

Poecilothrips albopictus

Distinguishing features

Females fully winged. Body brown, pronotum chalky white laterally; tarsi, also base and apex of mid and hind tibiae, yellow; antennal segments III–V yellow at base; fore wing shaded medially. Antennae 8-segmented; sense cones stout on segments III & IV, 2 on III, 4 on IV; segment VIII constricted at base. Head longer than wide, wider across cheeks than across eyes; postocular setae minute; maxillary stylets retracted to eyes, close together medially; mouth cone extending to mesosternum. Pronotum with five pairs of capitate setae; basantra absent. Fore tarsus with no tooth. Meso and metanotum striate, with dots between the striae. Fore wing parallel sided, about 10 duplicated cilia. Pelta triangular; tergites II–VII with two pairs of wing retaining setae of which the anterior pair on each tergite is straight not sigmoid; tergite IX setae S1 and S2 capitate, about half as long as tube.

Related species

The genus *Poecilothrips* currently includes three species; *P. albopictus* is widespread, one species is from South Africa, and *P. dens* Moulton is from California. This third species is known from only two specimens (Cott, 1956) and, since the metanotum is longitudinally reticulate rather than striate (Mound & Marullo, 1996), it is possibly not closely related.

Biological data

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

Distribution data

Presumably originally from Europe where it is widespread (Mound *et al.*, 2018), but also recorded from New York, Pennsylvania, California and New Zealand.

Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

Species name

Poecilothrips albopictus Uzel

Original name and synonyms

Poecilothrips albopictus Uzel, 1895: 264

Phloeothrips ornatus Hood, 1913: 165

Cephalothrips harrisoni Bagnall, 1926: 658

Poecilothrips lupini Moulton, 1929: 133

References

Cott HE (1956) Systematics of the suborder Tubulifera (Thysanoptera) in California. *University of California, Berkeley, Publications in Entomology* 13: 1–216.

Mound LA, Collins DW, Hastings A (2018) *Thysanoptera Britannica et Hibernica - Thrips of the British Isles*.

Lucidcentral.org, Identic Pty Ltd, Queensland, Australia. https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/british_thrips/



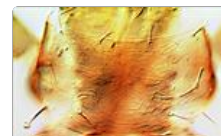
Female

Head

Antenna



Mouth cone and prosternites



Pronotum



Meso & metanota



Tergites IV-V



Tergites IX-X

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