



The Indian species of *Liophloeothrips* Priesner (Thysanoptera, Phlaeothripidae) with one new species

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Abstract

Liophloeothrips Priesner is a small genus of leaf-feeding Phlaeothripidae that is related to the widespread genera *Gynai-kothrips* and *Liothrips*. A key is presented to distinguish these three genera, together with a key to, and review of, the 13 species now recognized in *Liophloeothrips* from India. *Liophloeothrips acaciae* sp. n. is described from Karnataka State, collected from the dry flowers, leaves and bark of *Acacia auriculiformis*. *Liophloeothrips tenebrosus* Ananthakrishnan & Jagadish is placed as a new synonym of *L. pavettae* Ananthakrishnan & Jagadish. A lectotype is designated for *Liophloeothrips cecidii* Ananthakrishnan 1964.

Key words: *Liophloeothrips*, review, *Liophloeothrips acaciae*, new species, *L. tenebrosus*, *L. pavettae*, key, synonym, Phlaeothripidae, India

Introduction

The Phlaeothripidae, the sole family in the suborder Tubulifera, is the largest family of Thysanoptera. This family currently includes about 3500 species worldwide, (Mound & Minaei, 2007), and about 10% of these species are described, or recorded, from India. The identification and taxonomy of Phlaeothripidae is difficult, particularly in India, and there are several reasons for this. Although species often exhibit high intra-specific variation, including sexual dimorphism, many have been described from few specimens, and the host plants on which breeding occurs remain unknown. In addition, published literature on thrips is not readily available, the published identification keys are not reliable, and the type material of many species is not centrally available in any single major institute. The taxonomy of Indian Phlaeothripidae revolves completely around publications by T.N. Ananthakrishnan from 1949 to 1980, this author having described over 250 new species in this family (Bhatti, 2004). Ananthakrishnan effectively ended his taxonomic studies in 1980 with the publication of the book “Taxonomy of Indian Thysanoptera”. However, most of the Indian phlaeothripids have not been revisited subsequently, there are very few studies on the biology of any species, and it is largely impossible for younger workers to identify species in this family using the published keys. This paper is part of an effort to overcome some of these problems, and is focused on the species in the genus *Liophloeothrips* Priesner.

Abbreviations:

NPC National Pusa Collection, IARI, New Delhi,
NBAIL National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects, Bangalore, Karnataka.