Scolothrips pallidus

Distinguishing features

Female macropterous. Body colour yellow with no grey markings; pronotal setae dark; antennal segments III–VIII grey; fore wings pale with 2 small dark transverse bands, clavus also dark. Antennae 8-segmented, III & IV each with long forked sense cone. Head wider than long, without sculpture between ocelli; 3 pairs of ocellar setae present, pair III very long and arising on anterior margins of ocellar triangle; postocular setae small, pair I close together behind hind ocelli. Pronotum with 6 pairs of very long setae. Metanotum with weak reticulate sculpture, campaniform sensilla absent, median setae arising at anterior margin. Meso- and metafurca with spinula. Fore wing first and second veins each with about 5–7 long setae; clavus with only 3 veinal setae, sub-terminal longer than terminal. Tergites with no sculpture medially, VIII without posteromarginal comb, X with no median longitudinal split. Sternites without discal setae, setae S1 on sternite VII arising in front of margin.
Male similar to female but smaller; sternites III–VIII with broadly transverse pore plate that is shorter medially than laterally.

Related species

This is an essentially Old World genus in which 14 species are currently recognised (ThripsWiki, 2018; Mound, 2011). Adults that are identified as *S. pallidus* lack any shaded markings on the abdomen, in contrast to adults identified as *S. sexmaculatus.* However, it is possible that these pale specimens merely represent a form of *sexmaculatus* that have developed at higher temperatures. Bailey (1957) considered *S. pallidus* to be the most common member of the genus attacking mites on Californian crops.

Biological data

Predatory on Tetranychid mites, and breeding on leaves.

Distribution data

Known only from USA; described originally from Iowa, and recorded widely from California, New York, Georgia, and Florida.

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Scolothrips pallidus (Beach)

Original name and synonyms

Thrips pallidus Beach, 1896: 226

References

Bailey SF (1957) The thrips of California Part I: Suborder Terebrantia. Bulletin *of California Insect Survey* **4**: 143–220.

Mound LA (2011) Species recognition in the genus *Scolothrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae), predators of leaf-feeding mites. *Zootaxa* **2797**: 45–53.