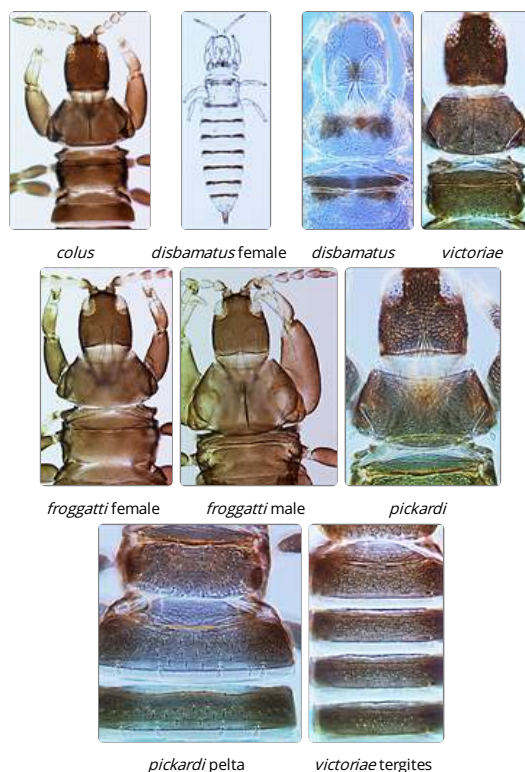


Rhopalothripoides

Generic diagnosis

Small or minute, brown or yellow, usually wingless Phlaeothripinae, with major setae short, expanded and commonly fan-shaped. Head slightly longer than wide, compound eyes longer dorsally than ventrally; postocular setae short and broadly expanded; vertex more or less reticulate; maxillary stylets deeply retracted and close together medially in head; mouth cone not extending across prosternum. Antennae 8-segmented, VI broadly truncate at apex, VII not narrowed to base, III usually without a sense cone, IV with 2 sense cones. Pronotum variably reticulate, notopleural sutures complete. Prosternal basantra not developed; ferna transverse; mesopresternum weakly developed; metathoracic sternopleural sutures present. Meso- and metanota transverse, without axillary sclerites but minute wing lobe usually present; macropterae with pterothorax normal, metanotum with numerous setae. Fore tarsal tooth small or minute in female, larger in male. Fore wing with three expanded sub-basal setae. Pelta broad; tergites with transverse row of discal setae; tergite IX setae much shorter than tube; tube shorter than head. Male sternite VIII with small circular pore plate; tergite IX setae S1 and S2 equal in size; pronotum, fore femora and fore tarsi of major males enlarged.



Nomenclatural data

Rhopalothripoides Bagnall, 1929: 174. Type species *Rhopalothrips brunneus* Bagnall 1916, by original designation.

There are six species recognised in this genus, all from Australia.

Australian species

Rhopalothripoides colus Crespi, Morris & Mound, 2004: 276

Rhopalothripoides disbamatus Crespi, Morris & Mound, 2004: 276

Rhopalothripoides froggatti (Bagnall, 1916: 411)

Rhopalothripoides luteus Crespi, Morris & Mound, 2004: 277

Rhopalothripoides pickardii Crespi, Morris & Mound, 2004: 278

Rhopalothripoides victoriae Crespi, Morris & Mound, 2004: 279

Relationship data

This genus is one of a group of genera of mainly wingless Australian species that includes *Brakothrips* and *Hexadikothrips*.

Distribution data

An endemic Australian genus that is found widely across the semi-arid zone of the continent.

Biological data

The species of this genus are presumably phytophagous. They live on various *Acacia* species, invading small spaces such as in split stems of young branches, old abandoned galls, and sometimes even the leaf nectaries of pinnate-leaved *Acacia* 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.