

Kurtomathrips morrilli

Distinguishing features

Female minute, usually wingless, with all major setae flattened and curved except at abdominal apex. Body and legs mainly yellow, with pair of dark spots laterally on each segment; eyes with four pigmented ommatidia. Antennae 8-segmented; segment III smaller than II and with no sense cone, IV with simple sense cone. Head with eyes bulbous, much wider than cheeks. Pronotum trapezoidal, surface coarsely sculptured, posterior margin with row of tubercles; major setae translucent and curved. Meso and metanotum transverse. Abdominal tergites I–VIII posterior margins with craspedum of rounded lobes; tergites each with two pairs of major, curved discal setae. Sternites II–VII with about 10 small discal setae.

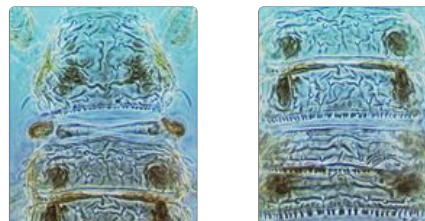
Male similar to female; sternites III–VII with transverse pore plate.



Wingless female

Antenna

Head & pronotum



Pronotum & mesonotum

Mesonotum, metanotum & tergites I-II

Related species

Four species are currently placed in the genus *Kurtomathrips*, two from south western USA, one from Mexico and one from Argentina, although the Mexican species is possibly a synonym (de Borbon, 2004). These minute, usually wingless, thrips all seem to be associated with the plant genus *Parthenium*.



Tergites VI–VIII

Biological data

Breeding on leaves, and particularly associated with *Parthenium hysterophorus* [Asteraceae], although reported by Bailey (1957) as damaging cotton and also chrysanthemum.

Distribution data

Probably originally from Western USA, but widely recorded from California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Texas, Florida, Hawaii, Jamaica, and India.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Kurtomathrips morrilli Moulton

Original name and synonyms

Kurtomathrips morrilli Moulton, 1927: 188

References

de Borbón CM (2004) First record of the genus *Kurtomathrips* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) in Argentina with description of a new species. *Revista de La Sociedad Entomológica Argentina* 63 (3-4): 49–53.