

# Pseudophilothrips varicornis

## Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body and legs blackish brown, antennal segment III sharply yellow; major setae brown, tergite IX setae paler; fore wing deeply shaded around sub-basal setae, with median longitudinal dark line extending to shaded distal area. Antennae 8-segmented; segment III with one sense cone, IV with three sense cones; VIII slender and constricted at base. Head slightly longer than wide, ocellar region overhanging interantennal projection; maxillary stylets retracted to eyes, close together medially; post ocular setae longer than dorsal length of eyes with apices softly pointed; 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, epimera with a second pair of stout setae variable in length; epimeral sutures complete; prosternal basantra not developed, ferna present, mesopresternum divided into paired lateral triangles sometimes meeting medially. Fore tarsus without a tooth. Metanotum reticulate, median setae long. Fore wing parallel sided, with about 18 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 with an extensive pore plate.

## Related species

*P. varicornis*, the Hollyhock thrips, was transferred from the genus *Liothrips* by Mound *et al.* (2010) because the males have setae S2 on the ninth tergite long and slender as in females, whereas all species of *Liothrips* have this pair of setae short and stout. In this and several other characters it resembles the Central American species, *P. avocadis* and *P. perseae*, but differs in the color of the fore wings and length of the antennal segments. Currently the genus *Pseudophilothrips* comprises 13 species from the Neotropics, and of these only *varicornis* extends northwards into California.

## Biological data

The bright red larvae occur in colonies on stems and leaves of hollyhocks (*Althea*), resulting in feeding lesions (Bailey, 1938). There are multiple records from species of *Althea*, *Hibiscus*, *Sida* and *Sphaeralcea* [Malvaceae].

## Distribution data

Recorded from California, Mexico, Bahamas, Hawaii, and Tahiti.

## Family name

PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE, PHLAEOTHIRIPINAE

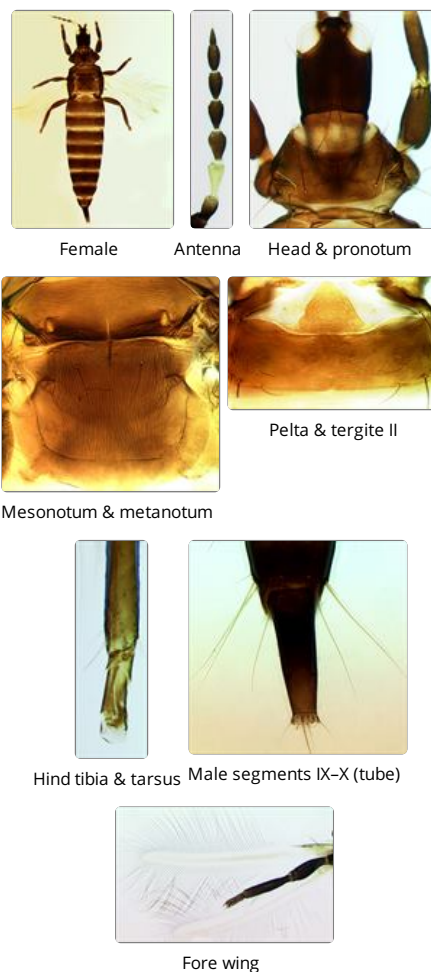
## Species name

*Pseudophilothrips varicornis* (Hood)

## Original name and synonyms

*Liothrips varicornis* Hood, 1912: 74

## References



- Bailey SF (1938) Thrips of economic importance in California. *University of California College of Agriculture Experimental Station* **346**: 1-77.
- Cott HE (1956) Systematics of the suborder Tubulifera (Thysanoptera) in California. *University of California, Berkeley, Publications in Entomology* **13**: 1-216.
- Hoddle M, Mound LA & Nakahara S (2004) Thysanoptera recorded from California, USA: a checklist. *Florida Entomologist* **87**: 317-323.
- Mound LA, Wheeler G & Williams DA (2010) Resolving cryptic species with morphology and DNA; thrips as a potential biocontrol agent of Brazilian peppertree, with a new species and overview of *Pseudophilothrips* (Thysanoptera). *Zootaxa* **2432**: 59-68.
- Stannard LJ (1957) The phylogeny and classification of the North American genera of the sub-order Tubulifera (Thysanoptera). *Illinois Biological Monographs* **25**: 1-200.
- Stannard LJ (1968) The Thrips, or Thysanoptera, of Illinois. *Bulletin of the Illinois Natural History Survey* **29**: 213-552.