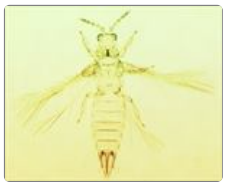
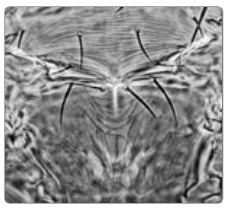
Scirtothrips inermis

Distinguishing features

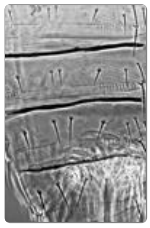

Female


Antenna


Head and pronotum


Mesonotum & metanotum


Fore wing


Tergites V–VIII

Both sexes fully winged. Body yellow, antecostal ridges on tergites and sternites dark; fore wings shaded near base but pale distally; antennal segment I pale, II–VIII darker. Head wider than long; ocellar region with several transverse lines, vertex closely striate; ocellar setae pair III about twice as long as diameter of one posterior ocellus, close together between midpoints of posterior ocelli. Pronotum with transverse striae rather widely spaced, distance between lines about equal to diameter of a discal setal pore; 4 pairs of posteromarginal setae, S2 long, 50 to 65 microns. Metanotal reticulation arched around anterior, almost equiangular on posterior half; median setae close to anterior margin. Fore wing first vein setae with 3 setae distally; second vein with 2–3 setae; posteromarginal cilia straight. Abdominal tergites III–V median setae longer than distance between their bases; tergal microtrichial fields with 4–6 discal setae; tergite VIII with discal microtrichia anteromedially, posteromarginal comb complete; tergite IX without discal microtrichia. Sternites with microtrichial fields extending just mesad of marginal setae S2.
Male smaller than female; tergite IX without drepanae.

Related species

Despite having been found in several parts of the world the relationships and biology of *S. inermis* remain unclear. It has rather longer ocellar setae than any other species considered here. The genus *Scirtothrips* currently includes 100 listed species from various parts of the world. Bailey (1964) provided keys to 13 from North America, but that work was based on specimens that were not fully cleared, and thus few structural details were available concerning differences between species. Similarly, Johansen & Mojica-Guzman (1999) provided keys to 37 species from Mexico, but Hoddle *et al.* (2008) recognised five of these as synonyms of *S. perseae*, and Mound & Hoddle (2016) placed a further 15 as synonyms of *S. citri*. Hoddle & Mound (2003) provided information on 21 *Scirtothrips* species from Australia, and Rugman-Jones *et al.* (2006) produced a molecular key to several pest species in this genus.

Biological data

Breeding on leaves, and presumably polyphagous, including *Viburnum* [Caprifoliaceae], *Gerbera* [Asteraceae], *Prunus persica* [Rosaceae] and *Citrus* [Rutaceae].

Distribution data

The origin of this species remains unknown, but it has been recorded widely although irregularly from the Canary Islands, Sicily, California, New Zealand, South Australia and Norfolk Island.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Scirtothrips inermis Priesner

Original name and synonyms

Scirtothrips inermis Priesner, 1933: 186

References

Bailey SF (1964) A revision of the genus *Scirtothrips* Shull (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). *Hilgardia* 35: 329–362.

Johansen RM, Mojica-Guzman A (1999) The genus *Scirtothrips* Shull, 1909 (Thysanoptera: Thripidae, Sericothripini), in Mexico. *Folia Entomologica Mexicana* **104**: 23–108.

Hoddle MS, Mound LA, Rugman-Jones PF & Stouthamer R (2008) Synonomy of five *Scirtothrips* species (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) described from Avocados (*Persea americana*) in Mexico. *Florida Entomologist* **91**: 16–21.

Mound L & Hoddle M (2016) *Scirtothrips* species (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) described from mango, *Mangifera indica*, in Mexico. *Florida Entomologist* **99** (4):759–764.

Rugman Jones PF, Hoddle MS, Mound LA, & Stouthamer R (2006) Molecular identification key for pest species of *Scirtothrips* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). *Journal of Economic Entomology* **99**: 1813–1819.