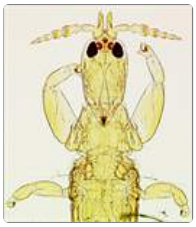
Crespithrips

Generic diagnosis



enigmaticus

enigmaticus antenna

enigmaticus prosternites

enigmaticus pelta

hesperus

Small, yellow to light brown, macropterous Phlaeothripinae with prologation on antennal segment I. Head with genae weakly convex and narrowed to base, with one pair of small setae; eyes slightly larger dorsally than ventrally; postocular setae not reaching hind margin of eye; mouth cone short and acute; maxillary stylets retracted to eyes, almost touching medially in head, with narrow maxillary bridge. Antennae 8-segmented, segment I broad, inner margin with bifid tubercle extending beyond apex of segment II; III & IV each with 2 sense cones, IV & V with many small supernumerary sense cones ventrally. Pronotal major setae scarcely 3 times length of discal setae, am setae equal to discal setae; notopleural sutures complete. Prosternal basantra absent, ferna small and wide apart; chitinous islets of prosternum large; mesopresternum reduced to two very small lateral triangles; metathoracic sternopleural sutures long. Mesonotum with short posteromarginal cleft; metanotum weakly reticulate, median setae small. Fore tarsus with tooth in both sexes. Fore wing parallel-sided, with 2–6 duplicated cilia. Pelta with pair of large campaniform sensilla; tergites III–VII each with 2 widely spaced pairs of sigmoid wing-retaining setae, tergite II with only one pair; tergite IX setae slender, about as long as tube; tube much shorter than head, anal setae shorter than tube. Male sternite VIII without pore plate; tergite IX setae S2 shorter and stouter than setae S1.

Nomenclatural data

Crespithrips Mound & Morris, 2000: 132. Type species *Crespithrips enigmaticus* Mound & Morris 2000, by original designation.

Only two species are known in this genus.

Australian species

Crespithrips enigmaticus Mound & Morris, 2000: 133
Crespithrips hesperus Mound & Morris, 2000: 134

Relationship data

This Phlaeothripinae genus is considered related to two other genera of kleptoparasitic species on Australian *Acacia* trees, *Xaniothrips* and *Vicinothrips*.

Distribution data

The genus has been found widely across the semi-arid zone of central Australia.

Biological data

Both known species invade and breed within domiciles that are created by *Sartrithrips* species on the phyllodes of various *Acacia* tree species.

References

Crespi BJ, Morris DC & Mound LA (2004) *Evolution of ecological and behavioural diversity: Australian* Acacia *thrips as model organisms*. Australian Biological Resources Study & Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO, Canberra, Australia, pp. 1–328.

Mound LA & Morris DC (2000) Inquilines or kleptoparasites? New phlaeothripine Thysanoptera (Insecta) associated with domicile-building thrips on *Acacia* trees. *Australian Journal of Entomology* **39**: 130–137.