

## NOTES ON SOME THYSANOPTERA

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In the following notes I am able to redescribe the type specimen of BUTLER's *Anthothrips* (*Aptinothrips*!) *fasciatus*; to show that the North American Grass thrips (*Anaphothrips striatus*) is the same as the older European form *A. obscurus*, and also make other notes that may be of use to students of the Thysanoptera.

## Sub-order TEREBRANTIA

Genus HETEROTHRIPS HOOD (*nec* BUFFA) (1).*Phyllothrips* BUFFA (*nec* HOOD) (2).

In a paper published in December 1908, BUFFA described two genera to which he gave the names *Phyllothrips* and *Heterothrips* (2) both of which had been used a few months before by HOOD. Recognising that the latter name was preoccupied, BUFFA proposed a new name *Polyommatothrips* (3), but does not make any remark about his *Phyllothrips*. The synonymy is still further confused by the fact that HOOD's name *Heterothrips* was erected for a similar form as the type of BUFFA's *Phyllothrips* and this latter name must be sunk not only because the name had already been used but also on account of the fact that the genus had previously been diagnosed under the name *Heterothrips*.

The genus *Phyllothrips* HOOD was erected for the reception of the type form *P. citricornis* HOOD, and HIND's *Cryptothrips aspersus*. Both M<sup>r</sup> HOOD and I agree that the first named should be referred to the genus *Liothrips*, and being the type of the genus *Phyllothrips* that name becomes a synonym of *Liothrips* whilst HOOD later proposes the name *Leptothrips* with *C. aspersus* as the type of the genus.

## ANAPHOTHRIPS OBSCURUS (MÜLL).

*Anaphothrips striatus* (OSBORN).

*Anaphothrips striatus* (OSBORN) must be regarded as a synonym of *Anaphothrips obscurus*.

(1) Bull. Illinois State Lab. of Nat. Hist., VIII, Art. II, p. 361, August 1908.

(2) « Redia », V, fasc. 1°, pp. 123-125, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1908.(3) « Redia », V, fasc. 2°, p. 164, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1909.



Commonly known as the Grass thrips *Anaphothrips striatus*, is one of the best known pests of North America, and, because of its wide distribution it has been referred to under several names, as will be seen by the long list of references given in HIND'S Monograph on the Thysanoptera of North America. On studying Dr HINDS excellent memoire on the Grass thrips (1), I came to the conclusion that *A. striatus* was the same insect as our common European form *A. obscurus*, and I have been able to substantiate that opinion by comparing Nearctic specimens kindly given me by Mr DOUGLAS HOOD of Illinois with specimens collected by myself in Great Britain, Belgium, Norway and Denmark.

The name *Anaphothrips striatus* and all its synonyms must therefore be sunk as synonyms of *A. obscurus*.

### Sub-order TUBULIFERA

RHAPTOTHRIPS PECULIARIS CRAWFORD, a larval Thysanopteron.

The insect which Mr. CRAWFORD very clearly describes and figures in the Pomona Journal of Entomology (Vol. I, n° 4, pp. 116-119, fig. 52A-52H) is undoubtedly a larval form. The seven jointed antennæ, the distinctive form of head, the mouth parts, the dorsal prothoracic plates, and the irregular setigerous plates on the abdomen, the specialized hairs or elongated bristles at the tip of each tibia, the unformed foot, the form of the ninth abdominal segment, all point to the fact that the insect is larval, most probably belonging, if I may venture an opinion, to a species of *Idolothrips*, *Dicaiothrips* or allied genus. I do not know as to whether any black thrips' larvæ have been previously described, but I can well understand how Mr. CRAWFORD has fallen into the error of regarding his solitary specimen as an imago as I myself had partially described a similar larval form from the Malay Archipelago as new before I recognised that it was only a larva. Since then I have received larvæ of a species of *Idolothrips*, from the Seychelle Islands, which closely resemble CRAWFORD's form.

### ANTHOTHRIPS FASCIATUS (BUTLER).

*Aptinothrips fasciatus* BUTLER, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., n° 101, p. 412, 1876.

BUTLER describes his *Aptinophthrips fasciatus* as follows :

« Blackish piceous, glabrous; wings hyaline; bases of antennal joints, eyes, ocelli, and five broad abdominal bands crystalline

(1) « The Grass Thrips », Mass. Agric. Coll., 1900.



white; frons fulvous; antennæ seven-jointed, basal joint conical, the second to fourth obconical, fifth to seventh fusiform; the terminal joint terminating in an acute point; head rounded, truncate in front and behind, with a central obtuse carina and an oblique stria behind each eye. — Length 3 mill. Rodriguey, coll. by GULLIVER. »

Belonging to the Tubulifera, and possessing wings and ocelli it is difficult to understand as to why it was referred to the wingless Terebrantian genus *Aptinothrips*.

The type specimen, which I have recently had the opportunity of examining, is in the British Museum of Natural History. It belongs to the genus *Anthothrips* and is at once distinguished by the oblique channel behind each eye. From the appearance of the abdomen, which is a little lighter than the general colour of the insect, the specimen would appear to be slightly immature. It has perhaps been killed in alcohol or boiling water and then gummed on to the card; the abdominal segments are distinctly exerted, the space between the separated margins of the segments showing white and thus giving, unnaturally, the banded appearance described by BUTLER. The name *fasciatus* is therefore unfortunate.

♂ (?). Colour chestnut brown, feet (only one of the intermediate pair visible) yellowish; Antennæ with joints 1 and 2 dark and 3 to 8 light chestnut brown, the bases of 3 to 6 yellowish.

Head a little longer than broad, cheeks feebly rounded; eyes large, finely faceted and the space between them only equal to two-thirds the breadth of one of them. Ocelli not equidistant, moderately large and space between posterior pair equal to the diameter of one of them, contiguous with the inner margins of eyes; anterior ocellus placed at apex of a slight prominence. Postocular bristles knobbed and about as long as the eye. Surface roughly striate, reticulate near base; a deep well-marked furrow converging inwardly from base of each eye. Antennæ less than twice as long as the head, joints 3 to 6 mildly clavate; 3-4 broadest and about equally broad; apical and penultimate joints together only slightly longer than the sixth.

Prothorax transverse, slightly shorter than head; bristles at posterior angles moderately long, longest; mid-lateral, anterior-marginal and pair at anterior angles practically subequal and about two-thirds the length of the pair at posterior angles; posterior marginal pair weaker and slightly shorter than these at posterior angles. Pterothorax almost square. Wings short, reaching to sixth abdominal segment, iridescent and darkening towards tip, broad and furnished with moderately short smokey-coloured cilia; two pairs of wing-retaining spines up to the sixth abdominal segment, but vestigial on segment seven. Basal wing-spines apparently knobbed.



Abdomen narrow, parallel to sixth segment and from thence gently narrowed to base of tube. Tube narrowing evenly though slightly from base to apex, about two-thirds the length of the head; terminal hair, slender, brown and almost as long as the tube. Abdominal hairs straight, only moderately long, white and apparently knobbed, those on the ninth segment three-quarters the length of the tube.

#### Genus LEPTOTHRIPS HOOD.

Species of this genus are apparently attached to the leaves of different trees.

#### LEPTOTHRIPS FLAVICORNIS BAGNALL.

Specimens labelled « *Anthothrips aculeatus*, Madeira » in the British Museum collection are referable to this species, which was recently described from specimens in the Copenhagen Museum, collected by Dr. MEINERT in Madeira. The specimens now recorded were found on *Ficus carnosus*, apparently curling up the young leaves and breeding in the shelter there afforded.

#### LEPTOTHRIPS LONGITUBUS (BAGNALL).

A study of fresh specimens of my *Phloeothrips longitubus* recently described from Java shows that the species is very closely related to the preceding and should be placed in the same genus. *L. longitubus* lives in colonies in curled up young top leaves of various species of *Ficus*.

#### Genus ECACANTHOTHIRIPS BAGNALL.

*Ecacanthothrips* BAGNALL, Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg., lii, p. 349, 1908.  
*Ormothrips* Buffa, Redia, v, fasc. 2°, p. 166, Mar. Ist. 1909.

The name *Ecacanthothrips* has priority. BUFFA describes a second species, *inermis*, from a single ♀ found by LORIA in New Guinea, July-August, 1890. *E. sanguineus* is common and widely distributed in the Malay Archipelago.

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Bagnall, Richard S. 1911. "Notes on some Thysanoptera." *Annales de la Société entomologique de Belgique* 54, 461–464.

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