

Sunaitiothrips

Generic diagnosis

Medium sized, dark, macropterous or micropterous Phlaeothripinae. Head longer than wide, parallel-sided; genae straight with a small tooth just behind eyes; postocular setae long; maxillary stylets usually retracted half-way to postocular setae, about one-third of head width apart. Antennae 8-segmented; segment III with one sense cone, IV with 3 sense cones; VIII short and broadly attached to VII. Pronotum transverse, with 4 pairs of major setae; notopleural sutures complete. Prosternal basantra absent; ferna well developed; mesopresternum usually divided into three small sclerites; metathoracic sternopleural sutures present. Fore tarsal tooth well-developed in both sexes. Fore wings broad, not constricted medially, with many duplicated cilia. Pelta triangular; tergites II-VII each with one pair of weakly sigmoid wing-retaining setae; tergite IX setae S1 and S2 long and pointed. Male tergite IX setae S2 shorter than S1; sternite VIII without a pore plate.

Nomenclatural data

Sunaitiothrips Moulton, 1942: 1. Type species *Sunaitiothrips fuscus* Moulton, 1942, by monotypy.

Two species are recognised in this genus, both from Australia.

Australian species

Sunaitiothrips fuscus Moulton, 1942: 2

Sunaitiothrips ombros Mound & Tree, 2001: 263

Relationship data

This genus is a member of the *Liothrips*-lineage, and is particularly similar to *Teuchothrips*.

Distribution data

Described originally from near Cairns in Queensland, *S. fuscus* has since been found in coastal areas of southeastern Queensland and northeastern New South Wales, whereas *S. ombros* was described from rainforest southwest of Brisbane.

Biological data

Both species of this genus have been found inducing leaf-roll galls on *Acronychia* [Rutaceae], but on two different species of these plants.

References

Moulton D (1942) Seven new genera of Thysanoptera from Australia and New Zealand. *Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Science* **41**: 1–13.

Mound LA & Tree DJ (2021) *Sunaitiothrips* Moulton (Thysanoptera, Phlaeothripinae): Queensland leaf-rolling thrips on *Acronychia* (Rutaceae). *Australian Entomologist* **48** (4): 261–266.

