

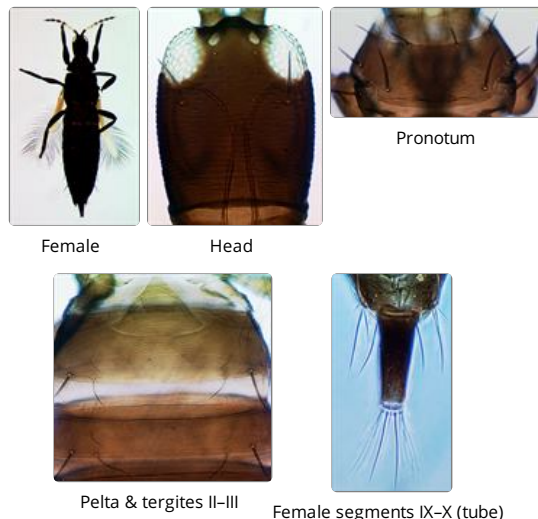
# Liothrips lepidus

## Distinguishing features

Type material of this species has not been studied by the present authors, and the specimens illustrated here from the Ewart Collection under the name *L. lepidus* are possibly misidentified. Cott (1956: 63) stated of abdominal sternite VIII of males "apparently lacking a glandular area", but males identified as this species in the Ewart Collection have a pore plate present on sternite VIII. The original description was based on winged adults of both sexes from *Quercus* in Napa County and also Nevada.

## Related species

*L. lepidus* cannot at present be distinguished satisfactorily from several other described species in California. However, it has relatively short and stout, black, major setae on the pronotum with apices broadly blunt to sub-capitate, and the posteroangular pair are no more than 0.5 of the median length of the pronotum. With almost 280 described species, *Liothrips* is one of the three largest genera of Thysanoptera. However, in comparison to both *Thrips* and *Haplothrips* it involves far greater problems for species recognition and systematics. A particularly high proportion of the described species are known from single samples, or even single individuals, resulting in little knowledge of host relationships or of structural variation within and between species. The general assumption that most members of the genus are host-specific requires validation. Stannard (1957) listed 32 species of *Liothrips* from North America, and subsequently (Stannard, 1968) included 14 of these in his keys to the Illinois fauna. Cott (1956) treated 11 species from California, including two that he placed in *Rhynchothrips*, but currently from this State there are 13 *Liothrips* species listed (Hoddle *et al.*, 2004) of which several cannot at present be recognized.



## Biological data

Presumably breeding on leaves, and described from both sexes taken from *Quercus* [Fagaceae].

## Distribution data

Recorded from California and Nevada.

## Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

## Species name

*Liothrips lepidus* Cott

## Original name and synonyms

*Liothrips lepidus* Cott, 1956: 62

## References

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

Hoddle M, Mound LA & Nakahara S (2004) Thysanoptera recorded from California, USA: a checklist. *Florida Entomologist* 87: 317–323.

Stannard LJ (1957) The phylogeny and classification of the North American genera of the sub-order Tubulifera (Thysanoptera). *Illinois Biological Monographs* 25: 1–200.

Stannard LJ (1968) The Thrips, or Thysanoptera, of Illinois. *Bulletin of the Illinois Natural History Survey* 29: 213–552.

