

Gynaikothrips

Generic diagnosis

Medium to large, macropterous Phlaeothripinae usually with strong pronotal sculpture. Head longer than wide; postocular setae variable, usually 1 pair but often 2 (sometimes 0); genae not constricted at base; mouth-cone short and broadly rounded; maxillary stylets usually not retracted to postocular setae, about one third of head width apart; maxillary bridge absent. Antennae 8-segmented; segment III with 1 sense cone, IV with 3 sense cones; VIII not strongly constricted at base. Pronotum with complex reticulate sculpture; notopleural sutures complete or incomplete; major setae variable in lengths but at least epimeral setae long. Prosternal basantra absent or weakly developed, ferna large, mesopresternum complete; metathoracic sternopleural sutures absent. Fore tarsal tooth present in both sexes but sometimes very small. Fore wings not constricted medially, with duplicated cilia. Pelta triangular, reticulate; tergites II-VII each with 2 pairs of sigmoid wing-retaining setae, sometimes with curved or straight accessory wing-retaining setae laterally; tergite IX setae long and pointed but shorter than tube; tube slightly longer than head, anal setae shorter than tube. Male tergite IX setae S2 short and stout; sternite VIII with pore plate.

Nomenclatural data

Gynaikothrips Zimmermann, 1900: 13. Type species

Gynaikothrips uzeli Zimmermann, 1900, by monotypy.

There are 41 species listed in this genus (ThripsWiki, 2021).

Australian species

Gynaikothrips australis Bagnall, 1929: 187

Gynaikothrips ficorum (Marchal, 1908: 252)

Gynaikothrips insulsus Priesner, 1939: 481

Gynaikothrips jasmini Mound & Tree, 2021: 545

Gynaikothrips luzonensis Priesner, 1939: 480

Gynaikothrips platypodae Mound & Tree, 2021: 546

Gynaikothrips uzeli Zimmermann, 1900: 12

Relationship data

This genus is a typical member of the *Liothrips*-lineage of Phlaeothripinae, but the name has a confusing nomenclatural origin. Zimmermann described the type species (1900: 12) as the first of five species in a new genus *Mesothrips*, but he illustrated it (1900: 13) as the only species in a new genus *Gynaikothrips*.

Distribution data

The species in this genus are widespread in the Asian tropics. Three species are considered to be Australian endemics, two are widespread in association with cultivated *Ficus* species, and two Asian species are known from sub-tropical northern Australia.



australis female

ficorum female

australis head



ficorum

uzeli

luzonensis



jasmini

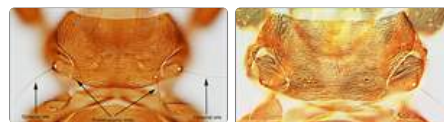
platypodae

australis pronotum



platypodae antenna

australis antennal segments III-IV



uzeli pronotum

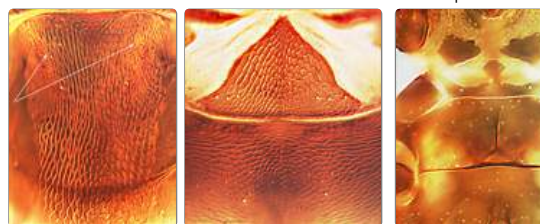
ficorum pronotum



platypodae pronotum



ficorum metanotum & pelta



australis metanotum

australis pelta

platypodae prosternites

Biological data

These are gall-inducing species on leaves, particularly of *Ficus* species but with one Australian species on *Jasminum simplicifolium*.

References

Mound LA & Tree DJ (2021) Taxonomic problems with *Gynaikothrips* and related genera (Thysanoptera, Phlaeothripinae): the *ficorum/uzeli* complex and taxa endemic to Australia. *Zootaxa* 5023 (4): 537–554.

Tree DJ & Walter GH (2009) Diversity of host plant relationships and leaf galling behaviours within a small genus of thrips – *Gynaikothrips* and *Ficus* in south east Queensland. *Australian Journal of Entomology* 48: 269–275.

Tree DJ, Mound LA & Field AR (2015) Host specificity studies on *Gynaikothrips* (Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae) associated with leaf galls of cultivated *Ficus* (Rosales: Moraceae) trees. *Florida Entomologist* 98(3): 880–883.

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Zimmerman A (1900) Über einige javanische Thysanopteren. *Bulletin de l'Institut Botanique de Buitenzorg Java* 7: 6–19.

