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Correspondence



Thrips atactus (Thysanoptera, Thripidae): first records of the male and host plant, intercepted in quarantine at Japan

MASAMI MASUMOTO¹ & KAZUSHIGE MINOURA²

¹Narita Sub-station, Yokohama Plant Protection Station, Tennamino 2159, Komaino, Narita 282-0021, Japan. E-mail: masumotom@pps.maff.go.jp ²Nagoya Plant Protection Station, Irifune, 2-3-12, Nagoya 455-0032, Japan. E-mail: minourak@pps.maff.go.jp

Thrips atactus Bhatti was described from a single female taken without host data at Sibpore, West Bengal (Bhatti, 1967, 1980), and this has remained the only known specimen apart from some adults recorded by Palmer (1992) from Nepal. Thus no biological information is available about this species. In Japanese plant quarantine, this species has been intercepted several times on *Eryngium foetidum* [Umbelliferae] from Laos and Thailand, also on roses from Nepal. Moreover, a male adult was intercepted recently together with a female adult. The male adult is here described for the first time, and the host plant recorded. The specimens were intercepted on imported plants by plant quarantine inspectors at Narita airport and Chubu airport, Japan. Thereafter, all specimens were mounted into Canada balsam after dehydration through an ethanol series, and slide mounted for microscope study. Abbreviations as follows are used: CB=Chubu airport, CPS=campaniform sensorium, NR=Narita airport.

Thrips atactus Bhatti

Thrips atactus Bhatti, 1967: 17; 1980: 126; 1990: 259; Palmer, 1992: 25.

Female macroptera. Distended body length 1.3–1.5 mm. Body distinctly bicoloured (Fig. 1), head, pronotum, abdominal segments I and VIII–X yellow, pterothorax dark brown with meso and metasterna yellowish, abdominal segments II–VII dark brown with tergite VII yellowish at both sides and posterior fourth; antennal segments (Fig. 4) largely brown but segment I and basal fourth of III paler; fore wing (Fig. 6) including clavus brown with sub-basal and distal areas pale; all legs yellow; prominent body setae brown.

Head (Fig. 3) rounded at cheeks; ocellar setae I absent, setae III much longer than setae II, and lateral to fore ocellus and just outside of or on anterior margins of ocellar triangle; postocular setae I the longest. Antennae (Fig. 4) 7-segmented, segments III and IV with short apical neck, sensoria on III and IV forked.

Pronotum (Fig. 3) with transverse anastomosing lines of sculpture, with 23–28 discal setae; two pairs of posteroangular setae developed; two or three pairs of posteromarginal setae, setae I the longest. Mesonotum without anteromedian CPS. Metascutum (Fig. 5) with longitudinal anastomosing lines of sculpture except anteromedian area sculptured transversely, lines widely-spaced medially; median pair of setae far from anterior margin; CPS absent. Fore wing first vein with long gap in setal row, seven basal and three distal setae, costal vein with 21–24 setae, second vein with 8–12 setae; clavus with five to six marginal and a discal setae.

Abdominal tergites V to VIII with paired ctenidia, ctenidia posteromesad of each spiracle on VIII; tergites smooth medially (Figs. 8–9); tergite II (Fig. 7) with four lateral marginal setae, third seta often mesad to posteromesad of second seta; tergite VIII (Fig. 9) with complete, fine and long posteromarginal comb; tergite IX with two pairs of CPS; sternites without discal setae; sternite I without anteromedian microsetae; sternites III to VII each with two pairs of posteromarginal setae, but two pairs on II; sternite VII with median pair of setae much in front of the posterior margin; laterotergites without either discal setae or ciliate microtrichia.

Male macroptera. General body colour and structure almost as that of female (Figs. 1–2), but smaller. Fore wing clavus with six marginal and a discal setae. Antennal segments III and IV slightly rounded at each side (Fig. 10), sensoria each 25µm long and 23µm long. Abdominal tergites with small scallops along the posterior margins (Fig. 11); tergite VIII with posteromarginal comb irregular, microtrichia small and irregular-spaced (Fig. 12); tergite IX with S1 setae