



## A new *Holopothrips* species (Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae) damaging *Mollinedia* (Monimiaceae) leaves in Southern Brazil

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### Abstract

A new species of leaf-feeding thrips is described, from the Atlantic Rain Forest in Rio Grande do Sul State, Southern Brazil. *Holopothrips claritibialis* sp. nov. differs from other species of the genus in the combination of the following characteristics: all tibiae predominantly yellow; maxillary stylets retracted near the postocular setae; metanotum with reticulation, elongated on anterior half and equiangular on posterior half; pelta with equiangular reticulation medially but weak or absent laterally and posteriorly; glandular areas present on sternites VII–VIII in males (usually three glandular areas on each sternite). This species causes deformations and rolls on leaves of *Mollinedia schottiana*. Some aspects of the biology and intraspecific variation of this species are discussed.

**Key words:** leaf damage, *Mollinedia schottiana*, Neotropical fauna, sternal glandular area, thrips

### Introduction

*Holopothrips* Hood includes 31 species, of which 16 occur in Brazil (Monteiro, 2002). This genus is probably restricted to the Neotropical region, with the exception of *H. stannardi* Mound & Marullo, described from the USA (Florida) (Mound & Marullo, 1996). According to Mound (2002), this group provides an instructive example of classification problems at genus level in Neotropical Phlaeothripinae, mainly due to its wide range of variation between species.

Though not all species in the genus exhibit the full suite of character states that define it, *Holopothrips* species have, in general, postocular setae usually positioned far behind the eyes; maxillary stylets frequently retracted at least to the postocular setae; pronotal setae usually elongate; prosternal basantra weak or absent; tergites with an additional pair of small sigmoid wing retaining setae anterolateral to the normal two pairs; males frequently with more than one glandular area on the sternites (Mound & Marullo, 1996).

*Holopothrips* species are all leaf-feeders and some induce galls, while others cause severe leaf damage. In Brazil, Costa Lima (1935a) observed galls that had been induced by *Holopothrips conducans* (Priesner) on a species of Myrtaceae. These galls were formed from convoluted terminal leaves where eggs, larvae and adults were found. Costa Lima (1935b) also described *Holopothrips ananasi* Costa Lima from Rio de Janeiro State, reporting serious damages to pineapple (*Ananas sativus*, Bromeliaceae). In addition, an unidentified *Holopothrips* species was recorded by Hickel & Ducroquet (1993) damaging flowers, fruits and mainly leaves of “feijoa” (*Acca sellowiana*, Myrtaceae) in Santa Catarina State, emphasizing their economic importance.

However, biology and host plant relationships of most species in the genus are unknown, and for 50% of Brazilian *Holopothrips* species no data about associated plant species has been published. The majority of these species are known only from their type specimens, and their intraspecific variation is poorly studied.