

# Merothrips morgani

## Distinguishing features

Similar in structure to *M. floridensis* but with curved sculpture lines medially on the pronotum.

## Related species

Although listed from California by Hoddle *et al.* (2004), no specimens of *M. morgani* have been studied by the present authors from west of Texas. This eastern North American species is similar in general body form to *M. floridensis*, but has distinctively curved sculpture lines on the median area of the pronotum. The only other species with similar pronotal sculpture is *M. yui* from Malaysia. A total of 14 extant species are listed in the genus *Merothrips*, all from the warmer parts of the world, and there are a further three species described from Baltic Amber fossils.

## Biological data

Feeding on hyphae of unidentified fungi, and breeding on dead twigs and branches.

## Distribution data

USA (Illinois, Connecticut, New York, District of Colombia, Maryland, Virginia, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Texas, California, Hawaii), Panama, Galapagos Islands, Australia, India, Malaysia, Kenya (Mound & O'Neill, 1974).

## Family name

MEROTHRIPIDAE

## Species name

*Merothrips morgani* Hood

## Original name and synonyms

*Merothrips morgani* Hood, 1912: 132

*Merothrips hawaiiensis* Hood, 1937: 411

## References

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

Mound LA & O'Neill K (1974) Taxonomy of the Merothripidae, with ecological and phylogenetic considerations (Thysanoptera). *Journal of Natural History* **8**: 481-509.

