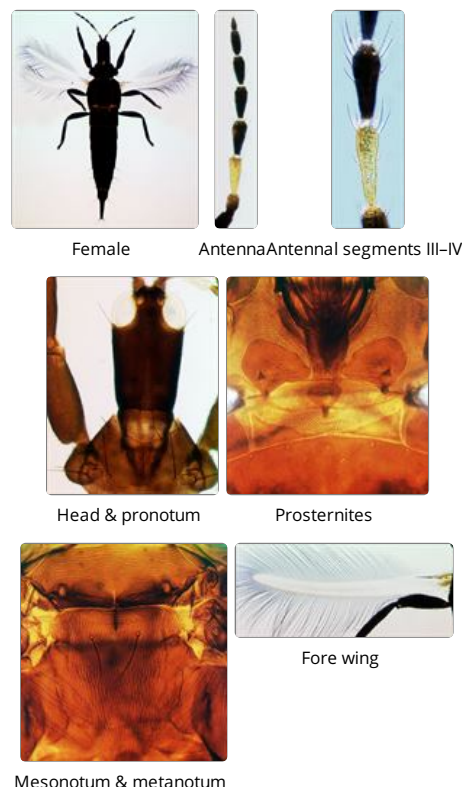


Pseudophilothrips avocadis

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and legs blackish brown, antennal segment III sharply yellow; major setae black, except tergite IX setae pale; fore wing weakly shaded particularly along margins. Antennae 8-segmented; segment III with one long slender sense cone, IV with 3 such sense cones; VIII slender and slightly constricted at base. Head distinctly longer than wide; maxillary stylets retracted to eyes, close together medially; post ocular setae longer than dorsal length of eyes with apices softly rounded; mouth cone extending between fore coxae. Pronotum with five pairs of long major setae with rounded apices, posteroangular setae almost as long as median length of pronotum; epimeral sutures complete; prosternal basantra not developed, ferna present, mesopresternum divided into paired lateral triangles. Fore tarsus without a tooth. Metanotum with elongate reticulation, median setae longer than distance between their bases. Fore wing parallel sided, with about 25 duplicated cilia; three sub-basal setae sub-equal in length. Tergite IX setae S1 finely acute, about as long as tube. Male similar to female; tergite IX setae S2 as long as S1; sternite VIII without a pore plate.



Related species

P. avocadis is not known from California, but is included here because it is a potential invader given the expanding avocado cultivation in the State. It is similar in color, size and many details to the hollyhock thrips, *P. varicornis*, but the fore wings lack a dark median longitudinal line. This species was transferred from the genus *Liothrips* by Mound *et al.* (2010), and currently the genus *Pseudophilothrips* comprises 13 species from the Neotropics, of which *varicornis* extends northwards into California.

Biological data

Breeding on the leaves of *Persea* species [Lauraceae].

Distribution data

Known only from Panama and Costa Rica, and not recorded from California.

Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

Species name

Pseudophilothrips avocadis (Hood)

Original name and synonyms

Liothrips avocadis Hood, 1935: 97

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