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A new species of genus *Thrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripinae) from flowers in Peninsular Malaysia

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Abstract

Thrips razanii **sp. n.** is described from the flowers of various unrelated plants in Peninsular Malaysia. This new species is a member of the *Thrips hawaiiensis* group, but has uniformly dark forewings.

Key words: *Thrips*, Thripinae, flowers, new species, Malaysia

Introduction

Thrips is the largest genus in the Thysanoptera subfamily Thripinae, with 280 described species (Mound & Ng, 2009; Mound, 2010). Of these, 91 species are recorded from the Oriental and Pacific Regions (Palmer, 1992), and an identification key is available to the 23 species known from Peninsular Malaysia (Mound & Azidah, 2009). In the latter paper, the authors described one new species and recorded seven species as new records for the area, and these totals suggest that many more species are likely to occur here.

Several species in genus *Thrips* are among the most significant crop pests, in part through feeding damage, but particularly because they vector important tospovirus diseases of plants (Marullo & Mound, 2002). There are also beneficial *Thrips* species, as pollinators of tropical and subtropical trees. For example, *Thrips setipennis* is considered the sole pollinator of *Wilkiea huegeliana* (Monimiaceae) in Australian subtropical rainforest (Williams et al., 2001), and Appanah & Chan (1981) found that *Thrips* are associated with the flowers of Dipterocarps in Malaysia. Despite the importance of these insects in S.E.Asia, the taxonomic study and associated biological information of *Thrips* species is often inadequate, particularly in Malaysia. For instance, we have little knowledge of the plants on which different species can breed, insufficient studies about their roles as pollinators of higher plants, limited information about the viruses they may transmit, and there are few records of the identity of the species that infest local crops.

This paper is part of continuing studies on the Thysanoptera fauna of Peninsular Malaysia. One new species of the genus *Thrips* is described and illustrated, and the relationship of this species to others in the S.E.Asian region is considered. This new species has been found widely in the area, and is described here particularly because it is likely to be confused with two common pest species, as discussed further below. The new species is named in recognition of the support provided by the present director of the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (Dato' Razani Ujang) and for his encouragement in organising scientific expeditions in all states in Peninsular Malaysia.

Thrips razanii sp. n.

Female macroptera. Body brown (Fig. 4), apex of tibiae paler, tarsi yellow; antennal segments brown, including segment III (Fig. 3); forewings uniformly brown; major setae on pronotum and metanotum dark. Antennae 8-segmented, segments VII–VIII small. Head wider than long; with faint transverse striations in front of first ocellus, ocellar area smooth, vertex with fine transverse striations (Fig 1); ocellar setae III arising on or just outside anterior margins of ocellar triangle; postocular setae arising in a row parallel to eye margin, seta II smaller than I or III. Pronotum wider than long, with faint transverse striations medially, almost none laterally; less than 20 small scattered discal setae; 2 pairs of long posteroangular setae, posterior margin with 2 pairs of short setae (Fig. 2). Mesonotum with fine transverse striations; anteromedian campaniform sensilla present, but no striations close to these. Metanotum striate laterally,

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