

Tolmetothrips

Generic diagnosis

Small, dark, macropterous Phlaeothripinae with head reticulately sculptured. Head about as long as wide, postocular setae extending to posterior margin of eye (or longer than eye); maxillary stylets wide apart, V-shaped, not retracted to postocular setae (in *granti* retracted to eyes and close together medially). Antennae 8-segmented; segment III with one sense cone, IV with 3 (+1) sense cones; VIII moderately slender and constricted at base. Pronotum transverse, with reticulate sculpture; only epimeral setae clearly elongate, anterior two pairs very short (*granti* with all 5 pairs of major setae elongate and capitate); notopleural sutures complete. Prosternal basantra absent; ferna well developed; mesopresternum narrowed medially; metathoracic sternopleural sutures present. Metanotum reticulate. Fore tarsal tooth absent in female, present in male. Fore wings not constricted medially, with duplicated cilia. Pelta triangular; tergites II-VII each with two pairs of sigmoid wing-retaining setae; tube longer than head; tergite IX setae S1 and S2 more than half as long as tube. Male tergite IX setae S2 shorter and stouter than S1; sternite VIII with pore plate.



smilacis head & pronotum *smilacis* antenna *smilacis* prosternites



smilacis gall on *Smilax* leaves *smilacis* leaf margin galls



smilacis female

Nomenclatural data

Tolmetothrips Priesner, 1953: 358. Type species *Eugynothrips smilacis* Priesner 1928, by monotypy.

Only two species are placed in this genus (ThripsWiki, 2021).

Australian species

Tolmetothrips smilacis (Priesner, 1928: 648)

Relationship data

This genus was erected, without any description, to include the single species *Eugynothrips smilacis*. It is a member of the *Liothrips*-lineage of Phlaeothripinae, and is probably related to *Teuchothrips*. However, although the two included species, *smilacis* and *granti*, resemble each other in body form and sculpture, they are possibly not closely related.

Distribution data

The type species is widespread in wet sclerophyll forests of eastern Australia, but *granti* remains known only from a single large gall on an unidentified liane in the Solomon Islands

Biological data

The species induce leaf-roll galls, and the Australian species is found on *Smilax australis*.

References

Mound (1970) Thysanoptera from the Solomon Islands. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)*. Entomology 24: 83–126.

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