Neohydatothrips variabilis

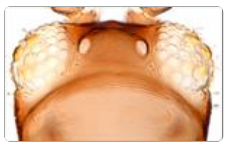
Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body bicolored, mainly brown with pronotum and posterior part of metathorax pale; abdominal segments IV–VI yellowish with dark antecostal ridge and brown area anterolaterally, IX–X much paler than VIII; tibiae and tarsi yellow, also basal half of antennal segments III–V; fore wings pale with two transverse dark areas, small dark area at base.
Antennae 8-segmented; segments III & IV each with short forked sense cone. Head with three pairs of ocellar setae, pair III on anterior margins of triangle; postocular region short. Pronotum anterior half with transversely elongate reticles, "blotch" slightly darker with more closely spaced striae; posteroangular setae 65 microns. Metanotal striations transverse at anterior, closely longitudinal medially. Fore wing with first vein setal row complete; second vein with two setae distally. Abdominal tergites II–IV median setae often with distance between their bases scarcely twice diameter of setal pore; VII–VIII with posteromarginal comb of microtrichia complete. Sternites with many microtrichia medially as well as laterally.
Male smaller and paler than female; comb on tergite VII not complete.


Female


Antenna


Mesonotum & metanotum


Head


Pronotum


Abdominal tergites


Male


Fore wing

Related species

This bicolored species is similar to *N. burungae* and *N. samayunkur* in having microtrichia across the median area of the abdominal sternites. It differs from the latter in having the tibiae clear yellow, and the last two abdominal segments paler than segments VII–VIII. The genus *Neohydatothrips* is found in many parts of the world and almost 120 species are listed. Identification keys are available to 13 species recorded from Central America (Mound & Marullo, 1996), and 41 species from the Neotropics (Lima & Mound, 2016). Stannard (1968) treats 11 species from Illinois, but many of the 35 species described from the USA north of Mexico (Nakahara, 1988) remain poorly defined.

Biological data

Breeding on leaves, and particularly associated with legumes, including soybeans, *Glycine max* [Fabaceae].

Distribution data

Widespread across the USA from New Jersey and Georgia, through Illinois, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Tennessee, to Arizona, Utah and California, also British Columbia.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - SERICOTHRIPINAE

Species name

Neohydatothrips variabilis (Beach)

Original name and synonyms

Thrips variabilis Beach, 1896: 220
Sericothrips variabilis (Beach); Stannard, 1968: 357

References

Lima EFB & Mound LA (2016b) Species-richness in Neotropical Sericothripinae (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). *Zootaxa* **4162**: 1–45.

Mound LA & Marullo R (1996) The Thrips of Central and South America: An Introduction. *Memoirs on Entomology, International* **6**: 1–488.

Nakahara S (1988) Generic assignments of North American species currently assigned to the genus *Sericothrips* Haliday (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* **90**: 480–483.

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