

# Microcephalothrips

## Generic diagnosis

Female macropterous. Head clearly smaller than pronotum; maxillary palps 3-segmented; eyes large, without pigmented facets; ocellar setae I absent; setae III not elongate; five pairs of postocular setae. Antennae 7-segmented, segment I without paired dorso-apical setae, III and IV with sense-cones forked, III–VI with some rows microtrichia on both surfaces. Pronotum wider than long, with two pairs of rather small posteroangular setae; four to seven pairs of posteromarginal setae. Mesonotum with median pair of setae far from posterior margin; anteromarginal campaniform sensilla present. Metanotum with closely spaced longitudinal striae; median pair of setae situated far from anterior margin, campaniform sensilla present. Fore wing first vein with long gap in setal row; clavus usually with five veinal and one discal setae; posteromarginal fringe cilia wavy. Prosternal ferna divided medially; basantra membranous, with several small setae. Mesosternum with sternopleural sutures complete; endofurca with spinula; spinasternum broad and transverse. Metasternal endofurca without spinula. Tarsi 2-segmented. Tergites I–VII with craspeda of large tooth-like lobes; V–VIII with paired ctenidia, on VIII posteromesad to spiracle; VIII with marginal comb complete, microtrichia arising from large tooth-like bases; IX with two pairs of campaniform sensilla, MD setae present; X with complete longitudinal split. Sternites with discal setae, without craspeda; III–VII with three pairs of posteromarginal setae, II with two pairs; VII with median setae in front of margin, laterotergites without discal setae. Male macropterous, similar to female; antennal segments III and IV with sense-cones simple or forked; sternites II–VII with craspeda bearing large tooth-like lobes; III–VII each with a pore plate.

## Relationship data

Thripidae sub-family Thripinae: this is a diverse group involving more than 230 genera. The single species placed in *Microcephalothrips* is distinguished from *Thrips* genus by the distinctive autapomorphy of the presence of a group of setae medially on the prosternum. It is one of a very few genera of Thripinae in which species have such a group of setae.

## Biological data

Commonly breeding in the flowers of *Helianthus*, including crops of sunflowers, as well as the flowers of the widespread weed, *Ageratum conyzoides*, and many other Asteraceae.

## Distribution data



*abdominalis* male & female



*abdominalis* head & pronotum



*abdominalis* prosternites



*abdominalis* tergites VI-VIII



*abdominalis* sternites IV-V



*abdominalis* male sternites



*abdominalis* fore wing

Widespread around the world in tropical countries (Mound *et al.*, 2017).

## Nomenclatural data

*Microcephalothrips* Bagnall, 1926: 113. Type species *Thrips abdominalis* Crawford 1910, by monotypy.

Only one species is placed in this genus (ThripsWiki, 2018), and this introduced species is widespread in China:

*abdominalis* (Crawford DL, 1910: 157). (*Thrips*)

## References

Mound LA, Nielsen M & Hastings A (2017) *Thysanoptera Aotearoa - Thrips of New Zealand*. Lucidcentral.org, Identic Pty Ltd, Queensland, Australia. [http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/nz\\_thrips/](http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/nz_thrips/)

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