Zootaxa 3669 (2): 172–178
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3669.2.9
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:7874B97E-57A4-4678-9911-E3945DA9FB9B

Guerothrips moundi, gen. et sp.n. (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) from Chiapas, Mexico

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Abstract

Guerothrips moundi **gen. et sp. n.**, (Thripidae, Thripinae) is described from flowers of the herbaceus plant *Waltheria indica* (Sterculiaceae) found in Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico. *G. moundi* is a member of the *Frankliniella* genus-group, but is distinguished by the presence of sternal discal setae on the abdomen. The available specimens are all brachypterous.

Key words: Thrips, *Frankliniella* group, new genus, *Waltheria indica*, Central America

Resumen

Se describe un género y una especie nueva de Thripidae, *Guerothrips moundi*, capturada en las flores de la planta herbácea *Waltheria indica* (Sterculiaceae) en Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico. *Guerothrips moundi* es un miembro del grupo de géneros de *Frankliniella*, pero se distingue por la presencia de sedas discales en los esternitos. Los ejemplares estudiados son todos braquípteros.

Introduction

Mexico is one of the world's megadiverse countries (Neyra & Durand-Smith 1998). In this territory insects are the most abundant and most diverse group of organisms. The Mexican insect fauna comprises approximately 100,000 species, from which only about 48,000 species have been recorded (Llorente-Bousquets & Ocegueda 2008). Compared to other groups, the biological diversity of the Thysanoptera fauna has been poorly studied. Out of 6000 described species of thrips in the world (Buckman *et al*. 2013), only 608 have been recorded from Mexico (Johansen & Mojica 1996; Johansen & Mojica 2003). Chiapas is one of the Mexican States with the highest biological richness (González-Espinosa *et al*. 2005), but only 65 thrips species have been formally reported for this vast area (León-Cortés *et al*. 2005). Presumably this is a consequence of the limited amount of field studies and collecting efforts. Data concerning the thrips fauna of Chiapas has been published by Dr. Roberto Johansen and co-workers (Johansen 1981a; Johansen 1981b; Johansen & García Aldrete 1973). Considering the geographic location of Mexico, with a wide array of ecosystems that include the arid areas of Northern Mexico, the temperate subhumid central plateau, and the humid tropical regions of the Southeast, there should be many species of thrips that have not yet been recorded, and even many new species. The purpose of this contribution is to describe a new genus and species of Thripidae.

Thrips were collected from flowers of *Waltheria indica* (Sterculiaceae) near a mango orchard located in Tapachula, Chiapas. This is a humid tropical region of the country where the Suchiate River forms the border with Guatemala (Fig. 16). Adults (both sexes) and larvae were found living in the flowers (Figs 14–15). The plant is widespread in the area, especially in disturbed agro-ecosystems, and the genus includes about 50 pantropical

 Accepted by A. Cavalleri: 14 May 2013; published: 6 Jun. 2013