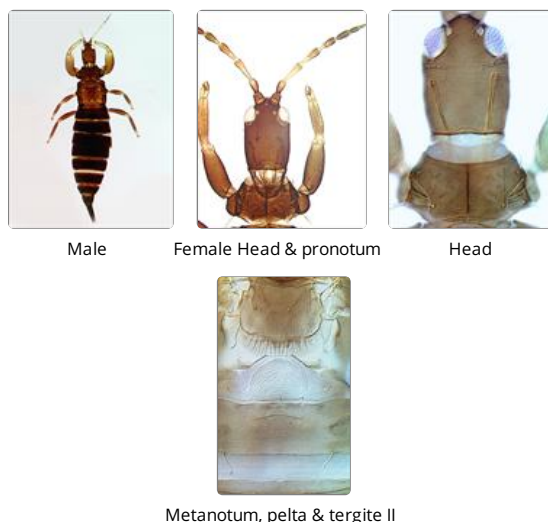


Nesothrips lativentris

Distinguishing features

Female macropterous or micropterous; body size variable up to about 4mm in length; colour dark brown, tarsi paler; antennal segment III and basal parts of IV & V yellow; fore wings pale to weakly shaded with dark median line. Antennae 8-segmented, segments III & IV sub-equal in length, III with 2 sense cones, IV with 4 sense cones. Head longer than wide, scarcely prolonged in front of eyes; 1 pair of setae close together between posterior ocelli; 1 pair of long setae just behind eyes; maxillary stylets wide apart and V-shaped in head. Fore tarsus without tooth. Fore wing broad, parallel sided, with about 15 duplicated cilia on posterior margin. Pelta with slender lateral wings; tergites II–VII each with 1 pair of sigmoid wing-retaining setae; tergite IX setae not as long as tube.

Male macropterous or micropterous; similar to female, but large males with fore femora swollen and L-shaped, fore tarsus with stout tooth.



Male

Female Head & pronotum

Head

Metanotum, pelta & tergite II

Related species

The genus *Nesothrips* includes 28 species, mainly from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region. The genus is closely related to *Carientothrips*, a genus which also has many species in the same part of the world. A key to 14 species in this genus was provided by Mound (1974b), but *N. propinquus* and *N. lativentris* are both variable in structure, within and between sexes (Mound, 1974a; Eow *et al.*, 2014). Large males have unusually large L-shaped fore femora, although small males and females have normal fore femora; this structural variation suggests that there is some sort of male/male interaction and fighting over resources.

Biological data

Producing colonies on dead fronds of coconut palms, but also on various dead branches and feeding on fungal spores. Winged adults sometimes disperse and fly onto crops.

Distribution data

Probably originally from the Pacific area, but now widespread in tropical countries, and a potential immigrant to California.

Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, IDOLOTHRIPINAE

Species name

Nesothrips lativentris (Karny)

Original name and synonyms

Rhaebothrips lativentris Karny, 1913: 129

Cryptothrips claripennis Hood, 1919: 90

Cryptothrips difficilis Bagnall, 1921: 276

Cryptothrips seychellensis Bagnall, 1921: 274

Gynaikothrips fulmeki Karny, 1925: 49

Cryptothrips magnus Moulton, 1928: 315

Gynaikothrips yuasai Moulton, 1928: 315

Machatothrips ipomoeae Ishida, 1932: 12

Rhaebothrips fuscus Moulton, 1942: 15

Bolothrips australiensis Moulton, 1968: 118.

References

Eow LX, Mound LA, Tree DJ & Cameron SL (2014) Australian species of spore-feeding Thysanoptera in the genera *Carientothrips* and *Nesothrips* (Phlaeothripidae: Idolothripinae). *Zootaxa* **3821** (2): 193–221.

Mound LA (1974a) Spore-feeding Thrips (Phlaeothripidae) from Leaf Litter and Dead Wood in Australia. *Australian Journal of Zoology. Supplement* **27**: 1–106.

Mound LA (1974b) The Nesothrips Complex of Spore-Feeding Thysanoptera (Phlaeothripidae: Idolothripinae). *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History). Entomology* **31**: 109–188.

Mound LA & Palmer JM (1983) The generic and tribal classification of spore-feeding Thysanoptera (Phlaeothripidae: Idolothripinae). *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History). Entomology* **46**: 1–174.