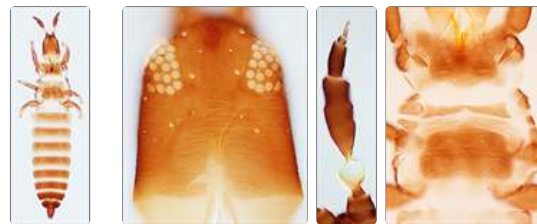


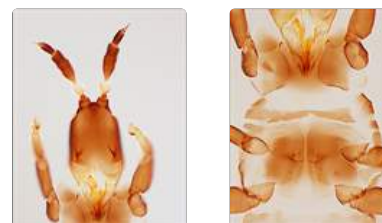
Leichhardtithrips

Generic diagnosis

Small, apterous, weakly sclerotised Phlaeothripinae. Head slightly prolonged in front of eyes, ocelli absent; compound eyes not extending onto ventral surface; maxillary stylets close together in middle of head, retracted to compound eyes but with small loop in prothoracic region. Antennae 6-segmented; segments III–V fused, VIII 4 times longer than wide; III with 1 sense cone, IV with 2 sense cones. Pronotum strongly eroded laterally, with 6 pairs of broadly capitate setae. Thoracic sternites largely membranous; prosternal basantra with small setae, sternopleural sutures broadly expanded; meso and metasterna each with 1 pair of long slender setae laterally. Meso and metanota broadly joined, spiracular areas broad and dorso-ventrally elongate. Fore tarsus with no tooth, but inner and outer ventral hamus well developed. Pelta weakly sclerotised, extending across anterior margin of tergite II, spiracular area large; tergites II–VII with 3 pairs of broadly capitate marginal setae; tergite IX setae S1 and S2 capitate, S3 slender and acute; tube short, margins strongly convex, narrowing to apex, anal setae short. Sternites III–VIII with 2 transverse rows of minute discal setae. Male similar to but smaller than female, without sternal pore plate.



Female holotype Head dorsal surface Antenna Thoracic tergites



Head & prothorax ventral view Thoracic sternites



Tergites VII-X

Nomenclatural data

Leichhardtithrips Tree & Mound, 2013: 176. Type species *Leichhardtithrips evanidus* Tree & Mound, 2013, by monotypy.

Only one species is known in this genus.

Australian species

evanidus Tree & Mound, 2013: 377

Relationship data

A highly aberrant member of the *Phlaeothrips*-lineage in the Phlaeothripinae, but possibly related to genera such as *Baenothrips* in the *Urothrips*-group, despite having abdominal segment X short.

Distribution data

Described from one female taken near Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. No further specimens could be found subsequently at the site, but in 2021 Arturo Goldarazena recorded both sexes of this species from New Caledonia.

Biological data

Collected by insecticide-spraying of the bark of a live *Eucalyptus* tree.

References

Goldarazena A & Michel B (2022) Four Phlaeothripinae newly recorded from New Caledonia, including a new species of *Adraneothrips* Hood (Thysanoptera, Phlaeothripidae). *Zootaxa* 5094 (1): 169–176.

Tree DJ & Mound LA (2013) Leichhardt's vanishing thrips: a remarkable new genus and species of Insecta, Thysanoptera, Phlaeothripinae. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 58: 375–379.