

Stomatothrips flavus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes fully winged or short winged. Female strongly bicolored, body largely brown but abdominal segment II yellow, III commonly yellow at least on posterior half, I sometimes yellow; all tibiae and tarsi brown, femora usually yellow at base; antennal segments V–IX brown, I–IV yellow with IV often dark at apex; fore wing banded, brown with transverse clear area sub-basally and sub-apically, but often slightly paler medially. Antennae 9-segmented, VII–IX forming a unit with VII 2.0 to 2.5 times as long as VIII, sensoria on III & IV linear with internal markings. Head and pronotum with no long setae, eyes strongly extended posteriorly on ventral surface of head. Mesonotum transversely striate, with many setae medially. Metanotum typical of genus, transversely striate/reticulate on anterior half, reticulate on posterior, median pair of setae near posterior margin. Fore wing wider distally than near base. Abdominal tergites with weak sculpture, tergite X with pair of small trichobothria; sternites III–VI with transverse row of discal setae medially, four pairs of posteromarginal setae although lateral two pairs arise on disc.

Related species

There are eight species listed in the genus *Stomatothrips*, but two of these from North America (*S. brunneus* from Arkansas and *S. crawfordi* from Illinois) are at present not distinguished satisfactorily from *S. flavus*. Of the other five species, one is known only from Texas, two from Brazil, and one each from Argentina and Trinidad.

Biological data

Living at the base of various grasses, and presumably predatory on other small arthropods.

Distribution data

Described from Mexico, the distribution of this species in North America will remain unclear until the significance of the two species described from Arkansas and Illinois is better established. Currently it seems that *S. flavus* is widespread across the USA, from Virginia and Georgia, through Utah and Arizona into California and Mexico (Bailey, 1952). Given such a wide range, it is possible that a morphological cline might exist across the continent.

Family name

AEOLOTHRIPIDAE

Species name

Stomatothrips flavus Hood

Original name and synonyms

Stomatothrips flavus Hood, 1912: 64

References

Bailey SF (1952) A review of the genus *Stomatothrips* Hood. *Pan-Pacific Entomologist* 28: 154–162.

