

Gynaikothrips uzeli (Zimmermann)

Original name and synonyms

Mesothrips uzeli Zimmermann, 1900: 12

Phloeothrips longitubus Bagnall, 1909: 534

Gynaikothrips garitacambroneroi Retana, 2006: 6.

References

Boyd DW & Held DW (2006) *Androthrips ramachandrai* (Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae): an introduced thrips in the United States. *Florida Entomologist* **89** (4): 455–458.

Tree DJ, Mound LA & Field AR (2015) Host specificity studies on *Gynaikothrips* (Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae) associated with leaf galls of cultivated *Ficus* (Rosales: Moraceae) trees. *Florida Entomologist* **98**(3): 880–883.