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A new species of *Amalothrips* Ananthakrishnan from Malaysia, with first description of male

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Abstract. *Amalothrips noorazlani* sp. n. is described from Malaysia based on both sexes, and a key is provided to the species of this genus. This is the first record of *Amalothrips* species outside India, and the first description of a male *Amalothrips*. The male has a pair of drepanae, the tergal posteromargin bears a toothed craspedum, but there are no sternal pore plates.

Key words: *Amalothrips*, Malaysia, male, new species, key

Introduction

The graminivorous thrips are among the most diverse group in the order Thysanoptera. Mound (2011) estimated at least 300 species of thrips are associated with the plant family Poaceae including grasses and bamboo, and this accounts for about 10% of all phytophagous Thysanoptera. However, this percentage might be an underestimate and far from our understanding about the species diversity related to this plant family, as more taxa are discovered and added to the list. For instance, from Australia alone, Mound (2011) added four new genera and 16 species of Thysanoptera, and systematic studies on Thysanoptera in Malaysia are at an early stage, with four new species and one new genus collected from Poaceae added recently (Ng & Eow 2012; Ng & Mound 2012, 2015; Masumoto *et al.* 2014). In this paper, a fifth new species of Thysanoptera from Malaysia is added as the second species of *Amalothrips* collected on grasses.

Bhatti (1975) included four genera in the *Perissothrips* genus-group: *Amalothrips* Ananthakrishnan, *Rhamphothrips* Karny (= *Perissothrips*, synonymised by Bhatti, 1978), *Exothrips* Priesner, and *Parexothrips* Priesner. In *Amalothrips*, the only known species, *A. flaccidus*, was described from Madras, India, based on two females collected from grasses. This species was subsequently redescribed by Bhatti (1975) based on a paratype. The genus seems to be rare and has not been reported from any part of the world, including India, since the original description in 1964 by Ananthakrishnan.

Amalothrips is closely related to *Rhamphothrips*, *Exothrips* and *Parexothrips* in having sternite VII of females with the posteromarginal seta pairs S1 and S2 arising close together, although in males these setae are not close together. The genus *Amalothrips* differs from the other three genera in having a simple sense cone on antennal segments III and IV, and the head strongly projecting in front of eyes in both sexes (Fig 9). The genus *Amalothrips* was not included in the key to genera of Thripinae by Mound and Ng (2009), where it will key to *Bregmatothrips* although this is not agreeable with the other character states of *Amalothrips*. Among the species of Thripinae associated with grasses, *Bolacothrips* and *Amalothrips* both have sense cones simple on antennal segments III and IV. But these genera are not related, as species of *Bolacothrips* share with the species of *Thrips* and *Stenchaetothrips* the presence of a pair of ctenidia on the abdominal tergites, in contrast to *Amalothrips* (Fig 8).

In this paper, a new species, *Amalothrips noorazlani* sp. n., is described and a key to species is provided. Nomenclatural details are available in ThripsWiki (2015). The following abbreviations and depositories are used: CPS—campaniform sensilla. ANIC—Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra. CISUKM—Centre for Insect Systematics, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi.

Key to species of *Amalothrips*

1. Antennal segments VI–VIII brown; postocular setae I arising far from the posterior margin of eyes; basantra with a pair of setae; metanotum with a pair of CPS [details from Bhatti 1975].....*flaccidus*