



New records and four new species of Australian Thripidae (Thysanoptera) emphasise faunal relationships between northern Australia and Asia

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Abstract

The following Thripidae taxa are newly recorded from northern Australia, and details are given for their recognition from related taxa: *Oxythrips australopalmae* sp. n., a likely pollinator of *Normanbyia* and *Archontophoenix* in Queensland but also taken on *Cocos* male flowers in New Britain; *Projectothrips beverlyae* sp. n. from *Pandanus* flowers; *Rhamphothrips cissus* sp. n. from the leaves of *Cissus antarctica*; *R. amyae* sp. n. from *Callistemon* leaves; *R. tenuirostris* (Karny) from *Uncaria lanosai* leaves; *R. pandens* Sakimura from *Cassytha* leaves; and *Tusothrips setiprivus* (Karny). *Trichromothrips xanthius* (Williams) is removed from the Australian list. *Tusothrips atrichotus* Reyes from the Philippines is synonymised with the widespread Asian species *T. teinostomus* Okajima. The previously unknown male of *Rhamphothrips pandens* is described from Western Australia.

Key words: *Oxythrips*, *Rhamphothrips*, *Projectothrips*, *Tusothrips*, new species

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to record for the first time from Australia several taxa of thripine Thysanoptera that emphasise further the close faunistic relationships between northern Australia and South East Asia (Mound, 2004; Mound & Tree, 2007), and to provide information on the host associations of some of the species involved. Two species, *Rhamphothrips tenuirostris* (Karny) and *Tusothrips setiprivus* (Karny), are widespread across Asia, and *Rhamphothrips pandens* Sakimura is widespread across the Pacific. Four new species are probably Australian endemics, although one is also recorded from New Britain. This fourth new species is particularly interesting because it is specific to the flowers of two native palm trees, in which it occurs in such large numbers that it is likely to be an effective pollinator.

The information presented here is in preparation for making available, at the web site <http://anic.ento.csiro.au/thrips/>, a LucID web-based identification and information system to over 300 species of Thysanoptera Terebrantia now known from Australia. Unless stated to the contrary, all specimens discussed here are in the Australian National Insect Collection, including holotypes of the new species; paratypes are in QDPC and where possible in the Natural History Museum, London. Nomenclatural details of all thrips taxa discussed here are web-available (Mound, 2011). The authors are grateful to two anonymous referees for their careful comments, and particularly to Masami Masumoto of Yokohama for his frequent scholarly advice on systematic problems among Thripinae.

Oxythrips Uzel

Oxythrips Uzel, 1895: 133. Type-species *Oxythrips ajugae* Uzel

This genus currently comprises a series of 49 species (Mound 2011), each of which is unusual in having a single pair of major posteroangular setae on the pronotum. Of the included species, 12 are based on fossils, and all but