

Leptothrips larreae

Distinguishing features

This species is closely similar in structure to *mali*, but in contrast to the other members of the *mali*-group it lacks a sense cone on antennal segment III, and one or both fore wings sometimes lack duplicated cilia.



Pronotum

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

Biological data

Associated with *Larrea tridentata* [Zygophyllaceae], this species probably feeds on mites within cecidomyiid galls on this plant (Wiesenborn, 2015).

Distribution data

Recorded from California, and Arizona.

Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

Species name

Leptothrips larreae Hood

Original name and synonyms

Leptothrips larreae Hood, 1939: 207

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.

Wiesenborn WD (2015) Phenology of *Leptothrips larreae* Hood, 1938 (Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae) in *Asphondylia auripila* Felt, 1908 (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) creosote stem galls. *The Pan-Pacific Entomologist* 91 (2): 203-206.