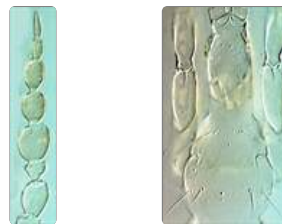


# Preeriella

## Generic diagnosis

Small or minute, laterally compressed, macropterous or micropterous Phlaeothripinae. Head longer than wide, projecting in front of eyes, vertex with little sculpture, postocular setae long; mouth cone short, maxillary stylets deeply retracted, one fifth to one third of head width apart. Antennae 8-segmented; segment III very short and broad, without sense-cones, IV with 2; segment VIII long and slender. Pronotum with little sculpture; with 4 pairs of long capitata major setae, anteromarginal and anteroangular setae close together; notopleural sutures absent. Prosternal basantra present; mesopresternum absent; metathoracic sternopleural sutures not developed. Fore tarsal tooth absent in both sexes. Fore wings weak, without duplicated cilia. Pelta sub-divided; tergites III-VII each with one pair of wing-retaining setae. Male sternite VIII with no pore plate.



*Preeriella* sp. antenna *Preeriella* sp. head & pronotum

## Nomenclatural data

*Preeriella* Hood, 1939: 612. Type species *Chirothripoides minutus* Watson 1937, by monotypy.

Although 20 species are listed in this genus (ThripsWiki, 2021), no species has yet been named from Australia.

## Relationship data

This genus of minute Phlaeothripinae is related to a few similar taxa in the Hydiiothripine-lineage (Okajima, 1998). The genus *Hydiiothrips* is distinguished because antennal segment III is totally reduced and fused to IV. One female with this condition has been studied from a Queensland rainforest area, but that species lacks the spine on the inner margin of the fore femora that is considered diagnostic of *Hydiiothrips* species.

## Distribution data

This genus is widespread around the tropics. Two undescribed species have been seen from rainforest areas in northern Queensland, and a third species has been observed at Brisbane.

## Biological data

Most described species in this genus have been recorded from dead branches where it has been assumed that they are fungus-feeding. However, the only species that has been watched alive in Australia was feeding on colonies of mites on *Lantana* leaves in Brisbane.

## References

Okajima S (1998) Minute leaf-litter thrips of the genus *Preeriella* (Thysanoptera, Phlaeothripidae) from Asia. *Species Diversity* 3: 301–316.

Okajima S (2006) *The Insects of Japan* Volume 2 The suborder Tubulifera (Thysanoptera). Fukuoka: Touka Shobo Co Ltd pp. 1–720.

ThripsWiki (2021) ThripsWiki - providing information on the World's thrips. Available from: <http://thrips.info/wiki/> (Accessed 1.xii.2021)