

Liothrips xanthocerus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and legs, including mid and hind tarsi, blackish brown, fore tarsi paler, antennal segments III-VI and basal half of VII yellow; major setae black and bluntly pointed; fore wing deeply shaded, paler distally. Antennae 8-segmented; segment III with one sense cone, IV with 3 sense cones; VIII slender and slightly constricted at base. Head longer than wide; maxillary stylets retracted to eyes, close together medially; post ocular setae varying from shorter to longer than dorsal length of eyes; mouth cone extending between fore coxae. Pronotum with five pairs of long major setae; epimeral sutures complete; prosternal basantra not developed, ferna present, mesopresternum very slender medially between lateral triangles. Fore tarsus without a tooth. Metanotum with elongate narrow reticulation, median setae stout. Fore wing parallel sided, without duplicated cilia; three sub-basal setae sub-equal in length. Tergite IX setae S1 pointed, slightly shorter than tube. Male similar to female; tergite IX setae S2 apparently variable, but shorter than S1 and sometimes stouter; sternite VIII with a broadly extensive pore plate.

Related species

L. xanthocerus is distinctive amongst the Californian species, not only in lacking duplicated cilia on the fore wings, but also in the curiously pale antennae despite the dark body, legs and major setae. Currently, there are almost 280 species listed in the genus *Liothrips*, although 30 of these are placed in two sub-genera known only from Asia. As a result, this is larger than either *Thrips* or *Haplothrips*, these three being the largest genera of Thysanoptera. However, in comparison to both *Thrips* and *Haplothrips* there are far greater problems in *Liothrips* in species recognition. A particularly high proportion of the described species are known from single samples, or even single individuals, resulting in little knowledge of variation within and between species, and thus the general assumption that most members of the genus are host-specific requires extensive testing. 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, two of which 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

Adults have been taken from various plants. However, in the Ewart Collection, Riverside, there are series of both sexes collected from *Pluchea sericea* [Asteraceae] in Inyo and Riverside Counties.

Distribution data

Recorded from Arizona, California and Mexico.

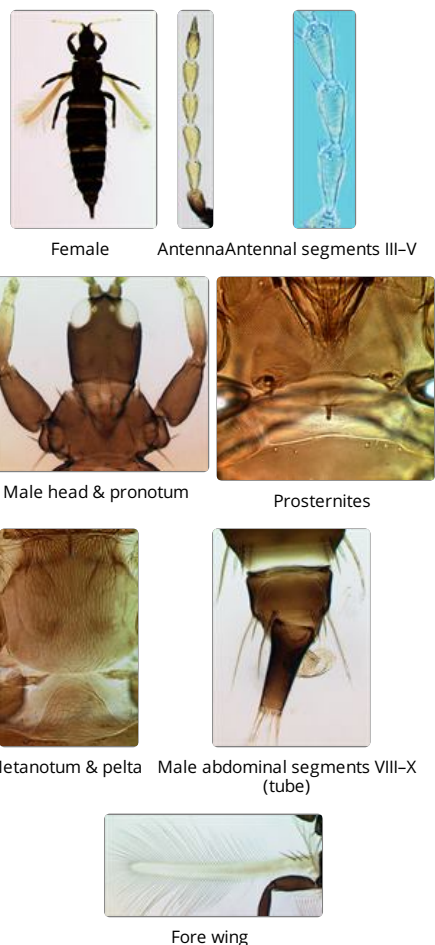
Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

Species name

Liothrips xanthocerus Hood

Original name and synonyms



Liothrips xanthocerus Hood, 1927: 203

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.