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LAURENCE A. MOUND & MASAMI MASUMOTO



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The genus *Thrips* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) in Australia, New Caledonia and New Zealand

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Abstract

The genus *Thrips* includes about 280 species worldwide. An identification key is provided to 41 from the Australian Region. Of these, 33 (including 7 new species) are recorded from Australia, 5 (including 1 new species) are known only from New Zealand, and 3 (including 1 new species) are known only from New Caledonia. Two species-groups are defined: the “*Thrips obscuratus* species-group” comprising 8 species from New Caledonia and New Zealand, and the “*Thrips seticollis* species-group” comprising 6 species from the southern half of Australia. A further group, the “*Thrips orientalis* species-group” involves 12 species in South East Asia, and four of these are recorded from Australia. In the temperate areas of this continent there are 5 species that are clearly introduced subsequent to European settlement. From Australia’s northern tropical area 18 species are recorded here, but as most of these are known also from Asian or Pacific territories some may have been introduced either through human activities or naturally on winds. The Australian Plague Thrips is recognised as comprising two species, the essentially southern *T. imaginis* and a closely related new species, *T. safrus*, usually north of Latitude 27°. For all 41 species host-plant and distribution details are included, as well as morphological diagnoses.

Key words: Australian endemics, thrips, invasive species, taxonomy, identification key

Introduction

The fauna of Australia is commonly portrayed as unique, with emphasis placed on those Gondwanan elements that have been isolated on this continent for more than 40 million years. However, the derivation of the present-day fauna of this continent is complex. For example, although the native Australian mammal fauna is sometimes considered to comprise primarily marsupials, the *terrestrial* endemic mammal fauna of this continent actu-