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Ficothrips, a new genus of Thripinae Thysanoptera from Iran

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Abstract

A new genus, *Ficothrips* **gen. n.**, with one new species, *F. moundi* **sp. n.,** is described from Fars province in south of Iran. The systematic position of this genus is discussed and its relationships to *Scolothrips* and *Parascolothrips*, two genera of leaf-living and predatory species.

Key words: Fars province, *Ficus carica*, new genus, Thripidae

Introduction

The presence of nine antennal segments is generally considered plesiomorphic within the Thysanoptera (Mound *et al.* 1980), and species with this number of segments occur among six families (Aeolothripidae, Stenurothripidae, Fauriellidae, Heterothripidae, Melanthripidae and Merothripidae). This condition is considered to have been lost in the two most highly derived families, Phlaeothripidae and Thripidae, which comprise the majority of species in this insect order. Despite this, the 9-segmented condition has re-emerged among the 300 genera of Thripidae (Mound 2012) in species of 19 genera (Table 1). Most of these species are Thripinae from the New World (Table 1). However, there is no evidence that the 9-segmented condition in genera such as *Anaphothrips* is plesiotypic within the family Thripidae; it appears to be due to subsequent subdivision of the sixth segment (Mound & Masumoto 2009). The evidence for a plesiomorphic condition of the pronotal chaetotaxy is less clear. For example, in Aelothripidae and Melanthripidae, two families in which several characters are retained in the plesiomorphic state (see Mound & Morris 2007), the species of *Melanthrips* have long pronotal setae whereas those of *Aeolothrips* have no long pronotal setae. Amongst the most highly derived family, Thripidae, many species have two pairs of long pronotal setae, and a few have several such pairs (eg. *Parascolothrips* and *Scolothrips*). However the presence of five pairs of well developed pronotal setae is characteristic of Phlaeothripidae (Mound & Minaei 2007).

In general, the two character states discussed above have evolved independently within the Thripidae, but in this paper a new thripid genus is described which exhibits both character states.

Genera of Thysanoptera in Iran

Bhatti *et al*. (2009) listed 62 genera (including 47 Terebrantia and 15 Tubulifera) of Thysanoptera in Iran. Subsequently, Mirab-balou & Chen (2011a,b; 2012a,b), Ramezani *et al*. (2012), Minaei & Alichi (2012) and Mirab-balou *et al*. (2012) added five thripid genera (*Stenchaetothrips*, *Megalurothrips*, *Selenothrips*, *Florithrips*, *Arorathrips*) and two phlaeothripid genera, *Aleurodothrips* and *Bagnalliella* to this list. In this paper another genus, *Ficothrips*, is described based on specimens collected from leaves of *Ficus carica* in Fars province, in south of Iran. So the number of Thysanoptera genera recorded from Iran is now 70.

Ficothrips gen. n.

Diagnosis. Macropterous Thripinae. Antennae 9-segmented, segment I with no median dorso-apical setae, II with

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