

# Hercinothrips femoralis

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body brown, head with pair of yellow longitudinal areas; legs yellow, mid and hind femora brown; III–V largely yellow; fore wing brown but pale at apex and sub-basally, and with submedian area variably lighter. Antennae 8-segmented, segments III & IV each with a forked sense cone. Head reticulate with transverse occipital ridge; ocellar setae III on anterior margins of triangle; three pairs of postocular setae present. Pronotum with no long setae. Mesonotum reticulate on anterior half, lateral setae small. Metanotum reticulate medially, median setae arise medially. Tarsi all 2-segmented. Fore wing with two complete rows of setae, posteromarginal cilia wavy. Abdominal tergites weakly reticulate medially, median pair of setae small; posterior margins without a craspedum, VIII with comb of microtrichia laterally; tergite X with longitudinal split almost complete. Male with sternal marginal setae minute. Sternites III–VII with slender transverse pore plate.

## Related species

There are eight species recognized in the genus *Hercinothrips*. Each of these is originally from Africa, but two of them are now widespread around the world, and a third species, *H. dimidiatus*, has been introduced to Europe (Mateus *et al.*, 2015). *H. femoralis* is very similar to *H. bicintus* (Bagnall), but has the fore wings more extensively dark. *Hercinothrips* species all have 2-segmented tarsi, and both longitudinal veins on the forewing bear a complete row of setae.

## Biological data

Breeding on the leaves of many different and unrelated plant species, including several crops, and sometimes causing leaf damage to plants, usually under glass, including bananas (Roditakis *et al.*, 2006).

## Distribution data

Originally from Africa, but now widespread around the world in tropical and subtropical areas (Roditakis *et al.*, 2006).

## Family name

THRIPIDAE - PANCHAETOTHRIPINAE

## Species name

*Hercinothrips femoralis* (Reuter)

## Original name and synonyms

*Heliiothrips femoralis* Reuter, 1891: 166

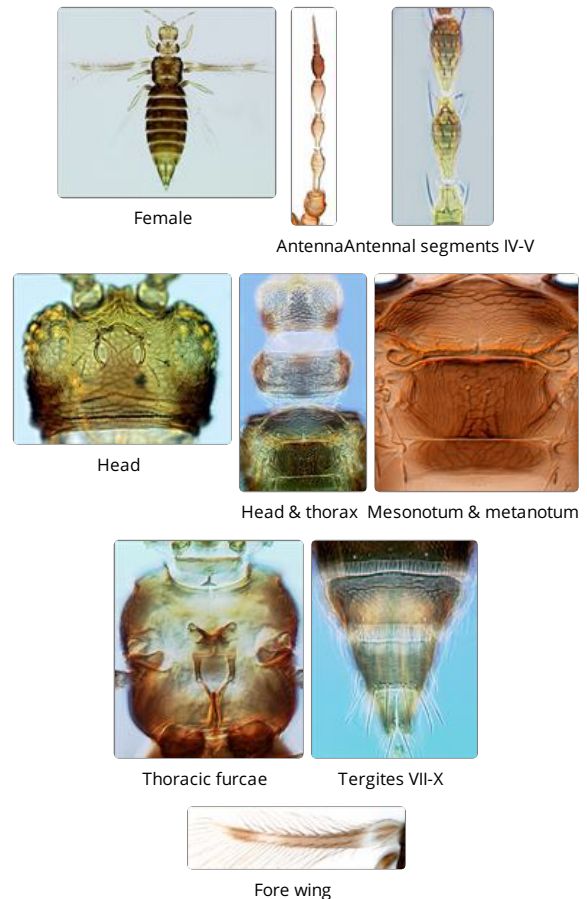
*Heliiothrips cestri* Pergande, 1895: 390

*Heliiothrips apicalis* Bondar, 1931: 86

## References

Mateus C, Franco JC, Caetano MF, da Silva EB, Ramos AP, Figueiredo E & Mound L (2015) *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* Hood (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), a new pest of *Aloe arborescens* Miller in Europe. *Phytoparasitica* **43**(5): 689–692.

Roditakis E, Mound LA & Roditakis NE (2006) First record in Crete of *Hercinothrips femoralis* in greenhouse banana



plantations. *Phytoparasitica* 34: 488-490.