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Leaf-litter thrips of the genus *Adraneothrips* from Asia and Australia (Thysanoptera, Phlaeothripinae)

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Abstract

The Oriental genus *Stigmothrips* Ananthakrishnan is synonymised with *Adraneothrips* Hood, a genus in which most species have been described from the Neotropics. Problems with descriptions by T.N. Ananthakrishnan of species from India are discussed, but cannot be fully resolved without access to the holotypes. A key is provided to 23 species of *Adraneothrips* from Asia and Australia, including four new species: *darwini* **sp. n.** from Northern Territory, Australia; *hani* **sp. n.** from Taiwan, China; *yunnanensis* **sp. n.** from Yunnan, China as well as Java, Indonesia; and *waui* **sp. n.** from Papua New Guinea. One species from the Philippines, *Adraneothrips makilingensis* (Reyes) **comb. n.,** is transferred from *Apelaunothrips*, and the male of *Adraneothrips russatus* (Haga) is described and illustrated for the first time, from Yunnan, China. Two species are newly recorded from Australia: *coloratus* (Mound) previously known only from the Solomon Islands, and *russatus* (Haga) previously known from southern Japan and southern China but with one female recorded here from Fiji. Further new records are, *coloratus* from Java, and *chinensis* (Zhang & Tong) from Malaysia. Colonies of species in this genus are commonly found living on dead leaves, as fungus-feeders, and many species are brightly coloured or bicoloured in patterns of yellow and brown.

Key words: Phlaeothripinae, *Adraneothrips*, new species, synonym, new combination

Introduction

This paper considers a group of small phlaeothripid Thysanoptera that have been found associated with dead leaves in various parts of the tropics and subtropics. These species are presumably fungus-feeders, and long series have been taken from leaf-litter and from freshly dead hanging leaves. A considerable number of species are strikingly bicoloured, with particular patterns of yellow and brown, and many have bright red internal pigments (Figs 1–15). In contrast to many of the Phlaeothripidae that live on dead branches, such as *Hoplandrothrips* species, most species of *Adraneothrips* show limited sexual dimorphism, and thus presumably none of the sub-social behaviour patterns of their larger fungus-feeding relatives (Crespi 1988).

Apart from six species, the members of *Adraneothrips* are known only from the New World and mainly from the Neotropics. Of the six Old World species, two are from Africa, three from India, and one from Australia. However, *Stigmothrips*, erected by Ananthakrishnan (1964) for two species from India, has never been distinguished satisfactorily, and Okajima (2006) indicated that it might need to be considered a synonym of *Adraneothrips*. The only structural difference between these two genera seems to be that the Neotropical species have the prothoracic notopleural sutures complete, whereas the Oriental species placed in *Stigmothrips* have these sutures incomplete. However, these sutures are variable in a long series of *Stigmothrips russatus* from Australia, and the two genera are formally synonymised below.

Several problems have been encountered in studying the members of this genus. The original illustrations by Ananthakrishnan (1971) of species he described in *Stigmothrips* indicate that the notopleural sutures are fully complete. However, specimens identified by Ananthakrishnan in various museum collections, including specimens

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