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 styles 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.

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
PHLAEOTHRIPIDAE, 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


