

Leptothrips heliomanes

Distinguishing features

This species is very similar in structure to *Leptothrips mali*, but in contrast to that species there are usually no duplicated cilia on the fore wing, and the pronotum has more strongly pronounced sculptured striae. Mound & O'Donnell (2017)



Pronotum

suggest that *heliomanes* is a Western form of *mali*, but its validity as a separate species remains doubtful.

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. *L. heliomanes* is one of the *mali*-complex, in which females lack a fore tarsal tooth, and the pronotum bears strong transverse sculptured striae.

Biological data

A large population was taken in grasses in association with numerous mites, near Riverside, California (Mound & O'Donnell, 2017).

Distribution data

Recorded from California, and Texas.

Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

Species name

Leptothrips heliomanes Hood

Original name and synonyms

Leptothrips heliomanes Hood, 1927: 202

References

Johansen RM (1987) El genero *Leptothrips* Hood, 1909 (Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae) en el continente Americano: su sistematica, filogenia, biogeografia, biologia, conducta y ecologia. *Monografias del Instituto de Biologia. 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.