

Macrophthalthrips argus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body brown, eyes bright red with chalky-white linear marking laterally on head and pronotum; tarsi and apices of mid and hind tibiae yellow; antennae brown, segment III largely brownish yellow; fore wing weakly shaded, with longitudinal brown line. Antennae 8-segmented; sense cones stout, 2 on segment III, 4 on IV; segment VIII closely joined to VII. Head longer than wide; eyes large, holoptic; maxillary stylets retracted to eyes, close together medially, with stout maxillary guides; postocular setae minute; mouth cone extends across mesosternum. Pronotum with five pairs of capitate setae; epimeral sutures not complete. Fore tarsus without tooth. Metanotum with many dot-like markings between linear striations. Fore wing parallel sided, with about 10 duplicated cilia. Pelta slightly recessed into anterior margin of tergite II; tergites II–VII with 2 pairs of weakly sigmoid wing-retaining setae; tergite IX setae S1 length about half that of tube. Male varying in size, large males with prominent tubercle on inner margin of fore femora.

Related species

The genus *Macrophthalthrips* currently includes 16 described species, of which eight are neotropical with two species extending into eastern USA, and eight species are from other parts of the tropics (Mound, 1972). *M. argus* is widespread, but is closely related to species described from Asia and the Western Pacific.

Biological data

Breeding on dead branches of various trees, and feeding on unidentified fungal hyphae.

Distribution data

Possibly originally from northeastern Australia where it is common, but recorded also from New Zealand, Hawaii, and Tanzania, as well as California and Georgia in USA.

Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

Species name

Macrophthalthrips argus (Karny)

Original name and synonyms

Ophthalmothrips argus Karny, 1920: 38

Macrophthalthrips marginalis Girault, 1934: 2

Macrophthalthrips hawaiiensis Moulton, 1928: 122

Macrophthalthrips pulchellus Hood, 1934: 84.

References

Mound LA (1972) Tropical fungus-feeding Thysanoptera of the genus *Macrophthalthrips*. *Journal of Entomology* (B) 41: 77–88.



Head, mouth cone & fore legs



Male head & fore legs



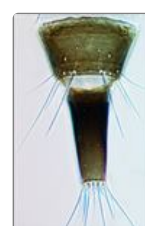
Female



Head & pronotum



Mesonotum & metanotum



Female segments IX-X (tube)



Fore wing