

Rhipidothrips gratiosus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged. Body, legs and antennae largely brown, pronotum usually yellow, also tarsi, apex of tibiae and base of mid and hind femora; antennal segment II yellow in contrast to segment I, segment III pale at base; fore wing pale with posterior margin weakly shaded. Antennae 9-segmented, VII-IX forming a unit, segments III & IV with irregular transverse sensoria at apex and a longitudinal row of 2 (or 1) sensory areas ventrally. Head longer than wide, with 8 or more pairs of small ante-ocular setae, inter-ocular setae prominent and arise on anterior margin of ocellar triangle; vertex sculptured, postoccipital region reticulate. Pronotum with 1 pair of long posteroangular setae, 4 pairs of posteromarginals. Mesonotum with microtrichia on transverse sculpture lines. Metanotum with linear reticulate sculpture bearing microtrichia, median setae near posterior margin. Fore tarsus with strongly recurved hamus. Fore wing with cross veins faint. Abdominal tergites weakly sculptured, trichobothria on X about as large as major setal bases. Sternites III-VI with 2 or 3 pairs of posteromarginal setae, lateral pairs arise far forward on disc; sternite VII with 4 pairs of posteromarginal setae, 2 pairs of supernumerary setae, and 3 pairs of discal setae laterally.



Female



Antennal segments II-IV



Antenna Head & pronotum



Pronotum



Meso & metanota



Female sternite VII



Fore wing

Related species

Apart from this western European species, the genus *Rhipidothrips* comprises the widespread species *R. brunneus*, plus one species from western Europe between Finland and Spain, two species from southeastern Europe, and one from the Mediterranean and Canary Islands (zur Strassen, 2003).

Biological data

Recorded from various Poaceae, especially the cereal crops, *Avena*, *Hordeum* and *Triticum*, and presumably predatory on other thrips (Bailey, 1954).

Distribution data

Recorded widely in southern areas of the western Palearctic, and introduced to California.

Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

Species name

Rhipidothrips gratiosus Uzel

Original name and synonyms

Rhipidothrips gratiosus Uzel, 1895: 67

References

Bailey SF (1954) A review of the genus *Rhipidothrips* Uzel (Thysanoptera: Aeolothripidae). *Pan-Pacific Entomologist* 30: 209-220.

zur Strassen R (2003) Die terebranten Thysanopteren Europas und des Mittelmeer-Gebietes. *Die Tierwelt Deutschlands* 74: 1-271.