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Aeolothrips eremicola (Thysanoptera, Aeolothripidae): first record of the male from Iran

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The genus *Aeolothrips*, with 17 recorded species, is the third most species-rich genus in Iran (Minaei 2013). In contrast, the genus *Thrips* includes 28 species in this country (Minaei 2012; Mirab-balou *et al*. 2012), and *Haplothrips* 24 species (Minaei & Aleosfoor 2013), Moreover, it seems likely that more species of *Aeolothrips* will be discovered in Iran, considering the number recorded from neighboring countries.

Aeolothrips eremicola Priesner was described from a single female collected on flowers of *Zilla spinosa* (Brassicaceae) in "Wadi hof near Helouan", Egypt (Priesner 1938), and later Priesner (1965) referred to it as a rare species. The only other report of *eremicola* was from China, at Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, collected on *Suaeda glauca* and *Bassia scoparia* ("Amaranthaceae") and *Zea mays* (Poaceae), but the sex and number of specimens were not mentioned (Yang *et al*. 1993).

The adult male of *Aeolothrips eremicola* is here described for the first time, a single male was collected in southeastern Iran, in Sistan and Baluchestan Province. The relationship of *eremicola* to other species of *Aeolothrips* is also discussed. The specimens discussed in this paper are deposited in Department of Plant Protection, College of Agriculture, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran. Full nomenclatural information about Thysanoptera is available on the web (ThripsWiki 2013).

Aeolothrips eremicola Priesner

Female macroptera. Body brown, antennal segments III–IX yellowish brown, III and IV yellow in basal part; all tarsi and distal part of tibiae pale (Fig. 4); fore wings with two cross bands that are connected medially by a narrow longitudinal band. Antennal segment III with linear sensorium about 0.3 as long as segment; IV with linear sensorium 0.5–0.6 as long as segment, slightly curved and wider at apex. Tergite IX setae S1 about as long as length of tergite; all abdominal sternites without discal setae, sternite VII with 2 pairs of supernumerary paired setae arranged one in front of the other and well in front of margin (Fig. 5).

Measurements (female from Isfahan, in microns). Body distended length 1996. Head length (width) 173 (209). Pronotum length (width) 170 (235). Fore wing length (median width) 868 (115). Tergite IX S1 setae 127. Antennal segments I–IX length (width) 34 (35); 53 (29); 93 (25); 78 (23); 57 (23); 18 (18); 18 (18); 20 (9); 9 (5).

Male macroptera. Colour and structure generally similar to female but paler and smaller. Antennal segments I–II pale; III pale in basal third, IV–IX yellowish brown (Fig. 1); all legs pale but all coxae as well as basal part of mid and hind tibiae are brown. Abdominal tergite I with two longitudinal ridges, tergites without tubercles (Fig. 2); tergite IX without claspers or stout curved setae (Fig. 3). Sternite VII without sub-median accessory setae**.**

Measurements (male, in microns). Body distended length 1220. Head length (width) 152 (174). Pronotum length (width) 130 (190). Fore wing length (median width) 620 (100). Antennal segments I–IX length (width) 32 (33); 45 (26); 87 (25); 68 (23); 57 (24); 11 (14); 10 (13); 15 (9); 10 (5).

Material studied. IRAN, Sistan and Baluchestan Province, Zabol (Pole-nahrab), 1 female, 1 male from *Triticum aestivum*, 13.iv.2010 (M. Zolfaghari); Isfahan Province, Kabootar-abad, 1 female from *Allium cepa*, 20.x.1997 (M.R. Bagheri).

Comments. *A. eremicola* is a member of the *versicolor*-group in which the fore wing bears two cross bands connected by a longitudinal dark area along the posterior margin. In addition to *eremicola* and *versicolor*, four other

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