

Firmothrips

Generic diagnosis

Female macropterous or micropterous. Head wider than long, mouth cone long; maxillary palps 3-segmented; eyes with five weakly pigmented facets; ocellar setae I present; setae III arising on posterior tangent to posterior ocelli; five pairs of postocular setae. Antennae 8-segmented, segment I without paired dorso-apical setae, III and IV with long forked sense-cones, III–VI with some rows of microtrichia on both surfaces, IV–VI pedicilate. Pronotum with no sculpture medially, two pairs of long posteroangular setae; anteromarginal setal pair longer than discal setae; three pairs of posteromarginal setae. Mesonotum with median pair of setae near posterior margin; anterior campaniform sensilla present. Metanotum reticulate medially; median pair of setae at anterior margin; campaniform sensilla present. Fore wing first and second veins with setal rows complete, but setae not closely spaced; posteromarginal fringe cilia wavy; clavus with five veinal and one discal setae. Prosternal ferna not divided; basantra membranous, without setae; propinasternum broad and transverse. Mesosternum with sternopleural sutures complete; endofurca with spinula. Metasternal endofurca without spinula. Tarsi 2-segmented; fore tarsi each with stout pretarsal tooth. Tergites IV–VII with S2 setae minute, much shorter than S1 setae; VIII with weak, irregular and indistinct ctenidia anterolateral to each spiracle; VIII posterior margin without comb but with weak and indistinct translucent teeth; X with longitudinal median split almost complete. Sternites without discal setae, posterior margins with small craspeda lobed between marginal setae; sternites III–VII with three pairs of posteromarginal setae, II with two pairs; laterotergites without discal setae. Male macropterous; tergite IX with two pairs of short stout setae medially; sternites III–VII each with a large transverse pore plate.



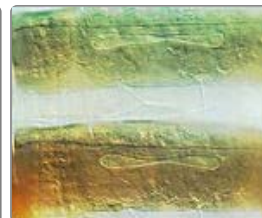
firmus antenna



firmus pronotum

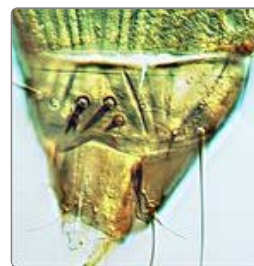


firmus meso & metanota



firmus male sternites IV-V

firmus tergites VI-X



firmus male tergite IX

Relationship data

Thripidae sub-family Thripinae: this is a diverse group involving more than 230 genera. This is one of nine genera recognised as the *Frankliniella* genus-group (Mound, 2002). *Firmothrips* shares with the European genus *Sitothrips* the very weakly developed tergal ctenidia, and presence of a pretarsal tooth on the fore tarsus. The ctenidia are represented by a row of a few microtrichia on tergite VIII and sometimes also on VII.

Biological data

Little is known of the biology of this species but it is possibly associated with *Vicia cracca* [Fabaceae], according to zur Strassen (2003).

Distribution data

Widespread in northern and eastern Europe (zur Strassen, 2003), two females of this species have been recorded from eastern China, Nanjing (Mirab-balou *et al.*, 2014).

Nomenclatural data

Taeniothrips (Firmothrips) Schliephake, 1972: 274. Type species *Oxythrips firmus* Uzel 1895, by subsequent designation of Bhatti, 1978: 189.

Only one species is placed in this genus (ThripsWiki, 2018), and this eastern European species has been recorded from China:

firmus (Uzel, 1895: 138). (*Oxythrips*)

References

Mirab-balou M, Yang SL & Tong XL (2014) The *Frankliniella* genus-group (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) in China, with a newly-recorded genus. *Entomotaxonomia*, **36** (2): 97–104.

Mound LA (2002) The *Thrips* and *Frankliniella* genus groups: the phylogenetic significance of ctenidia. Pp. 379–386 in Marullo R & Mound LA [eds] *Thrips and Tospoviruses: Proceedings of the 7th International Symposium on Thysanoptera*. Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra.

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zur Strassen R (2003) Die terebranten Thysanopteren Europas und des Mittelmeer-Gebietes. *Die Tierwelt Deutschlands* **74**: 1–271.