

# Leptothrips distalis

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body brown with reddish purple internal pigment; legs brown, fore tarsi and apices of fore tibiae yellow; antennal segment III largely yellow, IV–VI yellow at base; major setae light brown; fore wings pale, scarcely shaded at base.

Antennae 8-segmented; segment III with one sense cone, IV with 4 sense cones, VIII short and broad at base. Head distinctly longer than wide; maxillary stylets retracted to eyes, about one third of head width apart medially; eyes not prolonged ventrally; postocular setae weakly capitate, shorter than eye length.

Pronotum with 5 pairs of weakly capitate major setae; prosternal basantra and ferna well developed, mesopresternum reduced to paired lateral triangles although these are sometimes joined medially. Fore tarsus with small pointed tooth. Metanotum closely striate medially. Fore wing constricted medially, with about 10 duplicated cilia; sub-basal seta S3 pointed and much longer than capitate S1 and S2. Tergite IX setae S1 acute, about as long as tube.

Male similar to female, but fore tarsal tooth larger; tergite IX setae S2 short and stout; sternite VIII with no pore plate; pseudovirga of aedeagus slender.



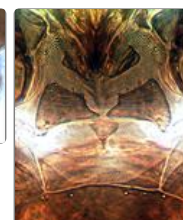
Female

Antenna

Head & fore tarsus



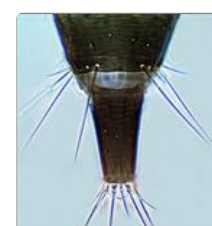
Pronotum



Prosternites



Mesonotum & metanotum



Fore wing

## Related species

The genus *Leptothrips* is related to *Haplothrips*, but the metanotal sculpture is closely striate not reticulate, and larvae and adults usually have extensive purple internal pigment.

Currently, 30 species are listed under *Leptothrips*, all from the

Americas. Johansen (1987) described 22 new species in the genus, with 11 *Leptothrips* recorded from California.

However, Mound & O'Donnell (2017) placed nine species into synonymy and recognised only 15 *Leptothrips* species from North America of which nine are reported from California. Amongst these nine, *distalis* is one of three species in which females have a small tooth on the inner margin of the fore tarsus; it differs from the other two, *fasciculatus* and *purpuratus*, in having duplicated cilia present on the fore wings.

## Biological data

Presumably predatory on small arthropods, adults have been taken from various desert shrubs, and Cott (1956) reported large numbers on a species of *Atriplex* [Chenopodiaceae].

## Distribution data

Widespread in western USA, from Nevada, North Dakota, California, Montana, Utah, and New Mexico. *L. pristinus* was described from Baja California.

## Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

## Species name

*Leptothrips distalis* (Hood)

## Original name and synonyms

*Haplothrips distalis* Hood, 1925: 103

*Zygothrips californicus* Mason, 1927: 156

*Leptothrips pristinus* Johansen, 1987: 33.

## References

Cott HE (1956) Systematics of the suborder Tubulifera (Thysanoptera) in California. *University of California, Berkeley, Publications in Entomology* 13: 1-216.

Johansen RM (1987) El genero *Leptothrips* Hood, 1909 (Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae) en el continente Americano: su sistematica, filogenia, biogeografia, biologia, conducta y ecologia. *Monografías del Instituto de Biología. Universidad Nacional de Mexico* 3: 1-246.

Mound LA & O'Donnell CA (2017) Predation, phytophagy and character state confusion among North American species of the genus *Leptothrips* (Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripinae). *Zootaxa* 4294 (3): 301-315.